



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00 am

Livestream:

facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

**Sacrament
of Reconciliation,
Baptisms, Weddings,
and Funerals**

by appointment.



Our church is accessible.

Staff

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor:

tburke@diopitt.org

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

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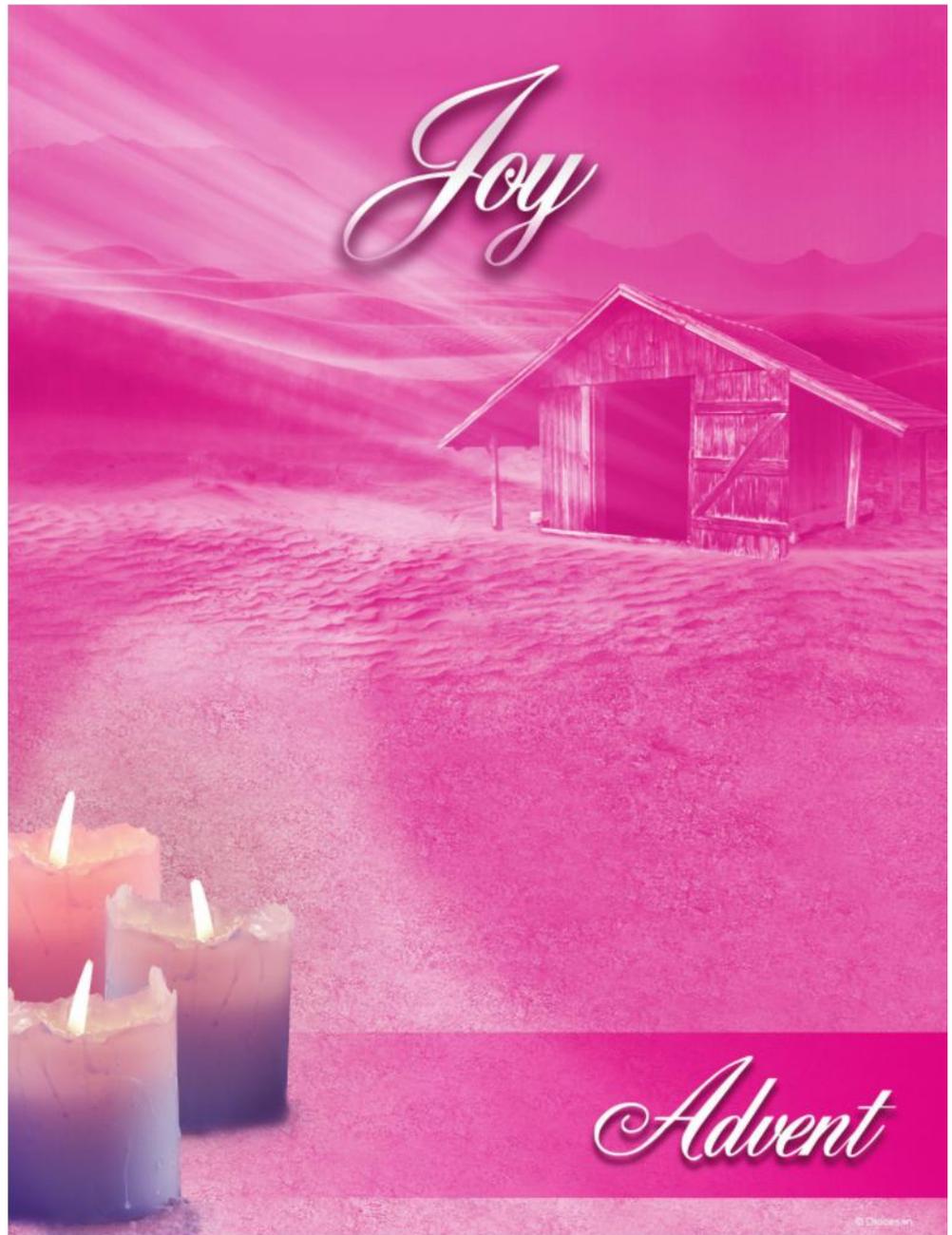
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St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



[SBTMPARISHPGH](https://www.instagram.com/SBTMPARISHPGH)



[SBTMparishPGH](https://www.youtube.com/SBTMparishPGH)

Pray For All Who Request Prayers

Our parish community prays for those who request prayers for any reason. If you, a family member, or friend would like to be on our prayer list, please contact the Parish Office at 412.281.3141 or office@sbtmparishpgh.org.

Joseph Anthony
Duane Ashley
Marqus Clancy
Kristen Ashley-Cooper
Rita Costa
Dorothy Dansby
Edward Davis
Dolores Denton
Patricia Ellis
Fomunjeng Family

Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier
Sarah Freker
James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass
Brenda Glenn
Thoren Griffin
Christina Hall

Patti Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Harold Lee
Stella Lowden
The Mary Family
Eric McDonald
Joan Moran
Pierre Nshimyumukiza
Josephine O'Connor

Nicole Orlando
Andy Papworth
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Sharon Silvestri
Janice Simmons
Richard A. Stewart Jr.
Rudolph Williams
JJ Younger

Mass Intentions

December 11 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Mary Louise Franklin
(Sisters of St. Joseph)

December 18 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. David Taylor
Renee Betters
(Ann Betters)

Stewardship NOVEMBER 27

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,801.00	\$410.00	\$702.00

Stewardship DECEMBER 4

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,335.00	\$500.00	\$420.00



This week
the Sanctuary
Candle is Lit for
Frederick B. Elliott III
by Mr. & Mrs. Len
Costa

Protection of God's Children

Report suspected child abuse at the
24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: **800.932.0313**.

If a child is in imminent danger, call 911.

To report church-related abuse to the
Diocese of Pittsburgh call:
888-808-1235



Radio Program, with

Fr. Tom Burke as host, highlights

elementary and secondary schools; colleges; youth ministry programs; and more, and is broadcast every other Sunday morning at 6:30 am on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's next show is December 18th. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

Parish Survey

St. Benedict the Moor will participate in a parish-wide survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute, a non-profit Catholic apostolate that does leadership training and development.

We want as many parishioners as possible to participate by completing a **10-15 minute survey**. The survey will be **available in February 2023**, and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on what our parish is doing to help you grow.

It will be available online and in paper format with more instructions to follow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. The survey results will be invaluable to me, the staff, and our many volunteers, as we seek ways to best support everyone in their discipleship journey. There will be additional details in the coming weeks.

Happy Birthday!

LESLIE WILSON
RODERICK RUTHERFORD
THANDO SIBANDA
BRENDA YOUNGER
JOSEPHINE ACHUIEL
LINDSEY DAVIS
THERESA LEANN LEWIS
CHANDA NSAKASHA
SIMONE HICKEY
MARY SHEREE LEWIS



Sunday School Schedule

December 11— Regular Classes
December 18—Regular Classes
December 25—No Classes
January 1—No Classes
January 8—Regular Classes
January 15 —Regular Classes
January 22—Regular Classes
January 29—Regular Classes
February 5—Regular Classes
Class Start Time is 9:30am



Pastor's Note

Be Strong, Rejoice!

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" which means Rejoice! We are half-way to Christmas! The pink (or rose) candle in our Advent wreath signifies joy and hope, and this weekend's readings focus on rejoicing. We rejoice in anticipation in preparation for Jesus' birth and the coming of his kingdom. John the Baptist points to Christ as the Messiah. John is the messenger preparing the way for Jesus.

In today's first reading from Isaiah, we read how Isaiah assures his people that God is coming to give them life and healing. Israel at least is enlightened by faith as a lush garden. If the people chose God first in their lives, they would see and hear clearly what God wants of them.

In the Second Reading from the Letter of James, we read how the author assures us that God (the Lord) will come again in glory. As they await his arrival, the Lord's faithful are displaying patience and forgiveness toward one another.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue to read about John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, who is in prison and sends his disciples to ask Jesus, if, in fact he is the one who is to come.

Jesus reminds John's followers that they have already placed their faith in the prophet. We prepare a place for Jesus to come to us again, so that we can go out and carry the God child to others.

Advent is a season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. Gaudete Sunday affirms the value of rejoicing and gives reasons for rejoicing. With great rejoicing and longing for Christ's return, let us take John's words to heart and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

Despite the cold winter season, let us light the pink candle this weekend and see the light of Christ shine on us and bring joy to someone who may be lonely or grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season by making a phone call, or write a card to someone we have not talked to in a while. Let us rejoice this Gaudete Sunday!

We are looking for volunteers next weekend after mass to decorate our church. Any help you can give us to decorate would be appreciated.

Looking Ahead

"Light is On for You"- Confession and private prayer - this coming Weds., December 14, 6pm to 8pm - St. Bede Church

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedules for St. Benedict the Moor and St. Mary Magdalene Parishes:

Christmas Eve - Sat., December 24
4pm - St. Bede (Fr. Tom)
5:30pm - St. James (Fr. Taylor)
10pm - St. Bede (Fr. Tom)
Re-Broadcasting of Mass at Midnight on KDKA Radio
100.1 FM and 1020 AM
10pm - St. Benedict the Moor (Fr. Matthew)

Christmas Day - Sun., December 25
9am - Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. James)
10:30am - St. James (Fr. Tom)
11am - St. Benedict the Moor (Fr. Taylor)
Special tribute to Kwanza
Noon - St. Bede (Fr. Matthew)

New Year's Eve - Sat., December 31
4pm - St. James (Fr. Tom)

New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1
9am- Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. Tom)
11am - St. Bede (Fr. Taylor)
11am - St. Benedict the Moor (Fr. Matthew)

Parish Share 2022

Our Goal for Parish Share this year is **\$30,000**. We still need to raise **\$17,000** by the end of January. Parish Share is the annual the Diocese assesses to each parish to help operate the Diocesan Offices in Green Tree, help run St. Paul Seminary, our Hospital Chaplain, and College Campus Ministry Programs. As you plan to make your year-end donations, please remember St. Benedict the Moor Parish Share Program.

St. Benedict the Moor Parking Lot

During all home games of the Penguins hockey season, parking is available for a \$20 donation in our parking lot for non-parishioners. If you are going to be attending the game, please notify Priscilla Davis or Fr. Tom ahead of time so that we can get you on the reserved parking list with your name and license plate number. Active, registered parishioners will not be charged to park but a donation to the parish is appreciated to help us offset the costs for maintenance and upkeep.

Happy Birthday!

Happy 82nd Birthday to my dad, Bill Burke, who is celebrating his birthday this weekend.

Something to Think About...

"A spiritual joy is the greatest sign of the divine grace dwelling in a soul."

- St. Bonaventure

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke
Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org

*He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit*

MATTHEW 3:11

Fr. David Taylor



Over the past three weeks we have heard from Isaiah the Prophet. One significant theme is that we can be people of hope and faith in the most

distressing of times. Our God is the God of hope for those who are crushed by oppression and misfortune. He spoke during a time of exile and his message was to keep hope alive.

Today we hear from John the Baptist, who in his own way while in prison, spoke of the need for forgiveness and repentance. Like all of us he could experience a challenge to his faith. The response of Jesus is that seeing is believing. The message of Jesus for all of us is to have courage, for he has overcome the world.

Most of us have the same desire for peace and justice. Many are working to bring it about. St. James tells us to "be patient and do not lose heart", but we can be overcome by the often slowness of progress.

I have always been encouraged by many who make a great difference in the lives of others but do this without much notice or public acknowledgment. A number of these individuals are within our parish. Often the most effective service to others is accomplished in this way.

Advent shows us that we can be people who wait, serve, and most of all, keep hope and a sense of joy in all we do. Faith is a fragile gift, and it can be challenged. Serving others does not mean we will have no fear and doubt, but that we continue in spite of this. All of us know the kind of situations which bring fear into our best intentions, but we go on knowing that in the end God will determine the outcome. Such was the faith of Isaiah, John, and potentially for all of us.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



There are moments, sometimes years or decades, in our life when we feel as though darkness and troubles surround us.

During these periods in our lives we feel as though we have nothing to offer; we don't recognize the gifts we bring into the world. We feel as though the future is bleak and the outlook is hopeless. Advent is the liturgical season when we are reminded that things are never as bleak as they seem and the situation we are in is never hopeless.

During Advent, the light of God breaks through the darkness of despair. Our souls are illuminated by the peace, joy, and love that only God can bring. This illumination of our souls enables us to have the courage, strength, and confidence to share the light that is within us with the world. The light within is a gift from God; nothing would be more tragic than to allow circumstances or other people to discourage us from shining brightly, giving glory to God. Again, our situation is not hopeless.

500 years before the birth of Jesus, God spoke to the people of faith through the prophet Isaiah saying, "Arise! Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you. Though darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds, the peoples, Upon you the LORD will dawn, and his glory will be seen over you. Nations shall walk by your light, kings by your dawning radiance (Isaiah 60:1-3)."

This was an early form of the message that Jesus proclaimed 500 years later, standing on the side of a mountain when he said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father (Matthew 5:14-16)."

Though the world may be in darkness, you must not allow this to extinguish the light that God has put within you. The Hip Hop artist, Rajan Monroe, updated the popular Sunday school song and gave ancient wisdom an uplifting and contemporary beat:

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Each and every day and night
Lord, help me stay in line.
Gave me all this glow,
Let me go, let me show it.
Feeling like it's time,
Let it shine, let it shine.
Brought me out of darkness into
marvelous light.

All of this points toward the prayerfulness and spirituality the Church has nurtured through millennia. More than 130 years ago, Cardinal John Henry Newman taught us to Pray to the "Radiating Christ":

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from Thee; none of it will be mine; it will be Thou shining on others through me.

This is the meaning of Advent. We anticipate the entry of the light of Christ into a world of darkness and we are emboldened not to allow that world to discourage or quench the light that is within us.

Father Matthew's Dramatized Scriptural Rosary is broadcast nightly at 7:00 PM on 102.1 FM.

Father Matthew's Bible Study is on Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 PM. Please see the bulletin or the parish website for details on how to register.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

Do you or someone you know have a great business in town that should be on the bulletin?

If so please contact Rick Cortez at 1-412-292-0132 or RCortez@Diocesan.com to reserve space on the new color bulletin. Our weekly bulletin is entirely supported by the sponsors that appear on the back pages.

Advertising on the weekly parish bulletin is a great return on your advertising dollar in that the expense is tax deductible and the ad will promote your cause throughout the community.

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Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

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Contact Michael Freker @ mfreker@diopitt.org or call 412-456-3055



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