



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

FEBRUARY 12, 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:

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**6th Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

*"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.'"*

Matthew 5:33

© Diocesan
The Sermon on the Mountain, by Arsène Robert, 1870

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

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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
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
James McCarthy
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 12 11:00 am
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

February 19 11:00 am
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
The Holy Face of Jesus
(Jacob & Carolyn Peternal)

Stewardship FEBRUARY 5

| Offertory | PSP | Special Collections |
|------------|----------|---------------------|
| \$3,519.00 | \$640.00 | \$1,120.00 |



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

Happy Birthday!

CORDE' BENNING
KATHLEEN M FRONCEK
ANN BETTERS
JADOW ESUNO-NONDO
JANET GLASS
TAYLIN JOHNSON
MARVIN RANDALL



Disciple-Maker Index Survey

The DMI survey that St. Benedict the Moor will be participating in will be active from **February 22 (Ash Wednesday) - March 31**. The parish-wide survey conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute focuses on discipleship. It will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

All parishioners are asked to participate in the 10–15-minute survey online. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the February 22 launch of the survey. A paper copy will be available in the gathering area of the church for those who prefer paper. To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Priscilla in the Parish Office at 412-281-3141.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

Get Ready to Be Inspired!



On Sunday, February 19th, after Mass at St. Benedict the Moor, we will watch a beautifully produced film on the life of Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God. This video will inspire all who see it on their journey to Christ. The film, released last October, is an hour long, with a brief discussion after. Please take time from your busy schedule to be uplifted.

631-WATT STREET | PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

KINDERGARTEN – 8TH GRADE

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a Ministry of Saint Benedict the Moor Church
Faith | Academics | Service



Pastor's Note

Love God, Love One Another!

This weekend we celebrate the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focusing on Loving God and Loving One Another.

In the first reading from Sirach, we read how a wise teacher explains that God gives us the freedom to choose the path of life. The Book of Sirach does not appear in the Jewish or Protestant Bibles. It does however appear in the Catholic Bible, also known as Ecclesiasticus, and has been a source of inspiration. This passage portrays the law and human person in a positive way. God places before them incentives to make the right choice. Three times in this passage, Sirach refers to the freedom to choose. Through humble service, wisdom, and choosing between life and death, Sirach explains that God's eyes are keenly fixed on us, watching every step and guiding people toward the path of salvation.

In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul explains that real maturity comes from believing in the word of God. God's faithful listen to what has been revealed through the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue reading from the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus uncovers the deeper meaning of the law: anger, adultery, divorce, and the taking of oaths. Jesus makes it clear that his purpose is not to do away with any aspect of the law, but he wants to show how he fulfills the law. As sons and daughters, we are called to a higher standard of attitude, behavior, and action.

Venting our anger, therefore, leads to more anger. Christ challenges his followers to exercise detachment and healthy boundaries so that emotions do not control them and cause them harm.

God calls all of us to a level of spiritual maturity that enables us both to keep and actively live his commands. Let us ask for his mercy and forgiveness for the times we have failed to do so.

Jesus calls us to reconcile with one another. As we celebrate St. Valentine's Day this coming Tuesday, let us apologize to someone we have hurt and tell someone we love them.

Ash Wednesday

Masses will be held:

1pm—St. Benedict the Moor School
6:30pm—St. Benedict the Moor Church

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

Next weekend, our parish will participate in the diocesan-wide **Giving Weekend**, inviting all parishioners to make a pledge to the Annual Parish Appeal. 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 be as generous as possible so that we can obtain our goal.

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...

People will hate you, rate you, shake you, and break you. But how strong you stand is what makes you.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org



Fr. David Taylor



Of all the many challenges I have encountered in my years as a priest and minister, trying to stress healing, reconciliation, and justice during a time of

change has been a priority. The pain of hurt and rejection is real and can harm every aspect of our faith life. A time of change, although necessary, has to come with care, understanding, and fairness.

Three such examples were serving during the formation of St. Charles Lwanga parish, St. Mary Magdalene parish, and the restoration of St. Benedict the Moor as a personal parish for African Americans. Although each of these processes were different in many ways, they called for compassion, understanding, fairness, and justice. This has to be at the very heart of church leadership.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to rise above even our best efforts. This is not a call to human perfection, an impossibility, but that we must never be satisfied that we have done enough. We are called to not only examine our actions, but most important, to examine the motives of our actions. He proposes new standards of justice where we can never be satisfied that we have done enough. We can never be content to look only at the surface of our actions. We must have the courage to search our hearts.

Black History Month gives us many opportunities to think of this; all of us benefit from the knowledge of who we are and what our heritage has been. We can never make the present better by ignoring or forgetting the past. This is especially true since we still suffer from the past and present. The heart of the Gospel implies that we can only rise when we are willing to bring others along with us.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



People often say they feel "blessed" by the Lord. But what does it mean to be blessed? Jesus tells us that to be

blessed is to dwell in the presence of God. In other words, to be blessed is to experience that mystical state of equilibrium in which one does not measure one's blessedness by changing fortune and circumstances. Circumstances rise and fall, and people and situations come and go, but the peace of God endures. As St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are always restless until we rest in God."

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus described the path of blessedness in the Beatitudes (Mt 5: 3-12). He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me ... your reward will be great in heaven.

Contrary to popular interpretations of this text, biblical scholars point out that within the context of the language that Jesus spoke, Aramaic, and the text in the original Greek, this "blessedness" that Jesus refers to is

not something that one awaits in a distant afterlife, it is the state-of-being of the disciple of Christ here and now. The first rays of the kingdom of heaven are here today. Blessedness is not a state we anticipate; it is a state we should dwell in. Resting in God, not placing our hopes on transitory things, is the key to blessedness.

Resting in the Lord means that we do not focus on ourselves. Instead, we dwell in God's love. What does it mean to dwell in God's love? The Apostle Paul's reflection on the primacy of love (1 Cor. 13:1-8a) complements the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel:

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

In other words, love is blessed. Let us cultivate the virtues of love and resting in the Lord so that we may discover peace that is not affected by the changing circumstances in our lives.



ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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