



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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:

mhawkins@diopitt.org

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

office@sbtmparishpgh.com

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

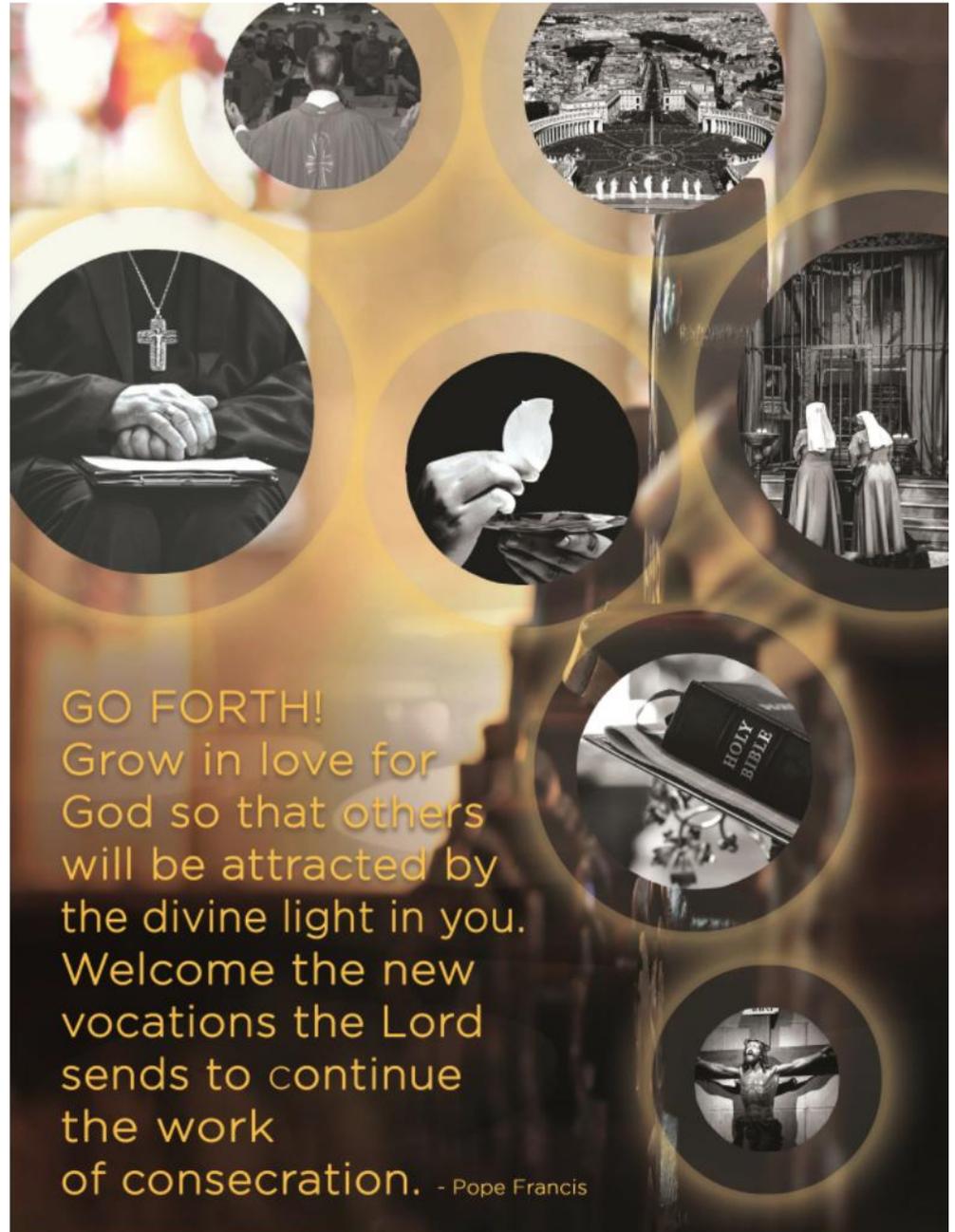
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Lisa Joy Finch, Director of

Religious Education

religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com



GO FORTH!
Grow in love for
God so that others
will be attracted by
the divine light in you.
Welcome the new
vocations the Lord
sends to continue
the work
of consecration. - Pope Francis

Saint Benedict the Moor Church • 91 Crawford Street • Pittsburgh PA 15219

office@sbtmparishpgh.com • 412.281.3141

Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



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

Damitra Penny Harris
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

February 5 11:00 am
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J Burke
Christopher Carter
(Gaye Velar)

February 12 11:00 am
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. David Taylor
Christopher Nsemo
(Andrew & Pauline Igbineweka)

Stewardship JANUARY 29

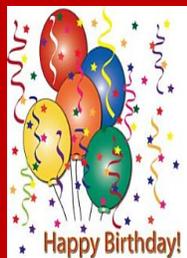
Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,127.00	\$165.00	\$375.00



This week
the Sanctuary
Candle is Lit in
Honor of
Lisa Joy Finch
by Jeanette Finch

Happy Birthday!

AGATHE GBOLO
CAROL JOHNSON
VALENTINA BYERS
ELIZABETH JAL
GAIL JACKSON
AMARA ITODO
LISA JOY FINCH
MARY HARP
SOLA TALABI
MOSES SIMMONS



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 **February 12th**. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

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



Bible Study with Fr. Matthew Hawkins

Thursdays at
7 pm on Zoom

For more information, contact
Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or
mhawkins@diopitt.org

Happy Black History Month!

Did You Know that since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2023 theme, "Black Resistance," explores how "African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings," since the nation's earliest days.



*Courtesy of the History Channel

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



Pastor's Note

Salt and Light!

This coming May, I will be celebrating my twenty-second year as a priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. I love being a priest and serving the people, and I love working in the city and doing urban ministry.

Despite the challenges of running two parishes, three schools and looking after five church buildings, dealing with roofs leaking, making sure the snow is plowed and parking lots and sidewalks are cleared of ice and snow and salted, boilers breaking, keeping an eye on the budget, paying the bills, plus being hopeful proclaiming the gospel, it has been a growing experience these past twenty-two years. Despite all of these challenges, I still love being a priest.

This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We continue reading in Matthew's Gospel "The Sermon on the Mount." All the readings focus on letting the Light of Christ shine upon us.

In the first reading from Isaiah, we read how the prophet explains what counts for sincere worship in the eyes of God. Humble and selfless service to the ways of heaven will gain a response from God. Isaiah insists, if they turn away from false and malicious speech and satisfy the hunger of the afflicted, God's light will rise upon them.

In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul affirms that the power of the Gospel comes from God alone. Paul takes no personal credit, as he recognizes his human weaknesses and limitations. Paul shows how his life

witnessed to the light of Christ. He tells the Corinthians that when he came to them, he preached using great gifts and allowed the Holy Spirit to work through him.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue reading the "Sermon on the Mount" as Jesus tells his followers that they are the salt of the earth and light of the world. This passage follows the Beatitudes, which we read last weekend. Salt is used as preservative as well as seasoning food. Light gives direction, hope and safety in the midst of darkness, and it is often used as a metaphor for Christ.

Each of us is the salt of the earth and the light influencing the world and those around us by what we say and do. Even when darkness appears to consume the world, the light of goodness and justice penetrates through us.

God's power and grace work through the lives of the believers by attracting many to follow and accept the Good news.

February is Black History Month. Let us celebrate each day!

2022 Tax Letters

All parishioners who contributed to St. Benedict the Moor Parish are invited to pick up their tax letter of contributions. To help the parish save on postage (and ensure that you receive it in a timely manner) you may pick up your tax letters at the parish office during normal business hours or at the 11am mass.

Parish Assessment 2023

Every Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has an "Assessment" assigned to them to help run the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This assessment, used to be called "Parish Share." This year's Assessment is **\$37,000**. This fund helps operate the Diocesan Pastoral Center and St. Paul Seminary in Crafton, and our Hospital Chaplain, and College Campus Ministry programs. As you plan to make your donations, please remember St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Your financial contributions in the weekly offertory collection help us

continue to keep the church updated, clean and comfortable. If you get parish envelopes in the mail, please use them. We pay for the postage and printing plus it makes things easier for our money counters to calculate than counting the loose checks. On-line giving is also an option through Faith Direct.

Called For More Grant

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has awarded St. Benedict the Moor Parish a Grant through the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) which we will be participating in the **Called for More Program** and **Next Generation Parish**. This three-year initiative will help us look at where we are as a parish and how we can grow in our faith.

Jennifer Whitley and Priscilla Davis are our Primary Point of Contacts for this program. Please participate in the on-line parish survey that we will be conducting February 22 thru March 31. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will receive the results in the Spring. Paper copies of the survey are also available after all the Sunday masses. Please contact Priscilla Davis at the parish office to have a paper copy mailed.

Something to Think About...

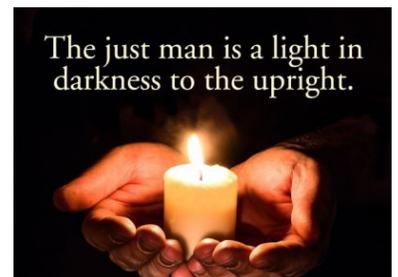
When you see a person without a smile, give them yours.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org



Fr. David Taylor



To be a faithful Christian is essentially to be an ordinary person empowered to do extraordinary things. Christ, through our faith, enables all of us to live this way. So much is dependent on how we choose to live and relate to others. Last week the Beatitudes showed us how to live this way. This week the examples of light and salt show how our lives can make a major impact in the world.

St. Josephine Bakhita, whose feast day is celebrated this week, made such an impact. She lived in slavery and was the subject of many abuses in her life. She suffered cruelty and violence, but used her moral strength to be the salt and light for many others. Her "weakness" became the motivation for freedom and faith to the people of Sudan and many others. She continues to be a powerful example of many women, men, and children who appear to be weak and helpless but have made a major impact and example on those who have lost hope.

The lives of the six African American candidates on the way to sainthood show this same kind of hope for all of us.

The church must uphold the preeminent importance of dignity and respect. Those who appear to be the least among us are often the ones who show us the way. Each of us can be that light and that salt of encouragement to others.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



We have just concluded Catholic Schools week. I spend a great deal of time with teachers and students at all levels of Catholic education in my ministry. Elementary, middle, high

school, and college students offer constant challenges and surprises. Catholic schools in the United States have always served more than just Catholic students. This is more true today than in the past. This can be a problem or an opportunity. It is a problem because there is always the danger that our Catholic schools might lose their Catholic identity. It is an opportunity because it allows us to demonstrate that what the Church says about humanity is true and resonates even with those not formally in communion with the Catholic Church.

While Catholic schools must be grounded in the Church's sacraments, liturgy, theology, spirituality, social teaching, and anthropology, they must speak to the hearts and minds of all who are open to what Christ offers. We should expect exposure to the teaching and culture of the Catholic Church will not just awaken the humanity in Catholic students but in anyone willing to receive it. All people have the capacity to be touched and moved when they encounter something real. This is what we must offer in our schools.

Catholic students should have the opportunity to get to know their faith and deepen their spirituality. Non-Catholic students should discover how Catholicism speaks to the human condition, transcending cultural differences. This means that the beauty, truth, and goodness of what the Church proposes to humanity will not just be found in classes that teach religion; it will be found in the awe and wonder of science, the beauty of the arts, and the search for meaning in history and literature.

When Pope Saint John Paul II instructed bishops to go out into the world and "evangelize the culture," he was not directing them to turn inward and hide behind fortress walls; he was directing them to engage humanity, especially in secular society, and offer an alternative way of living, a better and more excellent way.

The Church may propose the truth to humanity, but we cannot force people to listen. The proposition that we present in the classroom is that faith and reason are complementary. Reason informs us about the physical and material world and how it

functions. Faith teaches us to discern and weigh the value of things. It teaches how to direct our energies and recognize the Creator behind all that has been created. Reason without faith reduces the world to a vast materialistic prison camp of determinism. Faith without reason lacks the capacity to encounter the beauty and integrity of the mind of God. Both need each other, which is why we say theology is "faith that is seeking understanding."

We should bring divine revelation to secular skills and methods. Grace builds on nature. We should not seek an arbitrary view of the world; instead, we should seek to encounter God's order and integrity behind the world we live in and in our daily experiences. Psychology, sociology, anthropology, and archeology, for example, help us understand the person in society, but they are limited in their capacity to interpret the soul's movement. They investigate the soul's artifacts but not the soul that produced them. This requires the ability to know the human heart.

Catholic schools are not immune to many of the challenges found in non-Catholic schools. This is especially true in primary and secondary education. There is pressure to rely on the latest technology for instruction, but children increasingly exhibit declining attention spans, loss of critical thinking skills, and deficiency of skills in interpersonal communication and interaction. The world has become more complicated with people of different values and cultural backgrounds living and working together, yet there is a temptation to only associate with those who validate one's own thinking and experiences. This leads to socially poisonous cliques in schools. Students readily divide into camps of "us" and "them," like adults, and they bully outsiders. And there is now the ability to humiliate and harass targeted students on social media.

These challenges suggest that not every new and flashy thing is good for human development. Human beings need love, nurturing, and relationships to thrive. Machines cannot provide this. Humans must also recognize their shortcomings to move beyond them and not stagnate in a stubborn unwillingness to change. In Catholic schools, students of all ages should learn that we are works in progress. The Lord wants us to develop into what we can be, not to be stuck and mired in what we already are. Catholic education is an important part of the Church's ministry and our presence in the world. Let us pray that its light will grow stronger.



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

Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

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 Make a difference in local kids' lives by redirecting 90% of your PA tax liability to Catholic schools.
 Contact Michael Freker @ mfreker@diopitt.org or call 412-456-3055



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