



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

FEBRUARY 26, 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

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dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

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Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

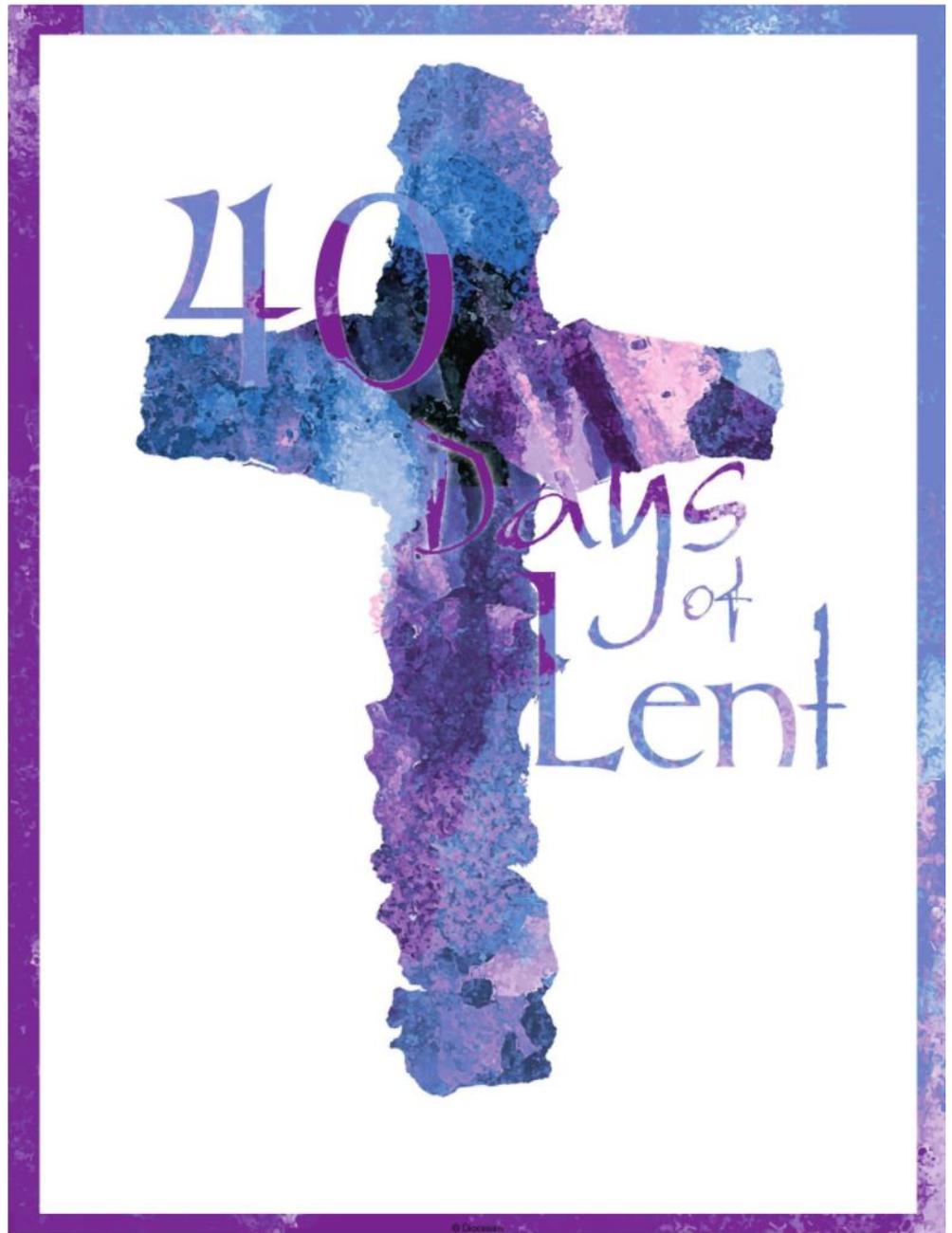
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St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



[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
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 26 11:00 am
First Sunday of Lent

Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Mrs. Margaret Grace Onaiwu Cole-Emuze
(Andrew & Pauline Igbinewka)

March 5 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Lent

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Joseph & Emelia Paszkiewicz
(Josephine O'Connor)

Stewardship FEBRUARY 19

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,015.00	\$190.00	\$563.00

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

Happy Birthday!

WANDA JONES
SHELLEY SIMS
FRED PALMER
MARGARET CELE
BENJAMIN KABAGAMBE
SARAH DAVIS
ROB OGUNYEMI
MARY JO THOMPSON



****Disciple-Maker Index Survey****

The DMI survey **is now active** through March 31st. 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. 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 412-281-314.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

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

Also, Be sure to tune in to Fr. Matthew's dramatized Scriptural Rosary at **7:00 PM every evening on 102.1 FM**



The Association of Pittsburgh Priests continues its 2023 *Spring Speakers Series*, virtually on Wednesday, March 8, at 7 PM with Kathy Wilson Humphrey, PhD, President of Carlow University, presenting on "How to Stand with Goals of the Pittsburgh Black Collective."

Dr. Humphrey will share her work with Pittsburgh Black Collective, a group of local African American leaders who are committed to improving local conditions that undermine the poor. She will describe the lens through which the Collective views the problems and ways to make real progress in overcoming them. She will also invite APP accompaniment and support as allies in these efforts by memberships, financial support, and political action.

The event is open and free to interested participants. Participants are asked to register at www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com. For more information and questions, contact Fr. John Oesterle at 412-232-7512 or johnoesterle2@gmail.com. Free will offerings can be made online.



Pastor's Note

Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking!

Each year I give up sweets for Lent including Ice Cream, Hershey Chocolate Bars, and Boston Cream Pie. Hopefully, I will not be tempted and keep to my promise these next forty days.

This weekend we begin the Season of Lent which is a time for preparation and making some internal changes in our life. The readings this weekend focus on recognizing our dependence on God and avoiding those temptations in life that cause us to turn away from our faith. In the First Reading from Genesis, we read how Adam and Eve ignore the Word of God and choose to listen to the serpent. God has provided so many blessings for the man and woman, but they get tempted and fall from grace.

In the Second Reading to the Romans, we read how Paul explains that the sin of Adam and Eve brought about judgement and death for all the world's people.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the "temptation in the desert" as Jesus is tempted three times by the devil to prove by miraculous actions that he is the Son of God. Every First Sunday of Lent we read about the temptation either from Matthew, Mark, or Luke. This year we read Matthew's version.

The devil tempts Jesus with **food**, to turn stone into bread, tempts him with **comfort** by telling him to jump from the parapet of the temple without incurring injury, and tempts him with **power**, telling him all this kingdom could be his if he worships

the devil. Jesus stays obedient to God the Father. This story of Jesus and the devil in the desert reminds us that only God's promises of security are worth the price.

We all face temptations daily and are likely to be tempted many times during this Lenten Season. Jesus himself has provided a model of resisting. As we begin Lent, let us center our relationship with God with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us either give something up for Lent, such as a favorite food or beverage, spend less time watching television or surfing the internet, or do something extra like volunteering, attending a daily mass, novena, or reading sacred scripture.

Financial Report

Enclosed in this week's bulletin, and on the parish website, is our Quarterly Financial Report for **7-1-2022 thru 12-31-2022**. Transparency is ever so important to communicate to the parishioners where the parish stands financially. We continue to spend more in our operating expenses than bringing in for operating revenue causing an operating deficit. Your continued support of time, talent, and treasure to our faith community is essential and appreciated. We pray that our parishioners who are currently are not attending mass nor financially supporting the parish return so that we can continue to proclaim the good news.

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**. This three-year initiative will help us look at where we are as a parish and how we can grow in our faith. This weekend we welcome Ms. Ximena DeBroeck from CLI who will be visiting us at mass and meeting with parishioners and the Pastoral Staff Sunday and Monday for a small group discussion on the future of our parish.

Disciple Maker Index Survey

Please participate in the on-line parish survey that we are conducting 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.

Parish Assessment 2023

Every registered parishioner should have received an information packet regarding the Annual Parish Appeal Program (formally Parish Share). Every Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has an "Assessment" assigned to them to help run the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Our 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.

We are asking every family to make at least a \$50 donation every month towards the appeal so that we can obtain our goal.

Something to Think About...

Only I can change my life.

No one can do it for me.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org



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 today, **February 26th**. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

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

Fr. David Taylor



For some converts to the Catholic church, learning about the teachings and regulations of the Lenten season can be both challenging and inspiring. The specific rules about fasting and abstinence are often seen as admirable practices but sometimes misunderstood. This was true from my own family experiences.

Families facing food insecurity or dietary restrictions related to health issues can find unique challenges. The church recognizes this in emphasizing the spirit of the law. Jesus often criticized the Pharisees and Sadducees for being experts in the law while rarely living in the spirit of the law.

Lent is all about making spiritual choices and decisions. We face a crossroad each day knowing that our moral decisions not only determine our relationship with God but with each other as well. The beginning of sin also ushered in the challenge of moral decision making; all of our actions, good or bad, come from this freedom of choice which will never be taken from us.

Facing this reality, the church offers us much freedom in determining our personal Lenten resolutions. Lent can be a time of both self-denial and self-fulfillment. It can be a unique time for giving more emphasis to spiritual reading and reflections, and all of us can benefit from more generosity and service to others. Our parish offers many opportunities.

Penance is not an end in itself. The whole object of Penance is to reform and change to a better way of living, sharing, and caring. We are all capable of being a better self. Lent is this gift for all of us.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



The nature of temptation has not changed for thousands of years. Given human nature, the tempter knows how to get our attention and

draw us in. We are tempted by things that catch our eyes, promise to fulfill our desires, and appeal to our vanity and pride.

One of the first things we notice in this Sunday's readings is how Jesus' temptations parallel Eve's. We are tempted by what we see. In Genesis, we read, "The woman saw that the tree was ... pleasing to the eye..." In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence..."

We are tempted by our appetites. We are tempted by what we desire. In Genesis, we read, "The woman saw that the tree was good for food ... and desirable..." In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "... afterward he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him "... command that these stones become loaves of bread."

We are tempted by vanity and pride. In Genesis, we read that Eve was tempted when the serpent said, "God knows well that the moment you eat of [the tree of knowledge], your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods ..." In the Gospel of Matthew, the tempter repeatedly tries to get Jesus to question his own identity by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." and challenges him to prove it, "... throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and with their hands, they will support you ..."

Our weaknesses are those things that are attractive to our eyes, appeal to our pride, and that we desire with our flesh. Pride and vanity are the most powerful of the temptations because they are the gateway to everything else that separates us from God.

Notice how the tempter entices Eve and Adam by suggesting that the all-loving God, who gave them the breath of life, would withhold something good from

them. The promise of the tempter was absurd, but with minds clouded by that which was pleasing to the eye, desirable to the flesh, and appealed to their pride, they took the bait.

The irony is that God withheld nothing from them that was good. He created them in His own image. He established them as stewards of all creation. He gave them the tree of life and all the other plants and trees in the garden. They could do everything so long as they remained in communion with God, but he also gave them free will so they would be like Him. In the center of the garden was an attractive tree of false hope. If they wished to remain in communion with God, they would have to reject the false hope that appealed to their pride. They had to choose freely because love is consensual; we cannot enter it without a choice.

Instead, they chose to separate from God and become little gods. This was the meaning of "the tree of knowledge of good and evil." It meant that rather than accepting the wisdom God revealed, they would create their own standards and opinions about what was "good" and "bad." They would try to replace the living God.

When they aspired to be little gods, they broke communion and separated from the God of life and truth. It is separation from the source of our being, which means death. We disintegrate into nothingness.

The irony is the knowledge that the tempter promised, which he said would make them powerful, only made them aware of their nakedness and vulnerability. That's the way it is with temptations. They draw us away from that which is life-giving and attach us to death, which is deceptively disguised. That is why, during the rite of baptism, we are called to "reject Satan and all his works, and all his false promises." We are called to "reject the glamor of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin."

Jesus succeeds in resisting these temptations where Adam and Eve failed. This is why the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous."

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.

DIOCESAN
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Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

EITC/ DSTC Scholarship credits are available! 90% State Tax Credit available to Business and Qualified Individuals! 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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