



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

Rev. David H. Taylor, Senior Parochial Vicar:
dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins, Parochial Vicar:
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.*

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.
Psalm 63:2

2020
NOVEMBER 8

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Compliments are necessary for the success of the church.

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

Website:

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 8
Fr. David Taylor

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*In Thanksgiving for the Blessed Mother Mary
Jeannette Finch*

November 15
Fr. Thomas Burke

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Mrs. Helen Smith
George Smith*

Stewardship

November 1

\$3,473.00

Parish Share (PSP) \$70.00

Special Collections \$375.00



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 and use church code PA1097. Enrollment forms are available in church

For online giving information, see the homepage of our website: sbtparishpgh.com or call Priscilla Davis at 412.281.3141.

Bulletin Announcements

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

Food Pantry Dates

Tuesday November 10

Tuesday November 24

As Covid time continues, feeling blue? anxious? fearful? Treat yourself to a spiritual lift! Connect on the home page of our website with Fr. Matthew Hawkins' talk: *Finding Hope through Spirituality and Community*

From those attending in-person or online:

Fantastic! Down to earth! Very helpful!

sbtparishpgh.com

The Book of Remembrance will be near the altar during the month of November. If you would like to add the name of a loved one, but cannot come to church, please contact Cathy at 412.661.7222 or craftaele@stmarymagpgh.org with the name and we will write it in the book for you.

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 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.

Livestreaming Sunday Mass

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: sbtparishpgh.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 also 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 guest on November 8 is Angela Manchini, Principal of Divine Mercy Academy in Monroeville.

Link to the podcasts on KDKA:

kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

Society of St. Vincent dePaul, Mother Teresa Conference

Please contact us at svdpstteresaPGH@gmail.com or 412.204.7446 for assistance in the Pittsburgh 15219 and 15222 areas with available social services and other resources.

PASTOR'S NOTE



Be Prepared!

Last Saturday, I concelebrated a funeral at my home parish, Blessed Trinity, in Baldwin for my friend Barb Popowitz. Barb was a highly active member of the former Corpus Christi Parish in McKeesport when my friend, Fr. Steve Kresak, was the Pastor. Barb was a Lady of Charity and active with the parish festival and

fish fry. She and her husband Tony went to Italy with me back in 2014. We had a lot of good laughs. Even though Barb's health declined these past several months struggling with leukemia, she had a great attitude to be prepared and live life to the fullest.

Life is a cycle: a beginning, middle and an end. We need not live in fear, but have faith. This Sunday we celebrate the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time and the readings this weekend focus on being prepared for the coming of the Lord.

In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we read how a wise teacher describes all the advantages gained by those who seek the wisdom of God. In the second reading to the Thessalonians, we read how Paul consoles the people of God with the message of eternal life. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the parable of the ten bridesmaids (sometimes called the ten virgins). Jesus tells the story of a group of bridesmaids who are waiting for the groom to return so the wedding celebration can take place. The parable stresses constant watchfulness as Jesus stresses the importance of being ready for the master's return, even though no one knows the day nor the hour. We await for the groom, Christ, to return for his bride, the Church.

Every Christian is meant to be a lamp carrier-bearing the light of Christ in a darkened world. Through a spirit of prayer and watchfulness, Christ will help us to keep his light burning brightly.

As we prepare to conclude the Liturgical Year in a few weeks (Advent begins Sunday, November 29), the next two weekends focus on the end time. Let us pray that in our attitudes and actions we will eagerly welcome the arrival of the Lord in our everyday lives, and wisely prepare for his coming at the end of time.

The month of November is traditionally a month to remember our loved ones who have gone home with the Lord. At every Mass during this month, we will offer our prayers for the names of our loved ones who are listed on the Memorial Board near the pulpit on the altar at all three of our campuses and the names listed in the Book of Remembrance. Please feel free to inscribe names of your loved ones in our Book of Remembrance located in front of the altar at all three of our campuses.

Thank you to all who attended our annual All Souls Day Memorial Mass this past Monday evening. Special thanks to our Office Manager, **Terri Price** for helping put the candle order in and organizing our Memorial Board.

Be Prepared

Live Streaming

We are pleased to announce that every Sunday the 10:30am Mass will 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 next Sunday, November 15 after the 10:30am mass in church. Pastoral Council Members include **Lisa Finch, Andrew James, Julie Mondello, Joelynn Parham, and Darrell Rubin**. Finance Council Members include **Rita Canton, Esa Davis, Richard Stewart, Sonya Tighman, and Gwendolyn Young**.

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 repaired. Matt Mertz Plumbing will be replacing the main water valve that goes into the building.

Census 2020

All registered parishioners should have received a Census card in the mail. Please return your census so we have the correct information on file.

Happy Veterans Day this Wednesday! Thank you to all our men and women who have served in our Armed Forces. God Bless America!

Something to Think About...

It is better to look ahead and prepare
than to look back and regret.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



Jesus the light of the world.

Some years ago there was a popular TV show called *The Christophers*. The theme at the beginning of the show was “it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”. Isaiah the prophet proclaimed that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

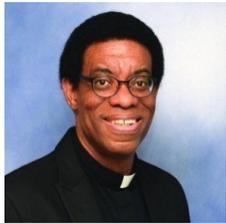
The theme of light in the midst of great darkness is emphasized in a lot of our worship. We start the Easter Vigil in total darkness when we light the Easter Candle. It is the beginning of the new light in Christ. We light candles

at Mass, at funerals, at baptisms and at weddings. We use candles in procession at the Easter Vigil and other liturgical events.

On a couple of occasions when the lights went out in the rectory and church, I was fortunate to have candles nearby. Sometime in the midst of total darkness a small light can make the difference. The women in the gospel knew the importance of light but they took it for granted.

Life is an experience which calls us to be proactive. During this time of the pandemic we all know the importance of having sufficient food, supplies, and shelter. And we also must look out for others. We can all be a light for one another. A little light goes a long way.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Last Sunday, I had the honor of participating in the Pittsburgh NAACP's “Freedom Sunday”, to remember the role that African American churches have historically played in the struggle for social justice and racial equality. The theme this year was that African Americans “are done dying” for no

good reason, which is an important message in acknowledging the value of all lives from conception until natural death. But even as we proclaim that we are done dying, we must acknowledge that, as a community and in society at large, we are still in the grips of a culture of death.

This culture of death is evident in gratuitous violence in our entertainment -- in our music and our movies and television programs, and many of our video games. The culture of death is evident in our politics where we frequently hear rhetoric calling for the elimination of “the opposition” rather than dialogue, listening, civil persuasion, and building consensus and mutual understanding. The culture of death is evident in our economics, when we treat the lives of employees and consumers as though they are expendable when protection of those lives gets in the way of maximizing profits, as was graphically illustrated during the COVID crisis. The culture of death is also evident when we believe that every political conflict abroad can be solved by a military response.

We need to replace the culture of death with a culture of life. Many people think that when we talk about the need to cultivate a culture that celebrates the sanctity of human life we are only talking about abortion. The truth of the matter is that the culture of life is much bigger than a single issue. The culture of death and the culture of life are matters that concern the social environment in which we

are collectively “swimming”. The culture of life rejects anything that reduces human beings to mere objects and that looks for quick solutions to complicated problems by terminating a human life. The culture of life rejects anything that treats human life as something that is cheap and expendable.

In contrast to the celebration of life, the culture of death is indifferent toward aggressive and unaccountable policing, but it is also indifferent toward the values expressed when our young people wear hoodies patterned with skulls and dollar bills, signifying that they are willing to do *anything* to “get paid”, including to “take out” innocent bystanders and anyone else who stands in their way.

The legendary Jazz composer and musician Wynton Marsalis once said that the meaning of soul is that one “addresses adversity with elegance. You don't allow your tragedy to be magnified in the world, [instead] you transform your tragedy into something that is useful and optimistic.” This is what we, as Catholics, see in Christ's passion on the cross. It is the transformation of pain, suffering, and tragedy into something that is ultimately redemptive for humanity. This is also what we, ourselves, are called to do in our imitation of Christ.

Strong families and strong community-based institutions will be essential for replacing the culture of death with a culture of life. Strong families and strong community-based institutions transmit heritage, and build strong character in individuals, resisting vices and inspiring virtue. We should keep this in mind during the month of November, when we remember our dead and we look forward to being renewed in Christ. Let us resist the culture of death and celebrate the culture of life. When we do this, then we really will be “done dying”.