



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"Without a Vision, the People Perish" (Proverbs 29:18)

JULY 6, 2025

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00 am

Livestream:

facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sundays at 10:30am &
by appointment.

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

by appointment.



Our church is accessible.

Staff

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,
Administrator:
mhawkins@diopitt.org

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:
office@sbtmparishpgh.com

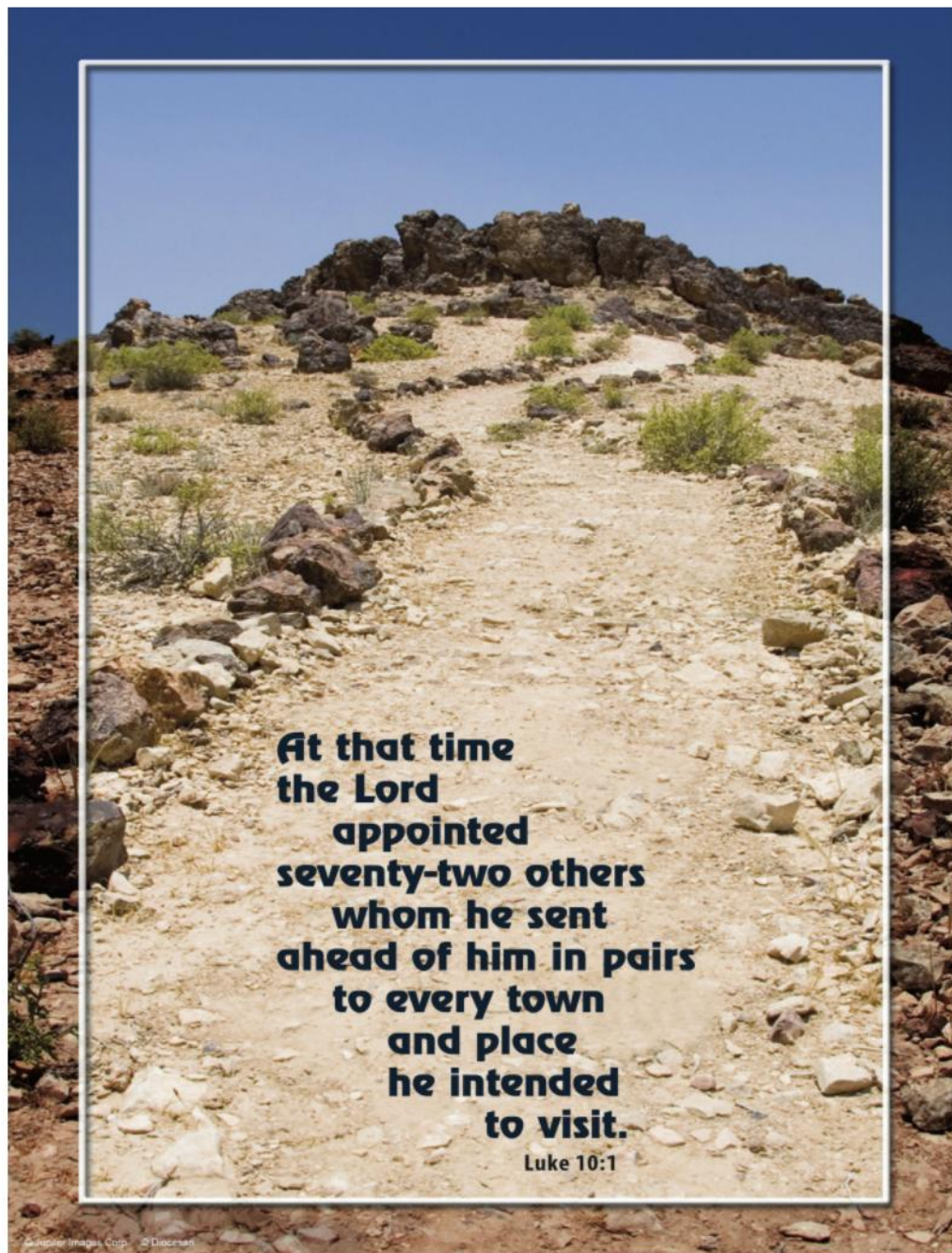
Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:
bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com

Lisa Joy Finch, Director of
Religious Education:
religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com

Monte Reid, Director of Music

Henry Anyabuoke, Outreach
Minister:
henryanyabuoke@gmail.com



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)

Mass Intentions

July 6 11:00 am
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Robert E. Lewis+
(Greeters)

July 13 11:00 am
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Anthony Akins+
(Cecily Akins)

Stewardship June 29th

Offertory	Parish Appeal	Building Fund
\$4,306.00	\$220.00	\$50.00
Care for the Poor	Tech	Peter Pence
\$280.00	\$50.00	\$375.02

Weekly Mass Attendance June 29—185

Prayer Requests

Ann Betters
Antoinette Peters
Blessing Gbolo
Bonita Dsouza
Claudia Harrison
Damitra Penny-Harris
Delores Denton
Duane Ashley
Frances Tarkett
Gail Jackson
Hall Family
Janice Simmons
Joan Moran
Johari
John Young
Karen McDill
Ken Smith (Pizza)
Marie Alian
Pat Ellis
Peggy Bullard
Rita Costa
Shania Long

Protection of God's Children

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

800.932.0313

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

888.808.1235

If a child is in imminent danger call
911

A Reflection on the Prayer, by Henry Anyabuoke “Lord, let thy will be done”



The prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42), and the inclusion of the phrase “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” in the Lord’s prayer as taught by Christ to His disciples in Matthew 6:10, highlights the important nature of this simple but difficult prayer. Indeed, it is Jesus’ favorite prayer because of his obedience and total submission to the will of the Father.

I call it “simple but difficult prayer” because of human desires which often control our thoughts as we present our supplications to God. It is simple because anyone can say it, after all we say it quite often within the Lord’s prayer. However, only few have the disposition to accept the will of the Father, which most times does not align with human desires. It is a prayer that suppresses our will and desires, that is what makes it difficult. In agony Christ desired that the cup of suffering and death should pass Him, but it never did. This is the enigma of this prayer, you can never tell which way it goes. Christ ended up submitting to the will of the Father, bringing to completion the loving plan of the Father.

We too are often caught up in situations like this. Things don’t go the way we desire even when we pray. And I must say, it is not easy to accept situations like this. It is normal to believe in God to fulfil our heart desires. However, we are called to submit to the will of the Father just like Christ did. Christ himself has laid the foundation for us in humility and obedience. It is now left for us to emulate His humility and surrender to the will of the Father. It is not easy I must say, I too want my heart's desires to be fulfilled by God. But do not be afraid nor discouraged for God knows the plans He has for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Trust in God at all times.

Hold the Date

Retreat sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers

For all parishioners age 18 or older

Saturday, August 23, 9 AM - 3 PM, for another retreat at Kearns Spirituality Center, led by Fr. Matt. His presentation will focus on a Catholic understanding of hope, allowing us to reflect on the various dimensions of hope.

- ◇ Hope that Looks to the Cross
- ◇ Hope that Surrenders in Trust
- ◇ Hope that Emerges in the Face of Impossibility
- ◇ Hope that Flourishes Because of Christ

Please Hold This Date. More Information to Follow





Fr. Matthew Hawkins



The Liturgy of the Culture of Death

Amid the humid days of summer, when bold headlines proclaim the drumbeats of skirmishes and the clicking of digital violence becomes our background music, we might forget that we are always at war. Not just over borders, but over souls. Not just with enemies, but with fears, and forgetfulness.

The "forever wars" in our headlines are more than a geopolitical phenomenon—they are a liturgy, rehearsed daily by the culture of death. They catechize us not in the virtues of courage, mercy, and justice, but in suspicion, numbness, and bloodlust. They teach us to fear the stranger, to forget the humanity of the enemy, and ultimately, to kill—if not with bullets, then with apathy.

Into this cacophony, the Church proclaims another liturgy: one in which the broken body is not targeted but given. In which blood is not spilled in conquest but poured out in love. A liturgy where we do not devour, but are nourished.

The Liturgy of Deliverance from Death Into Life

Isaiah, ancient and still startling, invites us to rejoice with Jerusalem. She is not a fortress or a command center, but a mother. "Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her

comfort," cries the prophet (Is 66:11). The image is domestic, bodily, tender—the very opposite of the mechanized inhumanity of perpetual war. And God, far from a distant commander at war, declares, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Is 66:13).

The Psalmist, too, sings not of destruction but deliverance. "He has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they passed on foot." The reference is unmistakable: Exodus. Liberation. A people saved not through swordplay, but by the parting of the waters, by obedience, by trust.

And then Paul, writing to the Galatians, puts the sign of this counter-liturgy front and center: the Cross. Not the drone, not the gun, not the bomb, but the Cross. "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Gal 6:14). It is a curious sign for triumph. A tool of torture transformed into the tree of life. War makes us forget; the Cross makes us remember.

To remember, in the biblical sense, is not just to call to mind, but to make present. This is the Church's task in every Eucharist: to remember the broken body not as a casualty, but as a gift. Christ does not send drones; he sends disciples. And not with missiles, but with peace.

In the Gospel of Luke (10:1-12, 17-20), Jesus appoints seventy-two and sends them ahead in pairs. He warns them: they are lambs among wolves. No swords. No purses. No bags. Just peace. And they go. The mission is not military but pastoral: "Say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand.'" The only judgment comes when peace is refused.

And what joy when they return! "Even the demons are subject to us!" they say. But Jesus redirects their amazement: don't gawk at power, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. In other words, do not be seduced by success. Heaven keeps its own kind of score.

Entering Reality and Truth by Remembering and Communion

The culture of death thrives on spectacle and dominance. But the

Church's liturgy whispers another word: communion. The forever wars may command the airwaves and the algorithms, but they cannot compete with a table where sinners are welcomed, where the broken are blessed, and where death is defeated not with vengeance but with resurrection.

And so, we gather each Sunday not to escape reality, but to enter it more deeply. We confess, we sing, we kneel. We lift our hearts. We are offered peace, real peace, in the flesh. Here, the broken body is not the sign of defeat, but of divine love. Here, the liturgy forms us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, not agents of destruction.

As Colossians reminds us: "Let the peace of Christ control your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col 3:15a, 16a). Not fear. Not forgetfulness. Not the machinery of death. But peace. Word. Memory.

In an age when war is liturgical and death is algorithmic, the Church must remember its own liturgy: one in which no one is collateral damage, but all are called by name. One in which the world is not a battlefield, but a banquet.

Let us therefore resist the culture of death not merely with critique, but with communion. Let us go forth as the seventy-two did, empty-handed but full of grace. And let us boast in nothing but the Cross—a scandal to the powerful, but salvation to those who see with resurrection eyes.

This Week: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..(Colossians 3:15a, 16a)."

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c

Responsorial Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Next Week: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time and Parish Anniversary

"Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life (Cf. John 6:63c, 68c)."

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Responsorial Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37



St. Mary Magdalene Parish

A call to deanery parishioners!

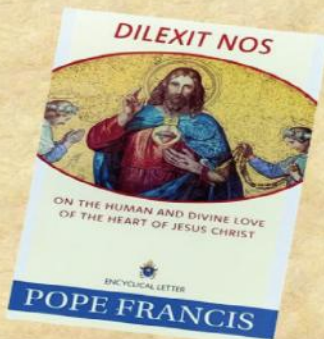
4 July Evenings on the
Sacred Heart of Jesus

7-8:15 p.m.

St. James Chapel (under the Church)

718 Franklin Ave., Wilkinsburg

There is an accessible entrance on Mulberry Street.



Participants are asked to read all or part of the week's chapter and bring a passage or thought he/she found compelling. Sessions will include time for sharing and listening, led by Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins.

- July 9 Chapter 1 The Importance of Heart (in the person & in the world)
- July 15 Chapter 2 & 3 Jesus' Actions & Words of Love / Heart in Church Teaching
- July 23 Chapter 4 A Love that Gives Itself as Drink - Absorbing Jesus' Love
- July 30 Chapter 5 Love for Love - joining Jesus in repairing the world

The encyclical is very readable and rather short. It makes great spiritual reading. It is not abstract theology but an invitation to ongoing transformation.

A pdf version is available free on the Vatican website. It will be sent to you upon registration, or you can buy it for \$14.95 from Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

RSVP: Cathy Raffaele, cdraffaele@yahoo.com, 412-636-2834

Introduction to Christianity:

The Interior Sanctuary

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



In a world that often rewards noise, hustle, and control, Paul's words to the Colossians offer a sacred inversion: *"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."* This is not a call to passive calm, but to a deep anchoring—where the peace of Christ isn't a background mood, but the very center of our being. It's the kind of peace that steadies us amid chaos, that guards our hearts when fear knocks loudly, and that whispers truth when the world shouts lies.

To let the word of Christ dwell in us richly means more than reading Scripture occasionally; it means allowing the Gospel to shape our imaginations, habits, and hopes. It is to be so soaked in the story of Christ that our thoughts, actions, and reactions reflect His grace. This peace and word together form a sanctuary within—a liturgy of the soul that resists the turmoil outside.

Today, may we relinquish the illusion of self-mastery and instead be governed by the gentle reign of Christ's peace. May His word, alive and active, build a home in our hearts, leading us ever deeper into the freedom of love.

The Central Deanery: A Collaborative Future for Our Parishes

The collaborative spirit within the new Central Deanery is powered by the dedication of our pastors: Fr. Matthew Hawkins (St. Benedict the Moor), Fr. Brendan Dawson (St. Jude), Fr. Larry Adams (St. Mary Magdalene), Fr. Kris Stubna (Saint Paul Cathedral), Fr. Thomas Gramc (St. Pio of Pietrelcina, also the new Dean), and Fr. Nicholas Vaskov (Shrines of Pittsburgh Parishes: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Most Holy Name of Jesus (St. Anthony Chapel), St. Nicholas, St. Patrick/St. Stanislaus and Divine Mercy Parish).

These pastors are committed to uniting their unique gifts and talents, and enabling the Body of Christ to more fully extend the love and message of Jesus Christ to all. As these pastors begin their work together, this first year will focus on shared envisioning and careful listening to all parishioners. Your input is valued, and listening sessions will be held in each parish within the Central Deanery this fall. As our clergy embark on this collaborative work, let us together pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them and all the faithful that together we may grow in unity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

catholicmatch®
Pennsylvania



CatholicMatch.com/goPA



Get this bulletin
emailed to you
every week.

Simply go to
www.DM.CHURCH/3440

...or scan →



DISCOVERMASS

GOLDEN COMFORT
PROFESSIONAL
CLEANING

412.828.5227
www.gc123.com

THE WILSON GROUP INC.

Host to Post Workflow
Solutions Provider

Scott Bowman
Account Executive

sbowman@thewilsongroup.com

o: 412.586.7191 | c: 412.980.4920

147 Delta Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

SHARP
Authorized Dealer

FP®

www.thewilsongroup.com

EITC/OSTC 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



Find your
path here.

www.sosf.org

SISTERS
of **ST. FRANCIS**
of the Neumann Communities
House of Discernment