



# 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.*



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Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe  
November 22, 2020

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

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



SBTMPARISHPGH



SBTMparishPGH

## Mass Intentions

November 22  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins  
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
*Mrs. Allie Hall*  
Karen Hall and Family

November 26  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins  
Thanksgiving Day  
*The Cowen Sisters*  
Priscilla Davis

November 29  
Fr. David Taylor  
First Sunday of Advent  
*Temporal and Spiritual Well Being of Theresa Orlando*  
Priscilla Davis

## Stewardship November 15

Offertory	\$2,998.00
Parish Share (PSP)	\$374.00
Special Collections	\$430.00

**Online Giving** 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.

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

**As a Faith Community,**  
we pray for all who request prayers.

*Edward Davis, Dolores Denton, Lydia Francis,  
Marie Francis, Woody Frazier, James Fuller,  
Ann Fultz, Janet Glass, Brenda Glenn,  
Mary Graham, Sandra Johnson, Aisha Lado,  
Josephine O'Connor, Mary Samuels,  
Genevieve Sanford, Vincent Tucker,  
and Rudolph Williams*

## Food Pantry Dates

Tuesday	November 24
Thursday	December 10

**Catholic Education Plus Radio Program**, with Fr. Tom Burke as host, is broadcast every other Sunday morning on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's guest on November 22 is Matt Petnuch, President of the North Hills Regional Catholic School Board. Link to the podcasts of the program on KDKA:  
[kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)

**Bible Study with Fr. Matthew** begins on Thursday, December 3, at 7 pm on Zoom. Discover the beauty, truth, and wisdom through weekly meetings as we begin a new Liturgical Year.

The study will also be posted, with a short mini-lecture, on our website and YouTube.

For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or [mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org).

Thanks to everyone for their feedback via phone and email.

**To register (required), visit the home page of our website:**

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

## Advisory Councils

### Parish Pastoral Council



1<sup>st</sup> Row: Joelynn Parham, Fr. Burke, Lisa Joy Finch, Fr. Hawkins, Fr. Taylor;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Darrell Rubin, Julie Mondello, Andrew James

**Finance Council** Rita Canton, Esa Davis, Richard Stewart, Sonya Tighman, Gwendolyn Young

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

**Guion Guy Bluford, Jr.** was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 22. While there, a school counselor encouraged him to learn a trade, since he was not college material. Unlike other young African-American men of his time who were given similar advice, Guy ignored it and forged his own path. He graduated in 1960, and went on to excel in college. He received a B.S. degree in aerospace engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, enrolled in ROTC and attended flight school. Assigned to a fighter squadron in Vietnam, Guion Bluford flew 144 combat missions, 65 over North Vietnam.

Returning to school, he earned an M.S. degree aerospace engineering, followed by a PhD in 1978. That year, he learned he was one of the 35 astronaut candidates selected from a field of more than 10,000 applicants. He entered NASA's training program and became an astronaut in August, 1979. Guys' first mission was STS-8 aboard the space shuttle Challenger, which launched from Kennedy Space Center on Aug. 30, 1983.

## PASTOR'S NOTE



### The Lord is my shepherd.

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. This Feast Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Church Liturgical Year before the start of Advent. The readings this weekend focus on service, humility and being like a shepherd to embrace love and compassion.

In our first reading from the Book of Ezekiel, we read how God assumes the role of shepherd for the people. Ezekiel says God will heal and restore the people of Israel. God appointed Ezekiel to serve as a watchman over Israel and to advise them to change their ways. In the second reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul reminds us that we will share in the Lord's victory over death. Christ is the new Adam who rose from the dead.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the famous passage about the final judgement of all the nations, the sheep, and the goats. Jesus demonstrates how service to the needy is in fact the love of Christ. The challenge of Christian discipleship is to see the love of Christ in the many faces of those in need. Serving those in need means serving Christ. If we are to be good subjects in Christ's kingdom, we also need to see Christ in the poor. Christ embraced the leper, ate with sinners and outcasts and always looked out for the "little guy."

On this last Sunday of the Liturgical Year as we prepare for Thanksgiving this coming Thursday and for the Season of Advent, let us recognize the face of Christ in those around us by what we say and do. The more we live through the spirit of Christ, the more God lives in in us.

### The Lord is my shepherd.

## Parish Improvements

There is low water pressure at The Center and the main water line needs to be replaced. This coming week Matt Mertz Plumbing will be working with the Pittsburgh Water Authority to replace the main water valve. This will be a major project and is expected to take a few days.

Schulteis Roofing Inc. will be making some various repairs to our church roof in the next few weeks.

Vital Solutions upgraded our office internet system and Kapp Communications is upgrading our office phone system. We hope to connect the phone and internet service by mid-December.

## Parish Office Renovation Update

Thank you for your patience these past several months since we reopened the parish on July 13. A lot of work has been performed the past several months to get the parish office renovated. Five dumpsters were filled, new electrical lighting has been installed in all four of the offices plus the conference room along with new carpeting, a fresh coat of paint and new office furniture.

## We Remember

Throughout this month we will offer our prayers for our loved ones who had their funeral Mass in our parish this past year and are listed in the Memorial Board near the pulpit and the names listed in the "Memorial Book" also known as the Book of Remembrance. Please feel free to inscribe names of your loved ones in our Book of Remembrance located in front of our church

## Thanksgiving Day Mass - Thursday, November 26, 10:30 am

The Parish Office will close at Noon on Wednesday, November 25 through Monday, November 30, and will reopen on Tuesday, December 1.

## Looking Ahead

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, 9 pm**

**Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 10:30am**

**New Years Eve - Thursday, December 31, 6:30pm**

## Birthday Reflection

As I prepare to celebrate my **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday** this coming Tuesday, November 24, I would like to thank my parents Bill and Marge for the gift of life! I am honored to be your Pastor at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Fr. David Taylor will be celebrating his birthday Wednesday, November 25!

## Welcome Home

A special welcome to **Daisy Kay** and **Claver Dembe** recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Please remember to return your updated Census card that was mailed to you a few weeks ago. Every registered parishioner should have received a notice in the mail to update their census. It is important we have everyone's correct information.

## Something to Think About...

*I feel that the greatest reward for doing  
is the opportunity to do more.*

Jonas Salk.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

## Fr. David Taylor

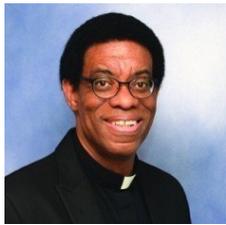


Today is the Feast of Christ the King. This is the final week of the present Church year. The last Sundays have reminded us of the end of the world, the last judgement, and the individual accounting of our own life. The Gospel focuses on the Sermon on the Mount which is about how we live in the present.

Jesus turns the whole notion around about leadership.

The notion of power and authority take on new meaning. We often think of power as the ability to lead and control. It is possible to possess much power without the ability to properly exercise it. Many dictators do this. The proper exercise of power rests on the ability to use it for the good of all. Elections can bestow much power on an individual who can use it for the intended good or selfish and self-centered purposes. Power rests with the office rather than the person. It can come with a lot of influence and wealth.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



As the cases of COVID rise it is natural that many people in the Church are anxious. While it is important to take the necessary and sensible precautions, we can take comfort from God's promise to the prophet Ezekiel in our first reading for today, "I will tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every

place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark."

A few months ago, Bishop Robert Barron pointed out in his foreword to Stephen Bullivant's book *Catholicism In The Time Of Coronavirus* that this pandemic reminds us that we live in a world of "radical contingency." It is a world where our circumstances quickly change in unforeseeable ways. Bishop Barron notes that this radical contingency has a way of driving us to seek that which is not contingent, that which never passes away: God, who is the fullness of being, never passes away.

In First Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes that God, who is beyond all contingency, "... must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death." While we must take sensible precautions against the Coronavirus, we must not live in paralyzing and demoralizing fear. Christ has the final victory over death.

Authority, especially moral authority, rests primarily with the individual. Some people with the greatest moral authority are quite powerless, and they have no need to control. So, it was with Jesus. Pilate had power over people, but Jesus had moral authority and influence. Jesus made his presence felt by the kind of life he led and the moral influence he had on others.

We end the Church year with much faith in the leadership of Christ and how it can influence all of us. Advent brings new hope for healing and reconciliation. We pray for healing in our country and in our lives.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, and the Christmas season let's be safe and take care of one another. While it may be a difficult sacrifice not being with many of our loved ones and friends, it shows that we really care. As I celebrate another birthday it is a real blessing to be with you.

Although physical distancing will continue to be necessary, social distancing (breaking our connection to one another) would destroy our very humanity. Bishop Barron points out that the Church cannot be shut down, because the Church is not the worship site, it is the Mystical Body of Jesus. He adds that there are many things that Catholics may do to strengthen their spiritual lives, even as they shelter-in-place. He notes that under the restrictions of physical distancing last spring "... there [was] a dramatic rise in virtual rosaries, retreats, and Eucharistic Adoration."

In this week's Gospel we hear Jesus' words as he reminds us of the importance of not turning inward, that we should not think only of ourselves. Instead, we must look outward and check up on those who are isolated and vulnerable, letting them know that they are not forgotten and that they do not have to go through this ordeal alone. The acts of corporal and spiritual mercy are especially needed in times like these.

As we stay socially-connected despite being physically distant we will weather this storm through the grace of God, and we can look forward to the day when, as God promised Ezekiel, "As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep ... The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal..." God Bless You.