



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

**MAY 30, 2021**

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream:

[facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://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](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

[dtaylor@diopitt.org](mailto:dtaylor@diopitt.org)

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

[mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org)

Christopher Catone, Music Director

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager

[office@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparishpgh.com)

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

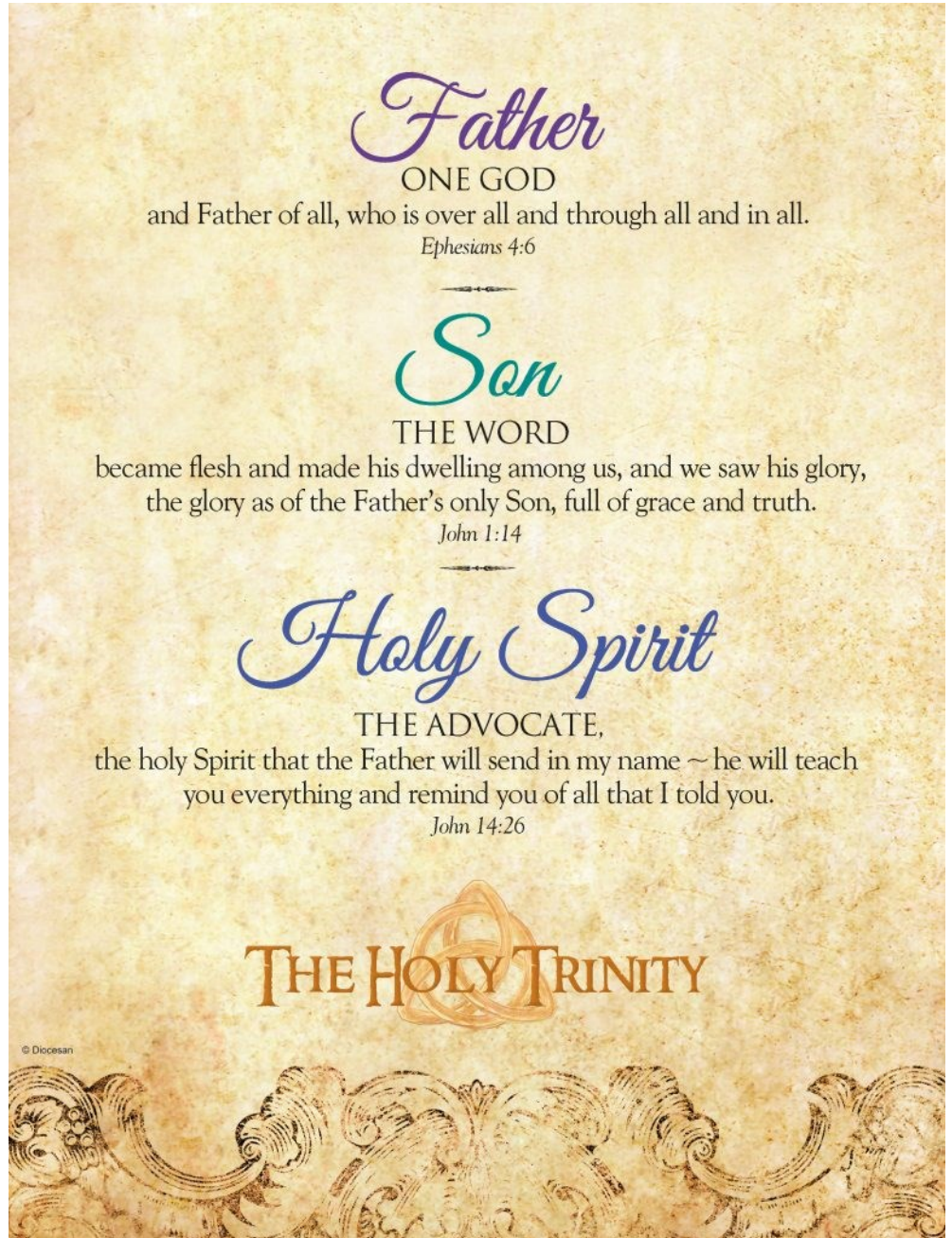
Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer Whitley, Bulletin Editor:

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Religious Education

[religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com)



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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)

## 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](mailto: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

Alda White Johnson  
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

May 30 10:30 am

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*

Fr. David Taylor

*Sarah Dunson*  
(Marilyn Dunson)

June 6 10:30 am

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

Fr. David Taylor

*Blessed Frederic Ozanam*  
(Mother Teresa Conference,  
St. Vincent DePaul)

### Stewardship May 23

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,593.00	\$140.00	\$410.00

### Bulletin Announcements Due Date Change

Announcements due at 4 pm on Friday for the following Sunday's bulletin: [office@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparishpgh.com)



**The Parish Office is Closed** on Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.

## Mission Cooperation Sunday June 5 and 6



Normally, a missionary comes to visit the parish and speak during homily time at Mass. Because of Covid-19 restrictions this year, there will be no in person talks. Instead, we have asked our mission group, the Diocese of Muranga, to submit a written appeal that will be read at Mass on Sunday. This mission

group has been hit very hard by the Covid-19 virus and that has made it very difficult to evangelize and get medical treatment for its people. The evangelization of the people of the diocese is minimal at this time. Caring for the basic needs of the people the mission group must supply them with food and other essentials.

Most of all the people need your prayers and financial support. Please realize that while the appeal is not in person the need is greater than ever. The poor have been hit especially hard by the pandemic. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

[blackfacts.com](http://blackfacts.com)

**May 30** Born in 1903 in New York City on May 30, 1903, Countee Cullen was raised in a Methodist parsonage. He attended De Witt Clinton High School in New York and began writing poetry at the age of fourteen. In 1922, Cullen entered New York University. His poems were published in *The Crisis*, under the leadership of W. E. B. Du Bois, and *Opportunity*, a magazine of the National Urban League. He was soon after published in *Harper's*, the *Century Magazine*, and *Poetry*. He won several awards for his poem, "*Ballad of the Brown Girl*", and graduated from New York University in 1923. That same year, Harper published his first volume of verse, "*Color*", and he was admitted to Harvard University where he completed a master's degree.

His second volume of poetry, "*Copper Sun*" (1927), met with controversy in the black community because Cullen did not give the subject of race the same attention, he had given it in "*Color*". He was raised and educated in a primarily white community, and he differed from other poets of the Harlem Renaissance like Langston Hughes in that he lacked the background to comment from personal experience on the lives of other blacks or use popular black themes in his writing. An imaginative lyric poet, he wrote in the tradition of Keats and Shelley and was resistant to the new poetic techniques of the Modernists. He died in 1946.



## Pastor's Note

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity, a day we marvel at how fortunate we are to be in a relationship with God.

In the first reading from Deuteronomy, we read how Moses reminds the people of the close and loving relationship God established with them and of the obligations and blessings that flow from such a relationship. This reading stresses the oneness of God.

In the second reading from Paul to the Romans, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we have become children of God and coheirs with Christ his Son. This reading focuses on that we are not just members of God's people, but members of God's family.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read that in his last appearance to his Apostles, Jesus commissions them to preach the Gospel to all peoples and promises to be with them to the end of time. Scripture scholars call this "the great commission." Christ not only promises to be with his followers but also calls them into loving union with one another and with the Trinity. The Trinity is a mystery to be celebrated with childlike love and trust. Jesus commissioned his Apostles to preach the gospel to all nations saying that he would be with them always.

God is with us as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit and when we are with God, we are also with one another. We are connected to a family that is external and infinite. Let us reflect on this great

mystery and prepare ourselves for next week as we celebrate Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ.

### *We are open!*

In following the Guidelines from the CDC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Diocese of Pittsburgh, this weekend we can reopen to full capacity for mass. New signs have been put up indicating that those who are fully vaccinated may attend Mass without wearing a mask. Those not fully vaccinated or those fully vaccinated who feel more comfortable seated around others who are wearing masks, reserved sections are available while attending Mass.

Next weekend we will implement passing the collection basket around and bringing up the offertory gifts.

Those who are not comfortable yet to return to mass can continue to mail in their weekly envelope or participate in our online giving program.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this transition time. Everyone has different views for mask wearing and vaccination. Special thanks to our parish staff and volunteers for all their hard work preparing for the reopening.

Bishop Zubik has dispensed every one of the Sunday obligation indefinitely so those who are at risk or with health issues still can refrain from coming to Mass. Those who are unable to attend Mass physically are welcome to view the Mass on Facebook and YouTube.

### *Mission Appeal*

Next weekend is our Annual Mission Cop Appeal. This year we have been assigned to assist the **Diocese of Muranga**. We will be taking up a Second Collection. Please be as generous as possible.

### *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.

### *Looking Ahead*

Pastoral and Finance Council will meet Sunday, June 13.

### *Welcome Jennifer Whitley*

I am pleased to announce that **Jennifer Whitley** will become the new bulletin editor/website manager for St. Benedict the Moor Parish effective next weekend, June 6. Special thanks to **Cathy Raffaele** for being the Interim Bulletin Editor and Website Manager this past year.

### **Something to Think About... William James**

### *Something to Think About...*

Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.

*William James*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

## Fr. David Taylor

Many who are converts to Catholicism are amazed that Catholics begin prayer with the sign of the cross.

Some wonder why we need a prayer to begin a prayer. Actually, it gives us an opportunity to acknowledge to whom we are praying. Our worship, liturgy, scripture, songs and sermons are full of references to God as Father, Son, and Spirit. It is a witness to the fact we cannot contain the overwhelming presence of God in everything we do. At the end of Matthew's gospel there is a mandate to baptize in the name of Father, Son, Spirit. And in this, Jesus says, "I am with you until the end of the age."

There is no great mystery to solve when it comes to the Trinity. It is an acknowledgement that God is with us in every possible way. The more we try to understand this God, the more we realize that he is beyond our comprehension. But, as our faith and scripture tell us, he is ever present to us in the presence of Jesus. This is a reality of our faith which is not a hidden mystery.

At the heart of our faith is that we can believe without evidence. We knew in faith that we could overcome covid19 but left the evidence to God. Our mandate is to have faith and trust, but the outcome is always up to God. We can look to the Trinity as a family and baptism is our invitation to be a member of the family. Let's never take this for granted.

Congratulations to Ed Gainey who is most likely to become the first African American mayor in the City of Pittsburgh. I knew Ed as a student at Holy Rosary School. I was often in the school teaching religion and working with the families. Throughout the last few years, I have seen him at many community meetings, rallies and events that enhance people's lives. Another A+ for Catholic schools.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins

More important than knowing about God, is encountering God in our relationship with the Holy Trinity. Indeed, God is Himself a trinitarian relationship: God the Father, the originator of all life and creation; God the Son, sent for the restoration of life and creation; and God the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son to inspire us and give us rebirth.

The Church teaches that God is both immanent and transcendent. God is immanent in that God draws near to us. God is as close to us as the breath in our lungs and the beating of our heart. Our relationship with God must be intimate, just as the Psalmist cries out: "Our soul waits for the LORD..."

Yet God is also transcendent in that God is beyond all human comprehension. None of the faculties that we rely on can begin to show us the full nature of God and the full truth about our human identity. The inspiration that we gain from the Holy Spirit both instructs and empowers us. The Apostle Paul writes: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..."

Nonetheless, God wants us to know Him within the limits of our human capacity. When we pray, when we reflect upon sacred scripture, when we receive the sacraments of the Church, and when we go out into the

world to live the gospel, we encounter God. Through these activities, God reveals Godself to us. When God is revealed to us, we experience an encounter with infinite love and our hearts are moved to respond to this encounter. Our relationships here on earth begin to resemble, more and more, the Trinitarian relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is only possible when we open ourselves to this relationship.

This immanent yet transcendent God does not abandon us, even though we often doubt Him. The Gospel according to Saint Matthew tells us that when Jesus appeared to his disciples, after he was resurrected from the dead, "they worshiped, but they doubted." Nonetheless, Jesus said to them: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The spirituality of Christianity is both "other-worldly," i.e., we contemplate the things of heaven, and yet our feet are firmly planted on the ground. As Moses says, in our first reading: "The LORD is God in the heavens above and on earth below..." Although the love of the Trinity is beyond all human comprehension, we participate in this love in ordinary and everyday ways and places. This is the spirituality of the Catholic Church; it is what we call "everyday mysticism." We are all invited to participate in this mysticism on this Holy Trinity Sunday.