



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

APRIL 25, 2021

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream:

facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

**Sacrament
of Reconciliation,
Baptisms, Weddings,
and Funerals**

by appointment.

Adoration

Thursday 10:00 am



Our church is accessible.

Staff

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor:

tburke@diopitt.org

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

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Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

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

Duane Ashley
Dorothy Brisbane
Rita Costa
Edward Davis
Rita Davis
Robert Davis
Dolores Denton

Frederick Elliott
Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier
James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass

Brenda Glenn
Mary Graham
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Salima Kamadoli
Aisha Lado
Lynda Ravnell Lewis

Josephine O'Connor
Nicole Orlando
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Rudolph Williams
Jenell Younger

Mass Intentions

April 25 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Fr. Thomas Burke
(Marilyn Dunson)

May 2 10:30 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fr. David Taylor

Helen Watson
(Keith & Brenda Younger)

Stewardship April 18

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,812.00	\$785.00	\$405.00

Bulletin Announcements

are due at 9 am on Monday for the next Sunday's bulletin: craftaele@stmarymagpgh.org

Bulletins by Email See the **Bulletins** page of our website to sign up for e-Bulletins

Bible Study with

Fr. Matthew Thursdays at 7 pm on Zoom. For bible study videos visit our website:

sbtmparishpgh.com/bible-study-videos

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

To register : see the [Bible Study](#) page on our website.

Excited About Your Faith? Want to Share It?

Would you like to help build the Kingdom of God with our youngest members? Consider being a CCD teacher or an aide! You will be given training and materials, information about clearances; and the best part is that you will be filled with joy!

If interested, please speak with Lisa Joy Finch, Joelynn Parham, or Julie Mondello, or email us at religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com

Livestreaming Sunday Mass Watch Mass on Facebook even if you do not have an account. A link to the livestream of Mass is on the home page of our website.

The Mass is posted to the home page of the website on Sunday afternoon.

blackfacts.com

April 25 The United Negro College Fund, or UNCF, is an American philanthropic organization that funds scholarships for black students and general scholarship funds for 37 private historically black colleges and universities. UNCF was incorporated on April 25, 1944 by Frederick D. Patterson (then president of what is now Tuskegee University), Mary McLeod Bethune, and others. UNCF is headquartered at 1805 7th Street, NW in Washington, D.C.[1] In 2005, UNCF supported approximately 65,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities with approximately \$113 million in grants and scholarships. About 60% of these students are the first in their families to attend college, and 62% have annual family incomes of less than \$25,000. UNCF also administers over 450 named scholarships.

UNCF's president and chief executive officer is Michael Lomax. Past presidents of the UNCF included William H. Gray and Vernon Jordan.

Though founded to address funding inequities in education resources for African Americans, UNCF-administered scholarships are open to all ethnicities; the great majority of recipients are still African American. It provides scholarships to students attending its member colleges as well as to those going elsewhere.

Graduates of UNCF member institutions and scholarships have included many blacks in the fields of business, politics, health care and the arts. Some prominent UNCF alumni include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and leader in the Civil Rights Movement; Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor; noted movie director Spike Lee; actor Samuel L. Jackson; General Chappie James, the U.S. Air Force's first black four-star general; and Dr. David Satcher, a former U.S. Surgeon General and director of the Centers for Disease Control.



Pastor's Note

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!

For the past Twenty years, God has blessed me with great parish assignments in my Priesthood ministry. From 2008 to 2012 I was Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Braddock which was one of the first merged parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh established in 1985. Rev. Robert Boyle who just passed away last week, was the founding pastor. My four years at Good Shepherd Parish (which is now part of St. Joseph the Worker Parish serving the communities of Braddock, North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, Forest Hills, Swissvale, Turtle Creek and Wilmerding,) was a wonderful experience. Recently, I was going through old picture albums of my last Mass at Good Shepherd before I was transferred to St. James in Sewickley. I still stay in contact with many people from my former assignments. I love being a priest and love my Catholic faith. Every day I try to do my best to be a good priest and shepherd to the people that I am entrusted with.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also called "Good Shepherd Sunday." In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter proclaims to the elders that the cripple who has been healed and saved was done so in the name of Jesus.

This the is the Jesus that they had crucified and whom God raised from the dead. In the second reading of First John, we learn that, as children of heaven, we will see God in the world to come.

Traditionally the Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the gospel is always from John Chapter 10. Jesus says he will lay down his life for his sheep. He will give everything that he has to guarantee their safety and salvation.

All of us have circles of people in our lives we can be Good Shepherds to. Our baptismal promises call the youngest to the oldest among us to walk always as children of light, leading others to come to know Jesus and the Good News he shares. All of us are called to pastoring. For many lay people, parenting is the main place. But any act of teaching or protection, forgiveness, or guidance is part of the shepherding mission of the church.

As we continue to move forward as more and more people get vaccinated and still taking safety precautions going through the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray that our Good Shepherd may help us through this time and keep us safe. Let us continue to not have fear but have faith.

Parish Share 2021

The Annual Parish Share 2021 Campaign has begun, and our goal is **\$30,000**. No funds collected via the program go towards lawsuits or legal affairs, rather they support the day-to-day operations at the Pastoral Center and Seminary in Green Tree, the Hospital Chaplaincy programs in our area hospitals and nursing homes, training our religious educators and evangelization, and the Campus Ministry programs at our local colleges and universities. Parish Share also helps the individual parishes with assistance

from the Diocesan Insurance and Benefits Office for our parish and school employees, Property and Planning Office to assist with buildings and grounds issues and the Parish Services Office assists Pastors and Business Managers with the day-to-day operations of the parish. We are suggesting each family contribute \$35.00 a month or more if they can, to help us reach our goal.

Religious Education Committee

We have formed a "Religious Education Committee" to evaluate and seek input from parents and families about possibly reestablishing a Sunday School Program (Religious Education Classes). Joelynn Parham, Julie Mondello, and Lisa Joy Finch sent out a survey and letter to the parishioners who may possibly be interested in restarting this very important program. We ask families to please complete the survey so that we can start putting together a program, classroom space and teachers.

Parish Improvements

A painting of St. Benedict the Moor is now displayed on the right side of the altar donated by James and Joelynn Parham in memory of their mothers Sadie Bell Parham and Lois Selden Hunt.

Looking Ahead

Finance Council will meet today, Sunday, April 25

Pastoral Council will meet Sunday, May 23

Something to Think About...

My Lord knows the way through the wilderness. All I have to do is follow.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
PLUS**

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 on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's guest on April 25 is Beau Quattrone, Principal of Holy Family Catholic School in Plum Boro. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA: kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

Fr. David Taylor

Sunday of Easter is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. We pause to remember that with all of the pain, suffering and death we face in this world there is one who is always with us on the journey. As human beings we face many challenges on the road of life. Life is a fragile gift. The theme of Shepherd shows us how we can help one another along the way. The Lord, the Good Shepherd, wants us to experience life in the fullest. This is impossible if our life is ruled by fear. The best way to live is for one another because it always put our own troubles in perspective.

Each day we awaken to many sad events. One of the most difficult ones is the loss of a family member. This has happened all too frequently. Regardless of the circumstances, the hurt and pain can be overwhelming. This is especially true when younger members of a family have died. It is times like this when we are called to show a shepherd's care for others. In today Gospel Jesus repeats five times that a good shepherd lays down his life for others. Only out of real concern for others can we reverse some of the many tragedies of life. The present pandemic has added to the many cares we face every day. But this has opened up new ways to get involved in the life of others.

Suffering can enable us to be more human so that we can enter the life of others. We learn compassion by the crosses we face in our own lives. And we can learn from the wounds of others how to cope with and recover from our own. And if we can draw encouragement from the suffering of others how much more can we from the cross of Christ the Good Shepherd. The cross of Christ is ultimately our primary source of courage, consolation, and hope. The readings from the Acts of the Apostles and the First letter of John show us that in Christ not only is life worth living but that it is the only way to live. Since we are Easter people we give this hope to others.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

God has a way of turning everything on its head. Over the 2,000-year history of the Church, it has not been uncommon for God to call unlikely people to ministry, whether these people are members of the clergy, the laity, or religious orders. Jesus is the archetype for this pattern. Peter described the people's initial reaction to Jesus when he said to the gathered assembly that Jesus "is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone."

This pattern was echoed by the Blessed Mother in the Magnificat when she said of the Lord: "He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."

Down through the ages, Christianity has brought hope to the outcast and has saved them from despair because of the many examples in the Judeo-Christian narrative where those who were disregarded as being "insignificant" turned out to be God's chosen vehicles to do His work in the world.

All of the members of the Church, the Body of Christ, have at least a taste of what it means to be brought in from the outside, as the apostle John wrote to early Christians: "Beloved: see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." Ordinary people were called to an extraordinary identity and to an extraordinary destiny. John the apostle continued by saying: "Beloved, we are

God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

This is an incredible promise that came to us from the Holy Spirit, by way of the apostle. In other words, it came to us, by way of John, from a reliable source whom we know fulfills his promises in unexpected ways. Throughout this liturgical Easter season, we are invited to prepare our hearts to receive graces from God in many unexpected ways.

Because God appears to us, when we least expect to encounter him, through unlikely people and circumstances, it is wise to prepare to recognize God, who is always at work in our lives. If we meet God regularly in the sacraments and in sacred scripture, we will be more likely to recognize him in persons and situations we might otherwise overlook. While pagans and Gnostics demanded a god who would only come to them in power and glory, Christians uniquely have learned to recognize God in his vulnerability, as he meets us in ours. Jesus said, in the Gospel according to St. John: "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep."

During this Easter season, let us celebrate God who surprises us and turns our expectations on their head. Let us rejoice with the Psalmist who sang: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful before our eyes."