



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

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

NOVEMBER 30, 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

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Pastor:
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Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

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Lisa Joy Finch, Director of
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Henry Anyabuoke, Outreach
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henryanyabuoke@gmail.com



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Website:
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[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



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



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

835001 - St Benedict the Moor Personal

(Quarter-1 2025/2026 Year to Date)

OPERATING REVENUE:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Offertory Collections | 60,912 |
| Donations & Bequests | 9,100 |
| Campaign Income | 6 |
| Other Income | 22,224 |
| | 92,242 |

OPERATING EXPENSE:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Administration | 59,759 |
| Liturgical & Rectory | 12,315 |
| Operations & Maintenance | 10,946 |
| Religious Ed & C.A.R.E.S. | 5,148 |
| Property & Liability Insurance | 4,617 |
| Social/ Outreach/ Other | 1,448 |
| | 94,233 |

OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (1,991)

NON-OPERATING ITEMS:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Net Third Party Collections | (4) |
| Proceeds from Insurance Claim (Net) | 12,820 |
| | 12,816 |

FEATURED ASSETS and LIABILITIES at 9/30/2025

ASSETS:

Unrestricted Funds:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Cash | 65,690 |
| Deposit & Loan Operating Savings | 323,151 |
| | 388,841 |

Restricted Funds:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Deposit & Loan Restricted Savings | 1,556 |
| Deposit & Loan Restricted Campaign | 1,007 |
| Parish Endowment Investment | - |
| Other Investments | - |
| | 2,563 |

LIABILITIES:

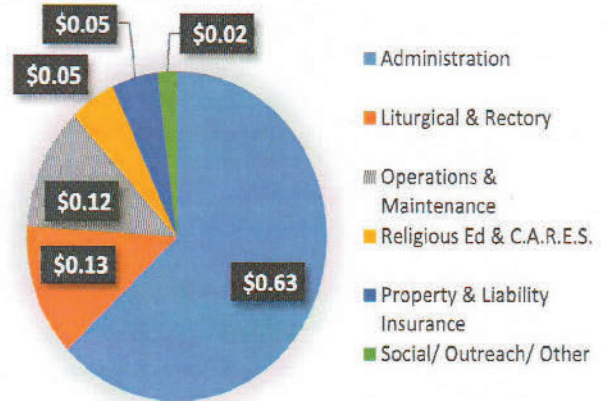
| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Insurance Past Due | - |
| Deposit & Loan Borrowing Debt | - |
| Other Payables | - |
| | - |

Revenue vs. Expense for 7-1-2025 thru 9-30-2025

Revenue: 92,242

Expense: 94,233

How each Expense Dollar Supports the Parish



Line items include but are not limited to:

Offertory Collections: Offertory, Parish Appeal

Campaign Income: Capital Imp., Debt Reduction, etc.

Other Income: Interest Income, Hall Rentals, Votive

Administration: Staff, Supplies, Management Fee

Operations & Maintenance:

Staff, Church Utilities, Upkeep, Taxes, Supplies

Religious Ed & C.A.R.E.S.: Staff, Supplies, CCD, Adult Ed,

RCIA, Catholic Assistance for Regional Elem Schools

Liturgical & Rectory: Staff, Worship, Rectory Upkeep

Social/Outreach/Other:

Youth, Community, Net Rental Property, Preschool

Extraordinary Maintenance Expense: > \$4,000

Net 3rd Party Collections: e.g. Holy Land, Peter's Pence



Fr. Matthew Hawkins

An Advent Letter from the Pastor,
Inspired by the themes of Dilexi Te



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are moments in the life of the Church when we must stop and look honestly at the world around us and at our own hearts and ask whether our lives are aligned with the Gospel we profess. The season of Advent is one of those moments. The voices of the poor grow louder, not because they suddenly appeared, but because our society has become skilled at drowning them out. Yet Christ never stopped speaking through them.

Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, is an invitation to conversion, not to guilt; to clarity, not to despair; to hope grounded in action; and to a spirituality rooted in the very heart of Christianity: God entered our humanity in poverty, and we encounter Christ in the dignity of the poor.

The Poverty of God and the Dignity of the Poor

The entire Christian story begins with a shock: God enters the world not through the gates of power but through the doorway of poverty. The eternal Son of God chose a manger instead of a throne, refugee flight instead of royal protection, manual labor instead of privilege, the company of outcasts instead of applause.

This was not an accident of history. It was a revelation.

It means that whenever we come near the poor, the vulnerable, the forgotten, we are standing on holy ground. Their dignity is not a sentimental idea; it is a theological truth.

God has made the poor bearers of his presence. As the Pope writes, **we do not simply help the poor—we encounter Christ through them.**

To overlook the poor is therefore never simply a social failure; it is a spiritual one. It means turning our eyes away from Christ, who asks us—as he asked the disciples—“*Do you see me?*”

The Structural Roots of Poverty

Scripture speaks of widows, orphans, and strangers not only because they lacked money but because they lacked *protection* in a world built around the powerful. That lesson is still true.

The Holy Father points out that today, poverty is too often explained away as the result of personal choices alone. But the deeper truth, he says, is that poverty is frequently created and sustained by structures—political, economic, and social—that trap people no matter how hard they work.

Leo argues that these structures do not emerge by accident. They reflect the collective decisions of a society that prizes profit over people and efficiency over compassion. They reward those already secure and punish those already vulnerable. They normalize a way of life where it seems acceptable—and sometimes even “reasonable”—to leave whole communities behind.

A Culture that Breeds Indifference

While reading this Apostolic Exhortation, we should reflect on how our society has developed a subtle talent for teaching indifference. We scroll past suffering, muttering, “That’s not my problem.” We divide into tribes and lose sympathy for those outside them. We glorify success, mobility, and self-made myths, forgetting that many are denied even the chance to begin.

This should alarm us. When indifference reigns, inequality feels normal. When inequality feels normal, neglect becomes justified. And when neglect becomes justified, the poor become invisible.

This is precisely what the Gospel challenges. Jesus does not ask us merely to be kind to individuals; He calls us to transform the very relationships and systems that shape our common life. He calls us to become a people capable of compassion—not as a momentary emotion, but as a pattern of

living.

The Spiritual Conversion We Need

The Pope calls us to spiritual conversion. We cannot address the structures of poverty unless we first confront the structures within our own hearts. The Gospel demands a spirituality of **seeing** the poor, **listening** to the poor, **learning from** the poor, and **loving** the poor. This is not romanticism. The poor are not symbolic props. They are subjects of their own stories, bearers of their own wisdom, witnesses to the God who still chooses what the world calls weak to shame the strong.

What This Means for Us as a Parish

As your pastor, I am calling this parish not to create another program, but to become a different kind of community. I am calling us to become a parish shaped by the Gospel, which stands against the loneliness, fragmentation, and inequality that mark modern life. I am calling us to become a place where the poor are not served from a distance but welcomed as family, where the structures of parish life reflect simplicity, hospitality, and mercy, where our worship forms us in Catholic social thought and Church teaching, and where our ministries are shaped by listening, not presumption.

Our Hope is Rooted in the Incarnation

We are not asked to fix the world by our own power. We are asked to reveal Christ’s presence—already at work among the poor, already lifting up the lowly, already setting captives free. Our task is to make room for Christ by acknowledging the dignity of the poor. We are called to be a light in darkness, a sign of God’s kingdom breaking into our broken world.

Christ in Disguise

We will meet Christ in many places: in Scripture, in the Eucharist, in prayer. But if the Gospel is true, and it is, then Christ has chosen another dwelling place as well: in the wounded and weary, the overlooked and undervalued. When we approach the poor, we approach Him. When we listen to the poor, we listen to Him. When we stand with the poor, we stand with Him.

With pastoral love in Christ,
Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Parish

Mass Intentions

November 30 11:00 am
First Sunday of Advent

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Gladys Moran
(Jennifer Lynn Whitley)

December 7 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Tyrone Whitley
(Jennifer Lynn Whitley)

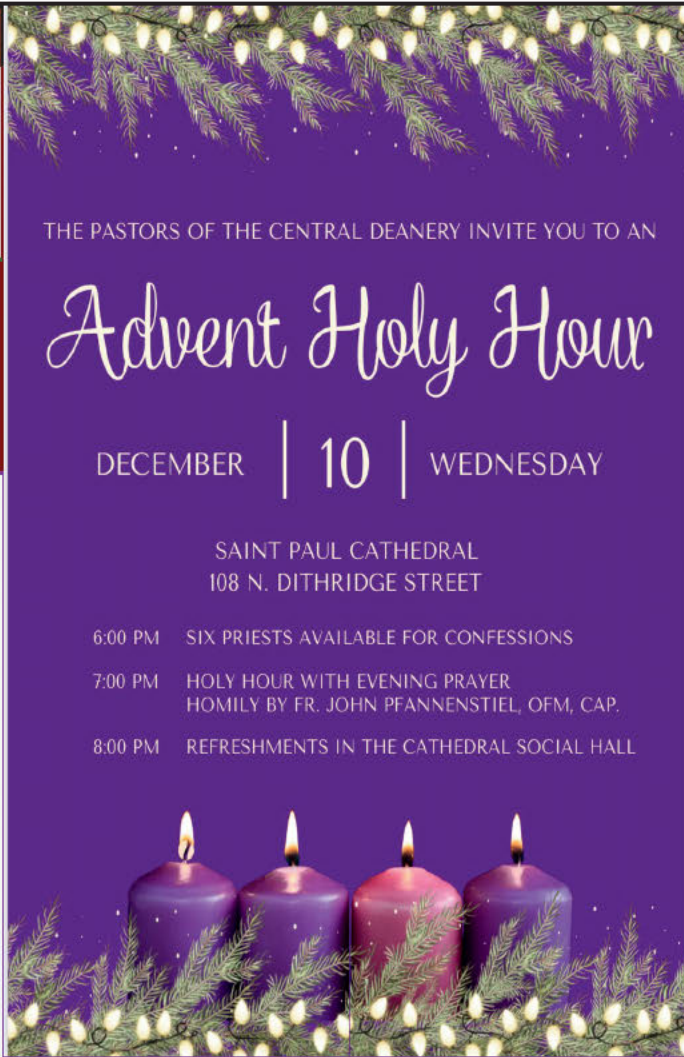
Prayer Requests

Antoinette Peters
Bonita Dsouza
Christina Hall
Claudia Harrison
Damitra Penny-Harris
Delores Denton
Frances Tarkett
Gail Jackson
Genevieve Sanford
Irene Chong
Janice Simmons
John Young
Sager McDill
Ken Smith (Pizza)
Marie Alian
Nicole Orlando
Pat Ellis
Peggy Bullard
Reggie Jackson
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**



THE PASTORS OF THE CENTRAL DEANERY INVITE YOU TO AN

Advent Holy Hour

DECEMBER | 10 | WEDNESDAY

SAINT PAUL CATHEDRAL
108 N. DITHRIDGE STREET

6:00 PM SIX PRIESTS AVAILABLE FOR CONFESSIONS
7:00 PM HOLY HOUR WITH EVENING PRAYER
HOMILY BY FR. JOHN PFANNENSTIEL, OFM, CAP.
8:00 PM REFRESHMENTS IN THE CATHEDRAL SOCIAL HALL

Help Us Plan Our Parish Kwanzaa Celebration

St. Benedict the Moor Parish is preparing to host a Kwanzaa celebration that honors African heritage through the lens of our Catholic faith. This will be a prayerful and joyful event that reflects the Gospel and fosters unity, community, and spiritual reflection.

Fr. Matthew invites parishioners to join a **planning session** to help shape this celebration. Together, we will complete the **Kwanzaa Celebration Planning Worksheet** by December 1st.

Interested in participating? Please contact the **parish office** with your availability to receive meeting details. Let us come together in faith and fellowship to celebrate the richness of our heritage and the light of Christ in our community.

What Does It Mean to Encounter Christ in the Poor and How Does it Transform Us?

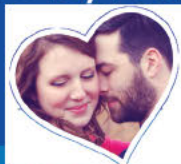
Join us for an **Advent** study on Pope Leo the XIV's Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te ("I Have Loved You") and discuss the fundamental connection between loving Christ and caring for the poor.

Dates: Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st
Location: St Benedict the Moor Parish
Time: 1:15pm to 2:45pm

Registration: Please contact Becky and Brad Colson at (412) 360-9962 (call or text) or at rebekahicolson@icloud.com. Materials and a light lunch will be provided.

Guests are most welcome!

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