



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

*Mass is also available on Facebook and YouTube.*

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)

*Please call 412.661.7222 or send an email to contact any of our priests.*

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord . . .

*I will bring to my  
holy mountain . . .*

for my house shall be called a  
house of prayer for all peoples.

ISAIAH 56:6, 7

August 16, 2020

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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



[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



[SBTMparishPGH](https://www.youtube.com/SBTMparishPGH)

## Mass Intentions

August 16 10:30 am Fr. Matthew Hawkins

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Javier Umugabo, Deceased and Rich Minimbu,  
Living Intention for Birthday (*Emma Nziraguseswa,  
mother of Javier and grandmother of Rich*)

August 23 10:30 am Fr. David Taylor

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*The People of the Parish*

## Stewardship

The collections for August 9 and 16 will be reported in the August 23 bulletin.

**Visit Our Website** for up to date information and let family and friends know about it.

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



To stay up to date on what's happening in our parish,

Like or Follow us on Facebook:  
[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



Subscribe to our YouTube page!  
All recorded Masses can be found  
24 hours after they initially air.

Search for [SBTMparishPGH](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBtMparishPGH) (type exactly as shown).

## Volunteers for Audio Visual Ministry

We are in need of people to join our Audio Visual (AV) Ministry. In order to Facebook live stream every Sunday, we need dedicated people. Basic technology skills are necessary.

Thanks in advance for making the commitment!  
Interested? Please email Fr. Tom Burke:

[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Bulletins for Sunday's readings for preschool and school age children are available on our website. These bulletins help children enjoy learning about their faith.

[sbtparishpgh.com/childrens-liturgy-of-the-word](http://sbtparishpgh.com/childrens-liturgy-of-the-word)

Many thanks to Maryanne Loebig from St. Mary Magdalene Parish for providing the bulletins for our children.

## In Memoriam

*Anthony Akins*

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord;  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



**Bulletin Announcements** are due no later than 9 am on Monday for next Sunday's bulletin:  
[craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org)

**Bulletins** are available in front of the church on Centre Avenue and at the side door entrance in the parking lot. Please come by to pick one up.

## Society of St. Vincent dePaul, Mother Teresa Conference

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

**Volunteers** Hearts ready to serve the Lord by aiding our Friends in Need are urgently needed. Please join us as we pray and learn together how to be the face of Christ to those in need through home visits and available social service

**Please Note** There is a St. Vincent de Paul donation box in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

## Food Pantry Dates

Tuesday	August 25
Thursday	September 10
Friday	September 25

**Attention Men** Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God? Be a better husband? Become a more loving father? Build friendships with other like-minded men? And seek to be the best man you can be? Then come join "*That Man is You!*" on Saturday mornings starting on September 12, 7:30 to 9 am. The program is sponsored by St Paul Cathedral Parish.

To register:

[admin.paradisusdei.org](http://admin.paradisusdei.org)  
or Regis Flaherty at 412.287.4007  
[regisjflaherty@gmail.com](mailto:regisjflaherty@gmail.com)

## PASTOR'S NOTE

### All Are Welcome!



One of the first things I noticed when I celebrated my first Mass at St. Benedict the Moor Parish was how welcoming parishioners were to me and others. Seeing and feeling the warmth, love and openness is very special. As a "Personal Parish" serving the African American Catholic

Community in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, all are welcomed here!

This weekend we celebrate the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend call our attention to the workings of the human family. God wants all people to know his love and mercy.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how the prophet challenges the people to serve the Lord with sincere hearts. Isaiah announces that not only will the chosen people worship at God's holy mountain, but foreigners can also join themselves to the Lord. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus heals a Canaanite woman's daughter. It is her determination and faith that makes this miracle a possibility.

A major part of Jesus' ministry was to break down cultural barriers that divided people and encourage a new way at looking at people, especially those who were considered outcasts in society. Jesus talked to foreigners, ate with tax collectors, forgave sinners, and touched and healed lepers. As Christians, we are brothers and sisters to one another. We each have a role in welcoming those who seek God's healing and mercy. When we gather as a community of faith, how do we acknowledge those who are "strangers?"

Let us pray confidently and humbly to resist temptation to look at anyone as an outsider. The Lord makes no distinction among races, gender or sexual orientation. Everyone needs God's mercy and love. Let us pray and welcome people back into our lives that we maybe have shunned.

### All Are Welcome!

## Parish Offices

I ask for your patience as we prepare to reopen the parish office. There is no set date as to when we will officially open as we are restructuring how to use the first floor offices while sharing it with the Food Bank and the Vagabond Ministry which currently occupies the second floor. Priscilla Davis and I have been cleaning out old papers, furniture, and unused items. We have filled two dumpsters! We still need to get phone, internet and Wi-Fi installed. In the interim period if you need to reach the clergy staff, please call the St. Mary Magdalene parish office, 412.661.7222 or email [parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org).

We are here to serve you. You may mail items to either the St. Benedict the Moor or St. Mary Magdalene (509 S. Dallas Avenue, 15208) parish offices in the transitional period.

## Parish Improvements

Our parish maintenance van received a new battery and oil change this past week. Along with using it for our Food Bank pick up, our maintenance staff will be utilizing this vehicle to go to and from the church/rectory to the Center on Bedford Avenue, and as needed for errands to the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office.

An exterminator had to be called in last week to evaluate a rodent infestation in the rectory garage and office area. We are in the process of taking care of this very important concern due to the Food Bank storing perishable and non-perishable food.

Our maintenance staff will be painting the entire first floor of the parish rectory the next few weeks to give our offices a much needed update. After the painting is complete, we will be installing new carpeting from Toth Carpet of Munhall.

South Side Plumbing repaired two broken toilets, one in the church and one in the rectory basement.

Our maintenance staff repaired a broken downspout on the side of the former St. Benedict the Moor School. It has been broken for the past nine months.

## Something to Think About...

*There is nothing like returning to a place  
that remains unchanged to find the ways  
in which you yourself have altered.*

Nelson Mandela

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

## Reflections

### Fr. David Taylor



With the many challenges that come today, with the pandemic and financial insecurity, many are struggling just to eat and have a place to live. This is even more of a crisis for those who are homeless and those facing eviction.

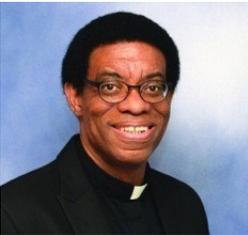
Solicitation for funds on street corners has sadly become a way of life for some. Those who succeed in this know the power of persistence. I know a man who for many years would solicit and entertain passersby. He would always be kind and friendly. He was blind and very talented. He respected those who would stop to talk with him. His troubles would not prevent him from taking joy in life.

The woman in today's gospel was persistent in approaching Jesus for help. She was not afraid or humiliated. She had nothing to lose. There is nothing wrong in letting our needs be known. Asking for help is not weakness but strength. There is so much that goes on in our lives that is beyond our control.

At the heart of our mission as Church is the ability to reach out to one another. Perhaps the Lord is challenging us to be more aware of our needs and those of others. None of us can or should expect to make it on our own. Yes, these are difficult times but they can be times of gratitude and generosity.



### Fr. Matthew Hawkins



This week, I want to jump ahead a little bit and talk about the parish pastoral council because the pastoral council is an important vehicle that enables the laity to define and strengthen the unique identity of every parish. It also strengthens the "Catholicity" of the parish despite its

distinctiveness. Our parishes must be distinct in their social and cultural expression yet uncompromisingly and unapologetically Catholic in their liturgy, sacramental life, and religious education. The parish pastoral council is an expression of the concept of "synodality," which I have been discussing here for the past two weeks.

The primary focus of the pastoral council is to develop and evaluate the pastoral plan for the parish. All of the activity of the council (its prayers, its meeting agendas, its focus groups, its forums, its outreach, and its communication) are all directed toward and centered on the pastoral plan.

The plan affects liturgical celebrations, charitable services, religious instruction, parish-sponsored community events, and all other elements of the life of the parish. These activities and events, ordered to the pastoral plan, manifest the life and vitality of the parish which comes from the Holy Spirit. This explains why synodality -- walking with the parish -- is so important.

One of the most essential qualities for a person who serves on the parish pastoral council is that that person must be a good listener and an ongoing learner. A person who serves on the council must be prepared to listen to all members of the parish and also to non-parish members in the surrounding community, even those who are not Catholic.

How else will nominal Catholics be "re-evangelized"? How else will non-Catholics encounter the new evangelization? How else will relatively passive church-attending Catholics be transformed into active members of the laity, enlivening the life of the lay-ministry, providing voluntary services, and, for those who are called, assuming leadership roles in the parish?

It begins with the willingness of all of us to listen and to learn.

As a result of the pastoral council's willingness and ability to listen and learn in the spirit of synodality, the council will be able to engage all of the parishioners in the planning process. It is a mistake when parish pastoral councils develop a pastoral plan on their own, just by listening to one another, without moving beyond their circle of family, friends, and associates. Above all, it is a mistake when members of pastoral councils only listen to parishioners who already agree with them.

Also, it is a mistake to think of the pastoral council as being a governing or legislative body. The parish pastoral council guidelines for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, titled *One Body, One Mission* (2010), says:

"The goal [of the planning process of the pastoral council] is to make planning a way of life for the parish. Every individual of the parish must know that they can connect to and contribute to the mission and goals of the parish" (p. 22).

The objective of all of the council's activities is to guarantee fidelity to the Mission of Jesus Christ. This means that while listening and learning from all of the parishioners the pastoral council will advise the pastor on how the parish can fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in our community and in our times.