



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

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

Rev. David H. Taylor, Senior Parochial Vicar:
dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins, Parochial Vicar:
mhawkins@diopitt.org

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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:9

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

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

Website:

sbtparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



SBTMparishPGH

Mass Intentions

September 20 10:30 am
Fr. David Taylor

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Opelika Kelley Birthday Anniversary
(Moses and Janice Simmons)*

September 27 10:30 am
Fr. Thomas Burke

Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Capuchin
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*All Christian Mothers, Grandmothers,
Godmothers, and Aunts*

Stewardship

	September 6	September 13
Offertory	\$5,878.00	\$2,990.00
Parish Share (PSP)	\$395.00	-
Special Collections	\$1,295.00	\$110.00

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

Food Pantry Dates

The food bank will resume this Friday, September 25.

Friday October 9
Friday October 23

The 10:30 am Mass on September 27 will be livestreamed on Facebook and also be available for viewing at any time on Facebook, YouTube and the homepage of our website, sbtparishpgh.com

The SBTM Christian Mothers are honored to receive as our celebrant on Sunday, September 27, Father Joseph Tuscan OFM CAP, our national director. All Christian Mothers members, past and present are requested to wear white on that day.

Father will offer his blessing on our Confraternity as well as the entire church.

Covid-19 Safety Guidelines Reminder Masks, properly worn, are required; do not sit in a roped off pew; and the Communion line should be single file, with 6 feet between each person.

*We are all in this together,
so please, let's keep each other safe.*



I just wanted to say FANTASTIC JOB and THANK YOU for being well..... AWESOME! We are off to a great start. We all anticipated some minor bumps along the way, but nothing we couldn't handle.... BECAUSE WE ARE AWESOME!

I posted a short Week One Video on our school app and Facebook page. I will share it below as a link JUST CLICK IT! Thank you to everyone who sent pictures, keep them coming in the next few weeks and months. I know our families like to see what we are doing and the kids too.

Mrs. Audrey Bowser

The Welcome Back to School video is on the homepage of our website: sbtparishpgh.com

SVdP Mother Teresa Conference 2020 Help Thy Neighbor Virtual Walk

Our Friends in Need in the Downtown and Hill District communities need assistance. As your parish's SVdP Conference, we aid those who reach out to us in the community and the Church.

Please consider donating by registering at svdppitt.org/news-and-events/help-thy-neighbor and taking a walk with friends in your neighborhood all the while praying over those that your Mother Teresa Conference will aid with the funds raised. Also, the Raffle (\$1,500) will be drawn November 7. If not for yourself, maybe a gift inside a note to a college student?

Volunteers Needed for SVdP, Mother Teresa Conference

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 contact us at 412.204.7446 for more information.

Prepare for November Elections



Are you registered to vote? Do you want to vote by mail? You can find out about both – registering and/or requesting an absentee/mail-in ballot by going to allegheynvotes.com.

For assistance, call 412.350.4500. Act now to make sure you will be able to vote in the November 3rd elections.

PASTOR'S NOTE

God is Generous!



This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on God's generosity.

In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah, we read part of the last chapter of what scripture scholars refer to as the "Book of Consolation." The prophet reminds us that the ways of God are very different from the ways of the world by inviting people to seek and turn to God. No matter who they are or what they have done, if they allow themselves to be converted, God will embrace them with mercy and love.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we read the parable of the "landowner and the workers in the vineyard." Those who were exhausted from working a full day out in the field resented the landowner for paying the latecomers the same amount in wage. Jesus challenges his followers to be merciful and just in ways that flow from the kingdom of heaven. God is generous beyond expectation.

Jesus told this parable in order to defend himself and his activity. The religious leaders (the Scribes and the Pharisees) attacked him for eating with tax collectors and sinners, dining with prostitutes and touching and healing lepers, all considered "outcasts" from society. Jesus' answer to his critics is that he was doing God's work. This parable invites us to recognize God's mercy and rejoice in and accept it into our own lives.

This weekend is also "Catechetical Sunday." We thank all those who teach the faith in our parish: School Teachers, CCD Catechists, and RCIA. We also thank Teresa Maynor our Director of Religious Education, Sister Daniela Bronka, St. Bede Principal, Stephanie Michael, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy Principal, and Audrey Bowser, St. Benedict the Moor Principal.

God is Generous!

Religious Education Program

Since we are in the transition phase of reopening our parish and its programs, we are encouraging our families with young children to enroll in the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Religious Education program for this school year. There is an option of remote class via Zoom or Home School program. For more information please contact Teresa Maynor, Director of Religious Education, at 412.661.7222 or email tmaynor@stmarymagpgh.org. Lisa Joy Finch is helping to inform our families of this opportunity.

Parish Census

In the next few weeks we will be sending out a letter to all registered parishioners to complete an updated Census card. Information on signing up for the online giving program, Faith Direct, will also be included.

Parish Improvements

With the heavy rains a few weeks ago our church basement was flooded. Cleanup continues with removing damaged items and clearing the drains.

We are looking into getting our roof and gutters cleaned along Crawford Street. Schultheis Roofing will be working on this project.

John Buch Electric updated all of the first floor offices in the rectory. Our maintenance staff continues to paint all of the offices. Toth Carpeting of Munhall will be installing new carpeting on the first floor of the rectory this week.

We are working with Mainstream Music Inc to purchase equipment for our Wireless Streaming Masses. We will be purchasing a digital wireless transmitter and microphone, stand and cable.

Our phone, internet and Wi-Fi service will be reconnected in the office effective October 1, 2020. Thank you for your patience during this transition. Once all these projects are complete, we will reopen our offices! During the renovations, please contact the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office in Point Breeze at 412.661.7222 or email any of the clergy staff.

Blessing of Pets

In honor of the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we will have a **Blessing of Pets, Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 pm on the green lawn** in front of St. Mary Magdalene Parish Offices at the St. Bede Campus at the corner of South Dallas Avenue and Edgerton Avenue in Point Breeze.

Vacation 2020

Please note that I am currently finishing up my annual vacation this weekend. I will return to the office Monday morning, September 21.

Next Sunday September 27, we will welcome **Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Capuchin** who is the Director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers.

Something to Think About...

A smile is an asset, a frown is a liability.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Reflections

Fr. David Taylor



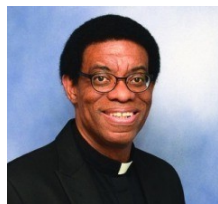
One of the serious challenges that we face in light of the present pandemic is the lack of employment for many people. This has been especially difficult for low wage workers who are often underemployed and many who are able to work, are often front line workers who take significant risks in serving others.

Today's Gospel shows the generosity of a God who both affirms the dignity of work while recognizing the human needs of his people. Some may question this kind of generosity but in fact the parable shows that God is far more generous to all of us than we would ever be to one another.

People want to work as it enhances human dignity. Being extra generous to others can be a sign of gratitude and thanksgiving. There are many who stand near employment centers looking for work. And there are many who can afford to be extra generous. We frequently say that we are in this together. We can never be wrong in going the extra mile for others.

Fr. Jack O'Malley, a priest of our diocese died on September 11. He was a wonderful caring person. He stood up for social justice in all areas of life. He was very kind and hospitable to my family when we arrived in Pittsburgh. He was a great role model of priestly service. We thank God for his life.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



There once was a time when a person who was born into a Catholic household and was brought up in the Catholic Church could reasonably be expected to remain a Catholic upon becoming an adult. That is no longer true. We used to call these lifelong Catholics who were born into the faith and continued to practice it until death, "cradle Catholics."

Protestant "converts" to Catholicism thought that cradle Catholics had an advantage over them because these lifelong Catholics presumably had a deep knowledge of their faith. Cradle Catholics, however, were never fooled by this apparent "advantage".

Cradle Catholics knew that Protestants and those who converted to Catholicism had to make a conscious decision. Those who decided to enter full communion with the Catholic Church were "intentional disciples". They had to wrestle with who they were or what they really believed. Non-Catholics who became Catholic most likely had to make sacrifices upon entering full communion with the Catholic faith. Often they became estranged from life-long friends and even members of their own family. If they lived in predominantly Protestant neighborhoods, their decision to become Catholic could cost them respect within their community. At the very least, they could never take their faith for granted.

The days when cradle Catholics do not have to face the choices and challenges that converts to Catholicism have had to make are now over. Most adults who continue to practice Catholicism in Canada, the United States, and in Europe are, like converts to the faith, intentional disciples. They have had to examine their life and they have made a conscious decision to remain within the Catholic faith. These days, it is not enough to simply be born into the faith, we are all confronted with the need to make choices.

One of the things that is most likely to cause a cradle Catholic to leave the Catholic faith as an adult is when that cradle Catholic's parents are "consumer Catholics". A consumer Catholic is someone who does not mature in his or her faith, someone who stops growing and learning about the faith after that person has been confirmed. A consumer Catholic skirts on the surface of Catholicism, receiving the occasional sacrament here and there, but never deepening his or her awareness of Catholic spirituality or what it means to live within the community of the faithful.

I once heard a priest describe the consumer Catholic as being a person who only turns to the Church when it is time to be "hatched, matched, and dispatched." In other words, consumer Catholics only return to the Church to get married, to have their children baptized, and to be buried once they have died. The consumer Catholic is also likely to show up during the Christmas and Easter liturgies, while opting out of the rest of the liturgical year.

The tragedy of all of this is not that the consumer Catholic is "playing by the rules" of the Catholic Church; the tragedy is that consumer Catholics are short-changing the most important gift that the Church can offer them: a mature, adult, disciplined spirituality that can endure the test of time and the ever-shifting winds of change in their lives.

Two things are needed to restore intentional discipleship to the Catholic Church. First, we must re-discover the diverse forms of spirituality and charisms within the tradition of the Church, including diverse forms of prayer. The spirituality of the Catholic Church is the Church's best kept secret. It is often obscured by an excessive focus on the "rules". The rules are important, but only inasmuch as they help to deepen the spirituality in the life of Catholic individuals, their family, and their community. The rules should not obscure the purpose for which the rules are intended: a deepening of the journey of faith.

The second thing that is needed is to rediscover what it means to live within a faith community. *Communio* has been at the heart of what it means to be Christian throughout the Church's history. Indeed, the history of salvation, even among the Hebrews over 1,000 years before Christianity, is the history of God's work to form a community of faith. Lay ecclesial movements today are some of the most visible expressions of this longing for a sense of a community within the Church. The sense of community is especially needed in a time and culture such as ours, which is characterized by radical individualism and social isolation.

The Catholic adult today is no longer a passive recipient of a heritage; he or she must be an intentional disciple who has made a choice to live spiritually and sacramentally in a world that has little understanding of, or appreciation for, sacred things. The combination of a deeper sense of Catholic spirituality and life within a lay ecclesial community can strengthen our ability to experience Catholicism as something that is not merely an ideology, but is rather an encounter with the presence of the living Lord in everyday life.