



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation,  
Baptisms, Weddings,  
and Funerals  
by appointment.



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)

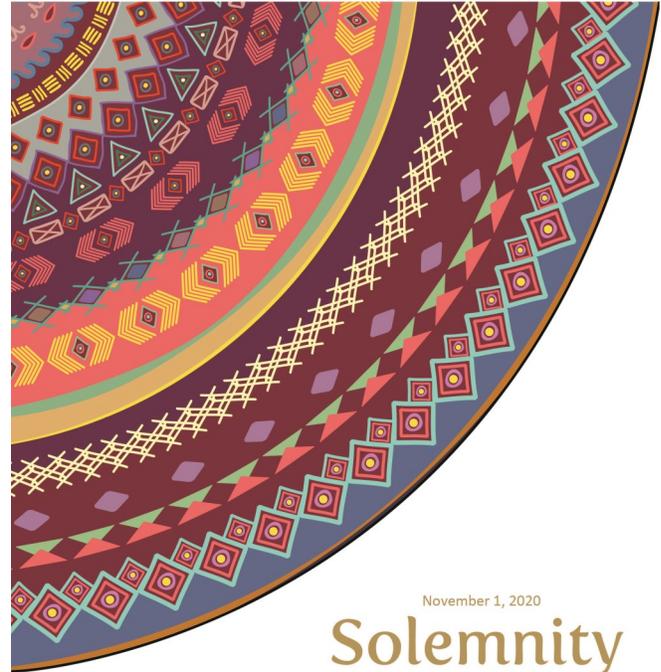
Christopher Catone, Music Director

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

*Please call 412.281.3141 or send an email to contact  
any of our priests.*



November 1, 2020

## Solemnity

OF ALL SAINTS

I HAD A VISION OF A GREAT MULTITUDE, WHICH NO ONE COULD COUNT,  
FROM EVERY NATION, RACE, PEOPLE, AND TONGUE.  
THEY STOOD BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB.

~ Revelation 7:9

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Photos: nana789/Esentials Collection/istock  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

Saint Benedict the Moor Church  
91 Crawford Street,  
Pittsburgh PA 15219  
412.281.3141

Website:

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



[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)

## Mass Intentions

November 1 10:30 am  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins  
SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS  
*For the People  
of St. Benedict the Moor Parish*

November 2 6:30 pm  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins  
COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED  
(ALL SOULS)  
*For the Deceased Members  
of St. Benedict the Moor Parish*

November 8  
Fr. David Taylor  
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
*In Thanksgiving for the Blessed Mother Mary  
Jeannette Finch*

## Stewardship

October 25

Offertory	\$3,473.00
Parish Share (PSP)	\$70.00
Special Collections	\$375.00

## Bulletin Announcements

are due on Monday at 9 am for next Sunday's bulletin:  
[craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org)



**Online Giving** We invite you to consider online giving through Faith Direct. Online giving is beneficial

both to the parish and its donating members. It is a consistent source of income for our parish that allows us to serve our parishioners and support our ministries. It makes it easier for parishioners to contribute regularly as well as for one time gifts.

To sign up at Faith Direct, for regular contributions or for a one time gift, visit [faithdirect.net](http://faithdirect.net) and use church code PA1097. Enrollment forms are available in church

For online giving information, see the homepage of our website: [sbtmparishpgh.com](http://sbtmparishpgh.com) or call Priscilla Davis at 412.281.3141.



At this time we cannot include a prayer list in the bulletin. However, we can post a prayer list on the website and share on Facebook.

If you, a family member, or friend would like to be on our prayer list, please call Cathy at 412.661.7222 or email [craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org).

Discover the beauty, truth, and wisdom of Sacred Scripture through a weekly Bible Study with Fr. Matthew. We would like to begin the Bible study during the first week of Advent, the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. If you are interested, please leave a message for Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or [mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org) or giving contact information, giving contact information; the times and days of the week that would be most accessible for you; and preference for in person or virtual.



## Great News!

Even if you don't have a Facebook account, you can still watch us any time we are Live!

Instructions:

1. Go to our website: [sbtmparishpgh.com](http://sbtmparishpgh.com)
2. Click the facebook icon "f" in the upper right hand corner
3. Our Facebook page will pop up. Click the play button to view the Live Mass.

\*\*If you lose connection while viewing, please refresh your web page.\*\*

The Mass will be on the homepage of our website to view at a later time.

 **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 next program is on November 8.

Link to the podcasts on KDKA:

[kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)

**Vagabond Missions Update** Our outreach in the Hill District is off to a great start! We've been spending most afternoons and evenings on the basketball courts in the neighborhood getting to know teens, organizing basketball games, and hosting cookouts. This past week we took our first group of teens to our Garfield site to attend their outreach night, which we call Breakout.

Please pray for us as we continue to search for a space in the Hill District to build our youth center!

**Central Catholic High School** is accepting application for the 2021-2022 school year. To apply: [centralcatholicchs.com/pages/apply-now](http://centralcatholicchs.com/pages/apply-now).

The high school is also hosting several remote and in-person events for prospective students and their families.

For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 412.621.7505

## PASTOR'S NOTE



### We Are Blessed!

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Saints are recognized for the ways they followed Jesus and lived the gospel. We remember all those who have gone before us in faith and who we trust now to live forever in God's heavenly love. All Saints Day is an opportunity for us to reflect on what it means

to live as children of God.

In the first reading from the Book of Revelation, we read how God's faithful people stand before the throne of God, giving thanks for the gift of salvation. In the second reading from First John, we read how we are called to live our lives as children of God in this world. In his love for us, God has made us his children, and destined us one day to see him as he is. We should live a life that is consistent with his great hope. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read from Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes. Jesus declares that those who now suffer for the Kingdom of Heaven will be blessed with heavenly reward. The Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the disciples and the crowd gathered to hear Jesus. The Beatitudes describe situations in which many people have found themselves; mourning, meek, hungering for justice, in need of mercy, a pure heart, and striving for peace. The word Beatitude means blessed or happy. Jesus identifies behaviors and actions that will bring blessing or happiness. Jesus encourages us to make right choices, they are guidelines for faithful living. Each of us is called to be counted among blessed. In our baptism we received a calling, the call to holiness, to become saints. In our baptism, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us answer this call and serve God and the church.

As we begin a new month, let us look at making some internal changes in our life to become a better person. Be grateful for the gift of life, faith, family, and friends. Wake up each day and live each day to fullest. Each and every day we are...blessed.

### We Are Blessed!

## All Souls' Memorial Mass

An All Souls' Memorial Mass will be held **Monday, November 2, at 6:30 pm**. Families that have lost a loved one during the past are invited to attend. Throughout the month of November, we will have a Memorial Board listing the names of all the St. Benedict the Moor parishioners who had their funeral Mass held in our parish during the past year and a Book of Remembrance will be in the front of the church near the altar where you can place names of loved ones who have passed on. We will remember them at every Mass throughout the month of November.

Special Seven Day Memorial Candles will also be available to purchase for a donation of \$5.00.

## Live Streaming

We are pleased to announce that every Sunday, the 10:30am Mass is now able to be live streamed. Special thanks to Rob and Erin Copeland, and Darrell Rubin who are assisting with the streaming.

## Looking Ahead

Pastoral and Finance Councils will meet jointly on Sunday, November 15 after the 10:30am mass in church.

## Parish Improvements

Ruthrauff Services recently assessed the boiler at The Center (the former St. Benedict the Moor School on Bedford Avenue.) The boiler which has not been serviced in two years, needs a new water pump and pump assembly.

There is low water pressure in the restrooms at The Center and the main water line needs to be repaired. Matt Mertz Plumbing will be replacing the main water valve that goes into the building in the next few weeks.

Schultheis Roofing cleaned the church gutters and is assessing the various leaks on the church roof. We want to get them patched before winter arrives.

Sloan Heating completed a preventive maintenance on the two boilers for the church and rectory and the forced air system in the rectory.

## Parish Census

We recently sent out a letter to all registered parishioners to complete an updated census card. Please look over the enclosed card with the information that we have on hand in our parish database system. Make any corrections, if necessary, and drop it in the mail or the offertory collection. Information on signing up for the online giving program, Faith Direct is also included. If you are not officially registered please give me a call to complete a registration form.

## Archbishop Wilton Gregory to become a Cardinal

Congratulations to Cardinal-Designate Wilton Gregory from Washington D.C. Pope Francis announced this past weekend his appointment, of the first African American Cardinal!

## Something to Think About...

If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.  
*Mother Teresa*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

## Fr. David Taylor



When the Saints Go Marching In. This popular spiritual song is sometimes used in funerals. It is commonly used in funerals where there is an outdoor procession. This is especially true in New Orleans and other areas. There is jazz rendition often used in music festivals. The emphasis is on the goodness of the deceased and our desire to imitate them. It takes on even greater meaning when the deceased person has lived a good life and was an example to others. It shows, that in spite of long suffering and other life struggles, we also can join the company of Saints.

As we reflect on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, we honor those who have gone before us. But they are a reflection of all of us. The difficulties and hardships that we face in this world can actually make us better persons. Our sufferings can make more humans willing to help others. The reading from Revelation speaks of surviving the times of great distress. They can be building blocks of our salvation.

These feast days also remind us of our potential sainthood. When we examine the lives of the saints, we find they were human and imperfect just as we are. We celebrate that because they overcame, so can we. We likewise recall the lives of those on the way to sainthood like Sr. Thea Bowman and Fr. Augustus Tolton. They both suffered much in this life from the bigotry and racism in our Catholic Church. But it never made them bitter. They are true examples of what it means to be able to forgive in spite of much hurt and pain.

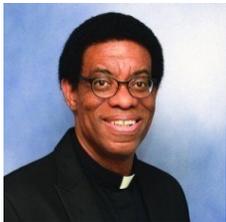
These feast days also give us the courage and hope to overcome. Let us especially remember the many who have died from Covid-19. Let us be vigilant in protecting others.

Please pray for our country during this time of voting. Whatever the results, we are one country under God and we will overcome.

Congratulations to Jessica Hobson and Omar Boston who married this past week in our parish. I have known her family for many years.

Congratulations to Cardinal designate Wilton Gregory. He becomes the first African American Cardinal for the United States. We studied for the priesthood during the same years in Chicago. What a blessing for the Church.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



November is "Black Catholic History" month. A "Catholic", properly understood, as James V. Schall pointed out in his book, *A Mind that is Catholic* (2008) and as Antonio Spadaro describes Pope Francis in his book, *Open to God; Open to the World* (2018) is a person who is open to all that is beautiful and true. Catholicism is not an identity in reaction against Protestantism, atheism, or Islam, rather, it is faith seeking beauty and truth wherever God makes this known to us. The fullness of this self-revelation of God occurred when the Word entered into our humanity, through the birth, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The following is a reflection on Wynton Marsalis' 1995 Jazz composition masterpiece, *Blood on the Fields*.

"Blood on the Fields" is a two-and-a-half-hour jazz oratorio that tells a story. It is about an enslaved man, Jesse, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the southern United States. Jesse is a former prince who had slaves of his own in his homeland in Africa. His slaves were captured from neighboring tribes who were defeated in battle. Now, Jesse is a slave, and he wants to liberate himself and regain his status as a ruler over men. He rejects the affections of a "common" woman from his tribe whose name is Leona. Leona, however, is in communion with a spirit that is beyond Jesse's comprehension.

Jesse's hatred of the slavery to which he is now subjected leads him to hate the very land itself in which he is held captive. Jesse rejects any possibility of making a commitment to Leona and of forming a family with her because she is a "commoner". Jesse's biggest problem, however, is that the spirit inside of him is dead. No doubt his enslavement contributed to the death of his spirit, but his insistence on his former princely status suggests that his spirit was moribund even before he was taken into captivity.

The death of Jesse's spirit is introduced early in the production when we hear a slave trader proclaiming that he has "souls for sale." This refers to the bodies of the enslaved people the trader is selling and may also signify how closely his business has led him to resemble Satan himself. In the introduction to the piece the narrator describes the slave trade not simply as a political economic crime but as a "crime against the human soul."

In pursuit of his freedom, Jesse decides to see "Lord Juba", who is a wise man who speaks in riddles and parables. Most people think that Juba is a fool, nonetheless, he has a reputation for being able to show men how to break free of slavery. Few enslaved people, however, believe him.

Juba tells Jesse that if he wants to be free there are three things he must learn. First, he must learn to love the land. The anger that Jesse nurses toward the land of his captivity keeps him in bondage. Second, he must learn to love his community. So long as he has contempt for everyone around him, he will remain in bondage. Third, he must learn to love himself and not his social status as a "prince." He will remain in bondage as long as he has a need to hold other people beneath him.

Jesse rejects this advice and suffers as a result. As the story unfolds, he comes to his senses and he learns to creatively transform his suffering. He learns how to listen. He learns not to be obsessed with his pain. Finally, he learns the meaning of "soul" and this enables him to enter into communion with others.

In many ways Marsalis' lesson about pain is like a line from George C. Wolfe's Broadway musical about the Jazz composer Jellyroll Morton titled "Jelly's Last Jam" (1991). Morton tries to escape from his pain or inflict it on others rather than embracing and creatively transforming it. During the musical, Morton's muse tells him: "Your pain is real. Relax, don't fight it. Just take what you feel and write it."

By the end of Marsalis' piece Jesse learns not to think that doing the right thing will automatically be rewarded or that it will immediately lead to the results he hopes to see. "Even for the righteous," the narrator says, "success is never certain." Juba sings that "freedom is not a final outcome, it is a way of being. Freedom is in the doing. Juba says: "This is all I'll tell you because this is all I see. You answer questions right but you still ain't free ... Freedom's in the trying, that's all you need to know."

*Blood on the Fields* is a musical composition about struggle, resilience, and the transformative power of love. It blends the physical and the spiritual, history and eternity. In this sense, it is a very "Catholic" encounter.