



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

September 6, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday

## 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.

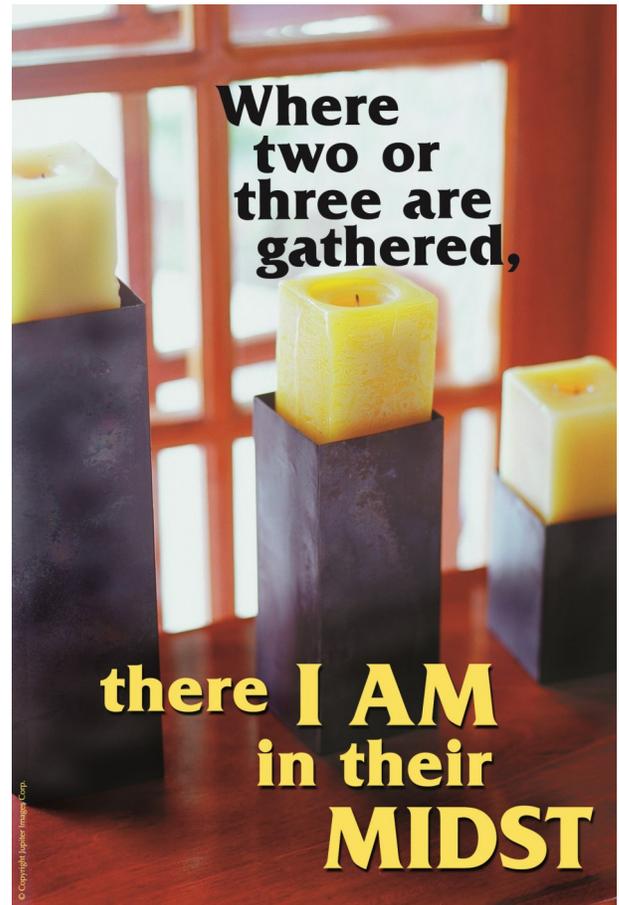
## Staff

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.*



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.instagram.com/SBTMPARISHPGH)



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



## Mass Intentions

September 6 10:30 am Fr. Thomas Burke  
 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
 Living Intention for Birthday, James Battle III  
*(Priscilla Davis, Mother)*

September 13 10:30 am Fr. Matt Hawkins  
 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
*The People of the Parish*

## Stewardship

	August 23	August 30
Offertory	\$2,385.00	\$4,665.00
Parish Share (PSP)	\$65.00	\$150.00
Special Collections	\$10.00	\$400.00

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

**The Annual Labor Day Mass** will be at St. Paul Cathedral on Monday, September 7, at 8:15 am.

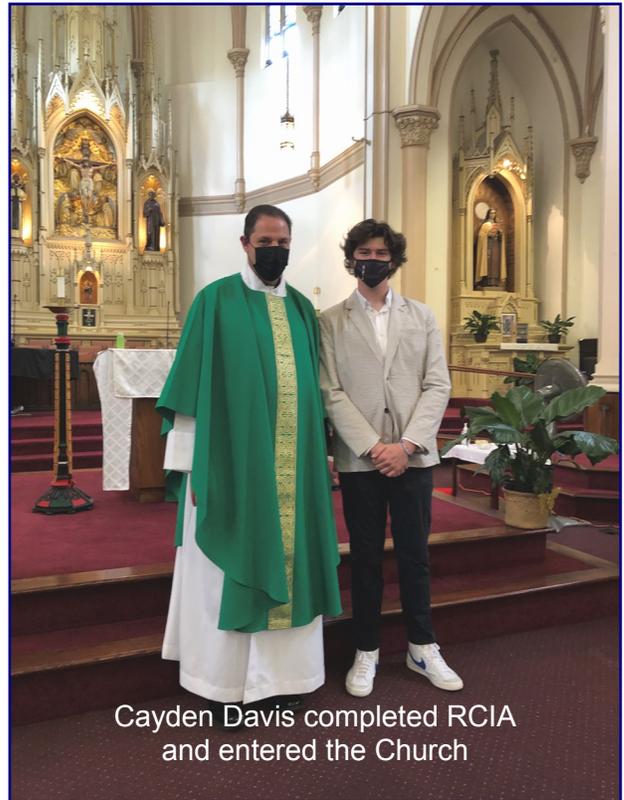
**A Prayer for Labor Day**

Creator God,  
 thank you for providing us  
 with the gift to share our talents.

Provide our community,  
 our nation, our world  
 the fortitude to provide work for all  
 which is decent and fair.

Make us faithful stewards  
 of your creation  
 to enhance the human dignity  
 of our global family.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
 who lives and reigns  
 with you and the Holy Spirit  
 now and forever.



 **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 next program is on September 13. Link to the podcasts on KDKA: [kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)

 **It's a Musical Celebration**  
 Saturday, 9/12/2020, 6 to 8 pm

 Join the Diocesan National Black Catholic Congress Team-Pgh (DNBCCLT), for an evening of \*talented artists\*, \*friends\* and \*new faces\*! Have a \*toast\* and also, some \*surprises\*!

Unmask, **safely**, and enjoy our virtual evening!

**Details arriving SOON!**

**SAVE THE DATE and DON'T MISS OUT!** 

**Inquiries: 724.472.8732 or [nbccpgh@gmail.com](mailto:nbccpgh@gmail.com)**

## PASTOR'S NOTE



Forgive!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. All of the readings this weekend call us to self-examination for we are sinners in need of our own conversion and are called to be prophets.

In the first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, God reminds Ezekiel that he has the great responsibility of serving as a watchman over the people. It seems unlikely that the people will turn away from idolatry, but Ezekiel still continues sounding the alarm of conversion.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to deal with a serious sinner within the community. During Jesus' time, community discipline was an important issue for the early Christians. Disputes and conflicts should be handled within the Christian community. Conflict should not be ignored. We should take steps to address conflict and seek a path to reconciliation. The love of God, self and neighbor forms the core of who we are and what we do as Christians.

Let us seek reconciliation with anyone who sins against us. Each day offers an opportunity to realize more deeply God's love for us, giving us another chance to turn away from sin and embrace the light of God.

As we begin a new school year and return back to our busy fall schedules (even with new routines due to the Covid-19 pandemic), let us reconcile ourselves with God and with others to get a fresh clean start.

This coming Friday, September 11, marks the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terroristic attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and in Shanksville, Somerset County. We pray for all those who perished on this horrific day and seek unity and peace in our country and our world. God Bless America!

Forgive!

**School Bells** The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year for Elementary School Students this Tuesday, September 8. St. Benedict the Moor School will follow all Covid-19 health and safety reopening protocols. The school will offer in person or distance learning, and hybrid plans will be in place to offer a quality Catholic Education for our children. Principal Audrey Bowser and her faculty and staff are ready for a great school year.

**Religious Education Program** We are evaluating our Religious Education Program and one of the options available, especially for those families who have children preparing for their First Holy Communion or Confirmation this coming year, is to enroll in the St.

Mary Magdalene Parish Religious Education program. The program will begin next Sunday, September 13, via Zoom. For more information please contact Teresa Maynor, Director of Religious Education, at 412.661.7222 or email [tmaynor@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:tmaynor@stmarymagpgh.org).

## Help Wanted

**Media Relations Coordinator Sound System:** We are seeking a Media Relations Coordinator for the parish. The person will be responsible for Audio Visual (streaming Mass), website, social media (Facebook and You Tube), weekly bulletin and sending out emails and notices to parishioners.

**Sound System Volunteer:** We are also seeking out a volunteer to run our sound system in church during the weekend Mass. If you are interested in either one of these ministries please call me at 412.661.7222 or email me at [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org).

**Director of Music:** We are seeking a Director of Music for St. Benedict the Moor Parish. If you or someone you know would like to apply for the position, please send a resume to [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

## Parish Offices

\*Because we are undergoing renovations in the parish offices, please call the St. Mary Magdalene parish office 412.661.7222 or email [parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org) if you need to reach the clergy staff. \*

## Vacation 2020

Please note that I will be heading on my annual family vacation September 7-20. Fr. Matt, and Fr. Taylor will be here to do the Sunday Masses. Please hold any phone calls, messages, and emails while I am away. I will return to the office, Monday, September 21.

## Welcome Christopher Brewer

This weekend at the 10:30 am Mass, we welcome Christopher Brewer as a guest musician. Christopher is one of two applicants who have applied for the Music Director position.

## Congratulations

to **Cayden Davis** who completed the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation Program) and received the Sacrament of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation last Sunday!

## Something to Think About...

*The only way to have a friend is to be one.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

# Reflections

## Fr. David Taylor



One of the major challenges to our faith is the fact that we are accountable not only for our own actions but also the actions of others. We all need moral direction and must rely on the help of others. This is all the more important if we are in positions of leadership. We are often unaware of how our actions can influence others.

I think of this often when I am preaching from the pulpit or taking leadership in daily activities. Not only can we influence others, but we can lead them in one direction or another.

The prophets were certainly aware of this in the mandate given to them. Helping others to change can be most difficult, especially as we are aware of our own

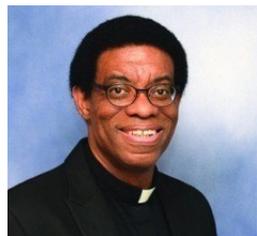
weaknesses.

The Prophet Ezekiel was aware of this. We cannot change others if we are unable to make these changes in our own lives.

All of us are called to be role models. We also know that we can easily fail in this responsibility. Taking the lead in forgiveness and reconciliation can be most difficult. But it is the moral challenge given to us. We only have so much time in this world and we are called to use it wisely. Prayer and discernment have to show us the way.

We pray for our children, parents, and teachers as schools reopen this week. We have done the best we can to make things safe. Let's be supportive in every way we can. These are difficult times but with God's help we will overcome.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, recently pointed out the challenges and opportunities facing the Catholic Church in the 21st Century. The first challenge is also an opportunity: we live in restless times. These are times when people are seeking

deeper meaning in their lives and more authentic relationships within their families and communities. In this environment, the Church has an opportunity to engage an "unhappy and endlessly restless world" and present the proposition that the authenticity and meaning that we are all looking for is found in Jesus Christ.

The second challenge is that the Catholic laity will be the ones who will assume a greater role in what Cardinal Daniel DiNardo calls this "new ecclesial season." The laity are the ones with the experience, the technical skills and the direct contact with all aspects of society to transform the culture that we live in, making it less cold, indifferent, and bureaucratic. The laity are the "boots on the ground" of the Catholic Church. They can humanize the culture of schools and of the workplace so that people will no longer be treated as though they are mere objects. This challenge is also an opportunity.

The third challenge is one of educating the Christian faithful so that they can go out and transform the world around them, and catechize their households. Adult Catholic education does not just entail the accumulation of facts,

dogma, and doctrine, although these are important. Adult Catholic education must especially provide the laity with the experience of Catholic spirituality and prayer life in all of its forms and manifestations. This includes meditative reading of scripture, liturgical prayer, contemplative prayer, and other methods the Church has developed and cultivated over the past 2,000 years. This challenge, to deepen the spiritual life among the laity, is yet another opportunity.

Lay ecclesial movements will be especially potent forces for adult Catholic formation and education in the 21st century. These lay movements teach by example. They teach by encounter and experience. We have no shortage of textbooks and videos that provide information about the Christian life, and this is useful but it only scratches the surface. We have to go deeper. The catechesis we need to prepare the laity to humanize the culture so that our society will increasingly respect life and the dignity of the human person requires immersion in a community. It also requires teaching by example.

About a half-century ago, a poet and film director said: "If someone has educated you, then they must have done so with their being, not with their speaking." This is still true today. Education in the life of faith requires a presence and one's very being; it requires that one brings one's entire being to the encounter. Ecclesial lay organizations are emerging as the vehicles through which young and older Catholic adults are encountering the