



# 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.*

**FIRST SUNDAY**

OF  
*Advent*

Watch therefore: you do not know  
when the lord of the house is coming,  
whether in the evening, or at midnight,  
or at cockerow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

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

Website:  
[sbtmparishpggh.com](http://sbtmparishpggh.com)



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



SBTMparishPGH

## Mass Intentions

November 29  
Fr. David Taylor

First Sunday of Advent

*Temporal and Spiritual Well Being of Theresa Orlando*  
Priscilla Davis

December 6  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins  
Second Sunday of Advent  
*The People of the Parish*

**Stewardship** Because of an early bulletin submission, the offertory for November 22 will be reported in the December 6 bulletin

**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)

## Advisory Councils

### Parish Pastoral Council

Lisa Joy Finch  
Andrew James  
Julie Mondello  
Joelynn Parham  
Darrell Rubin

### Finance Council

Rita Canton  
Esa Davis  
Richard Stewart  
Sonya Tighman  
Gwendolyn Young

## Livestreaming Sunday Mass

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

A direct link to the livestream of Mass is on the home page of our website: [sbtparishpgh.com](http://sbtparishpgh.com)

## Food Pantry Dates

Thursday	December 10
Wednesday	December 23

## Advent Family Prayer

God of Love,

Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,

As we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

**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)

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mother Teresa Conference** All parishioners and those living in the 15219 and 15222 areas in need, please contact us at [SVdPStTeresaPGH@gmail.com](mailto:SVdPStTeresaPGH@gmail.com) or 412.204.7446 for assistance with available social services and other resources,

**Volunteers:** Hearts ready to serve the Lord by aiding our Friends in Need are always needed.

**Advent Phone Tree** Does COVID have you down?



Feeling worried? Lonely? Adrift? The time is right! Advent, a time of waiting—in hope. Call a parishioner/friend. Check in on how each other is doing. Then do something that is spiritually enriching: pray the Rosary; pray a novena prayer; share a favorite scripture prayer; reflect on the readings of the day. Just do it! You'll be glad you did!

**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*

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

**Ivy Lawson** opens 1st black owned business in Boston Historic North End Neighborhood on November 29. Iveyes Everything Honey is the first black-owned business in the historic neighborhood, something Mayor Marty Walsh says strengthens this city.

"I'm an engineer by trade," Ivy said. "You don't have to stay within expectations of others. You can do what you want to do and you can you know extend your horizon. I just follow my dreams."

## PASTOR'S NOTE



### Watch!

Today we begin a new season and a new calendar year in the Church as we begin Advent. The word Advent means a “coming” or “arrival” and makes us think of the theme of waiting as the Church invites us to prepare to celebrate both Jesus’ birth and his promise to return at the end of time. Today’s readings focus on being watchful and staying alert for the coming of the Lord.

In the first reading of the prophet Isaiah, we read how the people who once drifted away from the ways of the Lord are at last ready to return. They recognize that the Lord is Father and are ready to return to God. In the second reading to the Corinthians, Paul gives thanks for all the wonderful gifts God pours out upon the people of faith. He is confident that God will protect them from any influence that could weaken their relationship with the Father and Son. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus reminds us to be watchful and alert. Advent links the expectation of the second coming of Christ with his earthly coming through the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother and emphasizes constant vigilance rooted in prayer. Because no one knows the exact time when the Lord will come, we must always be vigilant.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still going on and the political divisions and social unrest that we have experienced throughout this year, let us stay alert and be watchful and make this Advent Season a time of hope and peace.

As we continue celebrating this Thanksgiving weekend our parish offices will be closed Monday, November 30, and will reopen on Tuesday, December 1.

### Watch!

## Census 2020

Please remember to return your updated Census card 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.

If you attend St. Benedict the Moor parish on a regular basis and are not officially registered we have registration forms available on the information table in church or you can call the parish office at 412. 281.3141.

## Parish Improvements

Oscar Valentine Landscaping recently removed leaves from the St. Benedict the Moor Center property and trimmed the grass.

Schultheis Roofing Inc. made repairs to our church roof. This should prevent any further leaks during the winter months.

Vital Solutions, our internet provider, and Kapp Communications are working together to upgrade our office phone system. We hope to connect the phone and internet service by mid- December.

## Parish Office Renovation Update

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. With the COVID-19 pandemic working with contractors and ordering furniture has been a challenge with schedules delayed or on back order. I appreciate your patience with this major task.

## Mass Intentions

There are mass intention openings for the 10:30am Sunday masses. If you would like to have a mass said for your loved ones, celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, please contact Priscilla Davis at the office.

## Communications/Media Volunteer

We are looking for a parishioner who has expertise in social media/communications to oversee our Facebook page and also website and bulletin. If you are interested, please give me a call at 412.661.7222 ext. 202 or email me at [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org).

## New Bulletin Coming Soon!

We will be getting a new bulletin company, Diocesan Publications, in the next several weeks to publish our weekly bulletin and there will be an opportunity for parishioners who have businesses to place an ad of their business in our new bulletin. What a great way to support our parish and support our own parishioners.

For more information please contact Ron Borza, Sales Manager, at 412.897.6610 or email at [RBorza@Diocesan.com](mailto:RBorza@Diocesan.com)

## Looking Ahead

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

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, at 9 pm

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

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

## Something to Think About...

Hit the ball over the fence and you can take your time going around the bases.

John W. Raper

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

## Fr. David Taylor



Some years ago, there was a popular song called 'Stop Look and Listen'. Advent is truly a time to stop and take a look at our lives. This also requires that we listen to what is going on about us. Advent can be seen as a new beginning or venture very much related to where we have been. Three times in this Sunday's gospel Jesus urges us to 'stay awake'. Although it is a new liturgical year, it is also a continuity of where we have been.

This new church year find us with many significant difficult realities. We have monumental health challenges that often seem overwhelming. We have deep divisions in our country at a time that we need one another in order to

survive. The social and moral challenges we face cannot be handled alone.

There is a tendency in many of us to keep things as they are. But new problems often call for new solutions. There may be some comfort in being a creature of habit, but the gospel calls us to be willing to change if this can make life better for all of us. Habits can be life-giving and sustaining but they can also prevent us at times from being our better selves. We should never be a Christian by habit only.

Yes, Advent calls us to stop, look, and listen around us. Let's be ready for the challenge.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



As we enter the season of Advent, we encounter questions about who we really are? What are our origins? What do we really desire in life? What are we looking for? Why is it that we so often lose our way and settle for transitory things rather than seeking fulfillment in that which is eternal?

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah cries out: "O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." In other words, we come from God. God molds us. God shapes us. We will never rest and be at home until we find ourselves in God. And yet, for some reason we go astray; we become alienated from ourselves and from each other. We should ask ourselves, "Is not this alienation, this estrangement from ourselves and our neighbors, the result of the fact that we have allowed ourselves to become strangers to God?"

The prophet Isaiah says: "Our guilt carries us away like the wind." We allow ourselves to be tossed about by so many different distractions in the world. We are tugged this way and that until we no longer recognize ourselves and what we have become. A friend of mine, after playing a particularly violent video game for several hours, emerged wild-eyed and blurted: "That was fantastic. That was great. I could feel myself becoming a beast." Becoming less human and more like a beast was a thrill for him. Don't we all feel like that sometimes?

When we allow ourselves to get lost in the passions of this world (passions of the body, of finances, of the ego, and of material things) we can often feel ourselves gradually becoming beasts. Shouldn't we be disturbed by what we are allowing ourselves to become?

Isaiah, the prophet, puts this question directly to God, realizing that we come from God in much the same way that a child comes from a parent and that ultimately it is only God who can redeem the waste that we make of our lives: "You, LORD, are our father, you are named our redeemer forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we do not fear [or respect] you?"

This is a question that we must ask ourselves. We must also bring this question to God in prayer. In First Corinthians, the apostle Paul promises us that even though we go astray and allow ourselves to be alienated from God, the author of our being, as well as being alienated from our neighbors, our brothers and our sisters, and from our soul, our very core, in spite of all of this we should not give up. God does not abandon us. Paul, the apostle, writes: "He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Nevertheless, we cannot let down our spiritual guard. We cannot slacken. We must remain alert and attuned to the obvious as well as the subtle ways that God is constantly at work in our lives. The season of Advent reminds us of this. As Jesus himself says in the Gospel according to St. Mark: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Let us not sleepwalk on our journey through life. Let us stay awake and be attentive to how we are responding to the many forces and distractions we experience along the journey. Only in this way will we be fully alive and disciples of Christ.