



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream: facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

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

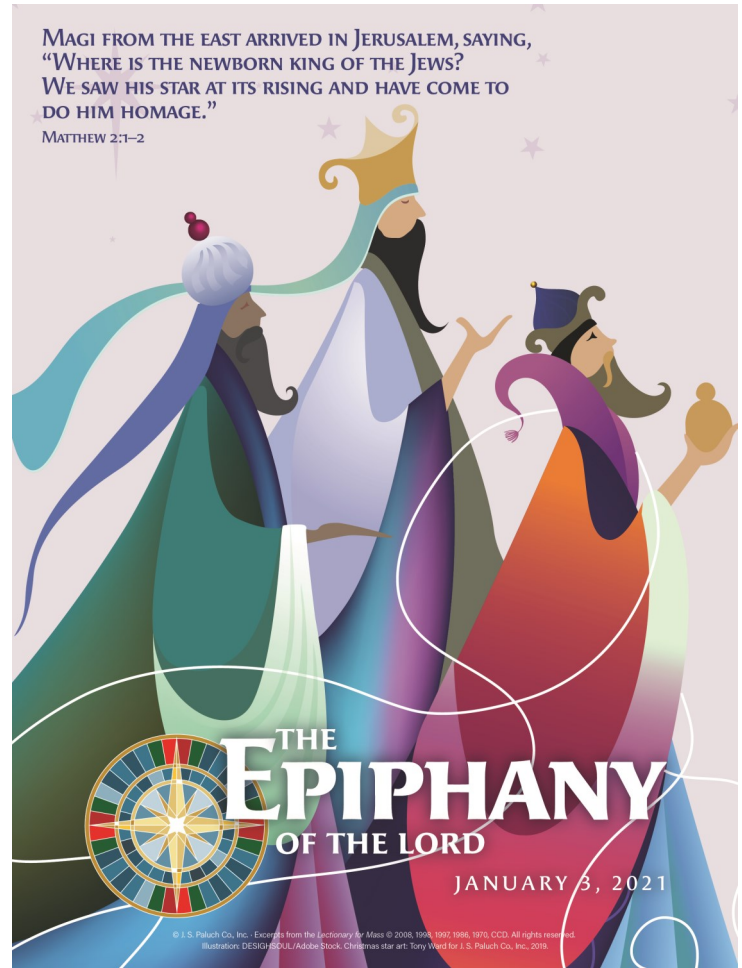
Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Cathy Raffaele, Bulletin Editor:
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412.281.3141



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Website:
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St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



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Mass Intentions

January 3
Fr. Matthew Hawkins
The Epiphany of the Lord

January 10
Fr. David Taylor
The Baptism of the Lord

Stewardship December 20


Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,027.00	\$235.00	\$664.00

Because of an early bulletin submission, the collection for December 27 will be reported in the January 10 bulletin.

Bulletin Announcements are due at 9 am on Monday for the next Sunday's bulletin: craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org

blackfacts.com

January 3 Marc Veasey, representative for the 33rd Congressional District of Texas, was born on January 3 in Fort Worth and assumed his Congressional office on that date in 2013.

 **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 program on January 3 features the St. Anthony School Program for Children with Special Needs.

Link to the podcasts of the program on KDKA: kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

"Children's Responses to Violence", Free Virtual Workshop on Saturday, January 9, from 10 am to Noon. Learn how children and teens sometimes respond differently to acts of violence depending upon their gender. How does family and community violence impact a child's mental health and emotional development? Why is the rate of suicide among teens rising? This workshop includes resources for parents and educators.

To register, contact Dr. Mary Ann Hvizdos, Blessed Be Educators Program Director by email or phone: mahvizdos@verizon.net; 412.807.1611.

This workshop, which is approved for PA Act 48 Professional Development Hours, is sponsored jointly by six local faith-based organizations.

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

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

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.

Bible Study with Fr. Matthew resumes on Thursday, January 7, at 7 pm on Zoom.

Fr. Matthew has created videos on Bible Study which are available on our website:

saintmarymagdalene.org/bible-study-videos

For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or mhawkins@diopitt.org.

To register (required): craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org

Epiphany Blessing

Traditionally, Epiphany is a day for blessing homes. In light of the visit of the Magi to the Child Jesus, we honor all households where Christ dwells and where Christ's hospitality to strangers is evident.

Gather the household members by the front door. Bless the chalk to be used for the door using the follow prayer.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: by the guidance of a star, you led the Magi to your Child, and by the light of faith you bring us to know Christ as Lord, the Messiah you have sent.

Bless us as we use this chalk + to mark our doors in your honor. May we who live in this home guard the sacredness of this doorway. May God protect all who enter and leave through it. May we welcome all at this door in the name of Christ. And may God's blessing, peace, and grace rest upon all who pass across the threshold.

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve Him --in everyone we meet who is Lord forever. Amen.

When the prayer is finished, mark the year, the first initials of the legendary names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) above the doorway or all your doorways.

20+C+M+B+ 21

Close with a prayer for those who are homeless:

Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends. Grant that through our help those who are homeless may obtain proper housing. Amen.

PASTOR'S NOTE

Merry Little Christmas!



This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany also referred to as "Little Christmas." Epiphany is a Greek word which means showing forth or manifestation. The primary symbol of Epiphany is light. The love of God's glory shines forth in Christ our light, through whom we are renewed and remade in God's image and likeness.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how the prophet cheers as the exiles who returned from Babylon with a vision of a restored city. The prophecy is fulfilled in Christ and in the new Israel, the Church. In the second reading to the Ephesians, God invites Jews and Gentiles to share on equal footing the salvation brought by Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how the three Magi, who were Gentiles came from a far country to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews, while the Jewish leaders rejected him.

As we begin a new year, 2021, and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we pray that God's light may shine in our hearts and on our world. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, social justice issues, the political divisions in Washington D.C., and the opioid crisis, let us not focus on the darkness of things but on the light of Christ coming into this world.

This coming Wednesday, January 6, our sister parish, Saint Mary Magdalene, will be celebrating their First Anniversary as one parish family. Congratulations and best wishes to them as they continue to spread the Good News in the East End of Pittsburgh!

Merry Little Christmas!

St. Benedict the Moor Center

I am pleased to announce that the Diocese of Pittsburgh has approved the sale of the St. Benedict the Moor Center, 2900 Bedford Avenue (the former St. Benedict the Moor School, rectory (St. Charles Lwanga House) and convent to parishioner, Ayisha Morgan-Lee, and the Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT). The Diocesan Legal Office and the Property and Planning Offices are assisting us with the real estate transaction. We are very pleased that HDAT which is such an important part of the Hill District Community will take over the property and continue to operate in our community. Stay tuned for further details of this real estate transaction.

Parish Improvements

Matt Mertz Plumbing continues to make repairs to the main waterline at The Center on Bedford Avenue. The cost of this major project is \$46,000. We are receiving an insurance claim of \$10,000 to help offset some of the cost.

Mass Intentions

There are Mass intention openings for the 10:30 am Sunday Mass and, we are now offering the Sanctuary Candle to be lit for one full week in memory or in honor of a loved one. If you would like to have a Mass said or the Sanctuary Candle lit in front of the tabernacle for a loved one, please contact Priscilla Davis at office@sbtmparish-pgh.com.

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 a business ad 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 RBorza@Diocesan.com or 412.897.6610.

Looking Ahead

Pastoral Council Meeting - Sunday, January 17, after 10:30 am Mass.

Finance Council Meeting - Sunday, January 24, after 10:30am Mass.

2021 Parish Calendars are now available for a suggested \$4.00 donation. Please see a Greeter to purchase one.

We also have complimentary *We Celebrate Missalettes* available on the table at the front of entrance of the church.

Thank you to all who helped with cleaning and decorating our church for Christmas.

New Year's Reflection

It was a true honor to celebrate the 10:30am Mass on Christmas Day. I am honored to be your Pastor and serve you.

On behalf of Fr. Taylor, Fr. Matthew, and the entire St. Benedict the Moor staff, we wish you and your family a very healthy and Happy New Year 2021!

Something to Think About...

*Life is not a having and a getting,
but a being and a becoming.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

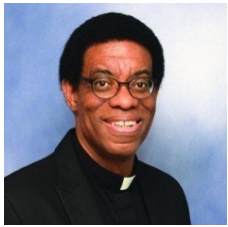


We are journeying to a place of hope. Often I have heard that two thousand twenty was a year like no other. We are glad to have it behind us. Actually the year was not so bad when we consider that God has been so good even in the midst of unprecedented challenges. Our cup has

been more than half full.

The feast of the Epiphany gives us every reason to be hopeful in this new year. This celebration reminds us that we too are on a journey. Everyday in fact is a new journey. Like the Magi we cannot know the beginning and the end of this journey. We walk by faith every step of the way. This journey sometimes finds us in fear, but with faith that helps us overcome it. We take that leap in faith which enables us to be hopeful about this year.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



As we begin this new year, many of us have anxiety about the future. If we have learned anything from this past year we have learned how vulnerable we are, how little our lives are under our control, and how we cannot take our health, or economic life, and the stability of our communities for granted.

Many of us in the Church would describe this period as being one in which we have been made to confront our radical contingency. We have no choice but to recognize that our situation in life is not under our own power.

An opening has been created so that we can begin to grasp where we will find lasting meaning and value. It is not in the transitory things that fade away even as we grasp them. It is not in the vanity of endlessly polishing our own ego and self-image. It is not in the flattery of envy and empty praise. We will find true meaning and value in our relationship with God and with each other.

In the midst of the looming darkness and the radical contingency of their times, as the Jews returned to their land following decades in exile, the Prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you ... darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory" (Is 60:1-2).

It is often in the midst of darkness, when we seem to hit bottom, that the glory of the LORD breaks into our lives and transforms everything. 500 years later, as those who foolishly muddled around in the darkness of an illusory and short-lived time of peace, it was the wise who pursued the light until they encountered the Lord in an epiphany.

The Magi had much to fear in their journey, but they were looking for the one who would keep them steady with faith rather than fear. The Holy Family made a journey to Bethlehem unsure of their survival, but in full certainty that it was the will of God. The next journey leads them to Egypt in search of safety. It is true that God helps us most when we are in trouble.

We approach this new year knowing that the Lord will help us overcome this pandemic and all of the suffering and death it has brought us. We too are hopeful that we will end the sad divisions in our country which have hurt us so much. We also pray for an end to racism and bigotry, especially in our own lives.

Isaiah the prophet has been our guide showing how to hope beyond hope. Rise up Jerusalem he tells us. He shows us that we too will have a restoration of life like no other. We believe and hope in this. There is no other way. A blessed and peaceful New year for all of us.

In the Gospel according to Matthew we hear the wise men say: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Mt 2:2).

In God's own time, God reveals to us the truth of our deliverance and salvation. For many generations, people waited to see the hope that we celebrate today. They waited to see the light that breaks into the darkness and the dawn of a New Creation. Patiently, the people waited for the good news of divine revelation, as the Apostle Paul made clear in his letter to the Ephesians: "...the mystery was made known ... by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed...by the Spirit" (Eph 3:3 & 5).

It is for this reason that those who suffer either spiritual or material poverty may still have hope. The Lord does not abandon us. It is in our material and spiritual poverty that the Lord draws near. Our emptiness is a time when all the false gods are stripped away and the providence of the true and living God, along with a community of faith, is revealed. Of this moment of epiphany, of this encounter with the Lord in the midst of our humility, the Psalmist says: "He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save" (Ps 72:12-13).