



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

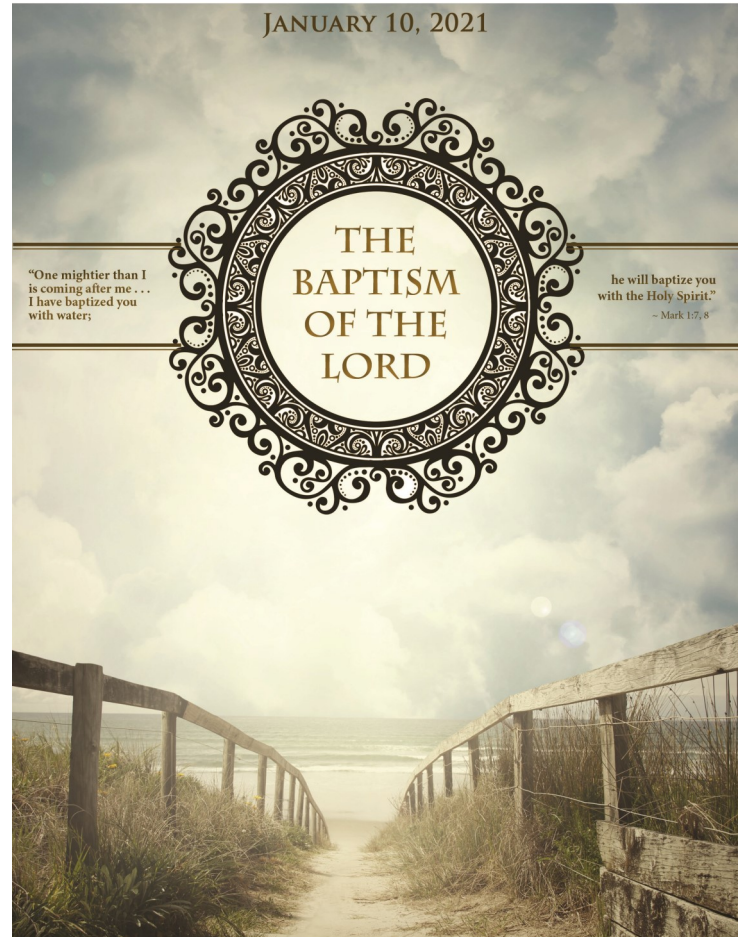
Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Cathy Raffaele, Bulletin Editor:
craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org

office@sbtmparishpgh.com

412.281.3141



Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Photos: IrinaKrivoruchko/iStock/ThinkStock, STILLFX/iStock/ThinkStock
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

Saint Benedict the Moor Church
91 Crawford Street
Pittsburgh PA 15219

Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



SBTMparishPGH

Mass Intentions

January 10
Fr. David Taylor

The Baptism of the Lord

January 17
Fr. Thomas Burke
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship

	Offertory	Special Collections
December 27	\$3,591.00	\$490.00
December 31	\$640.00	\$20.00
January 3	\$1,970.00	\$470.00

Special Collection on January 17

for the St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. Both programs fill a necessary role for special education within the Diocese of Pittsburgh: St. Anthony School offers education to children ages 5 to 21 years with special needs and DePaul School teaches children, birth to 14 years, who are deaf or hard of hearing. Both programs empower students to become active and contributing members of their respective communities.

All contributions will be greatly appreciated and will make a tremendous impact on the student as well as their families.

Please note: Contributions made to these programs are credited to our Parish Share (PSP) goals.

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


Bible Study with Fr. Matthew continues on Thursdays, 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

 **Catholic Education** 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 is on January 17.

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

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.

Celebration of Martin Luther King The Saint Paul Cathedral's 10 am Mass on Sunday, January 17, will be celebrated in commemoration of the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and broadcast on the St. Paul channel (95 on Comcast, Christian Associates' Channel).

After Mass, to honor the legacy of Dr. King, the Race & Reconciliation Dialogue Group of St. Paul Cathedral will present, via Zoom, its annual Martin Luther King program. Young liturgical dancers will perform the Our Father followed by the Honorable Dwayne Woodruff as the featured speaker.

The theme of 2021 celebration is: *The Dream Lives On Through Us*. Students from the CCD classes of St. Mary Magdalene Parish will be participating in an essay and poster contest focusing on the theme and winners will present their work during the program.

The Zoom link will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

blackfacts.com

January 10 Charles Dean Dixon, Orchestral Conductor, born on this date in 1915 was considered a musical prodigy and graduated from Julliard School of Music and earned a Master's Degree at Columbia University.

While at Julliard, Dixon discovered conducting and upon graduating he formed the "Dean Dixon Symphony Orchestra," the first racially integrated group of its type in New York City. His career as an accomplished conductor began with guest-conducting concerts for various orchestras. Despite these appearances, there were few opportunities for African Americans in the field of conducting in the 1940s. He moved to Europe in 1949 and spent 20 years there and in Australia and had a hugely successful career. He died in 1976

Vagabond Missions Update This past month at the Underground, we hosted a video game tournament as well as a Christmas party for our teens. Not only did both of these events have the best attendance we've seen at any of our outreach events, but many of the teens brought their friends who had never been to the Underground before. We are so excited to carry the momentum from December into this new year of ministry and we are also excited to welcome our newest missionary, Jesse, to our Hill District team. Please pray for Jesse as he begins his time as a Vagabond missionary!

PASTOR'S NOTE



A New Beginning!

This weekend we conclude the Christmas Season by celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Baptism is our gateway into the sacramental life of the church. This coming week we return to Ordinary Time before we start the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how God introduces a special servant who will bring light to the nations. The servant does not act on his own initiative but is chosen by God. The servant is a beacon of light for the nations. In the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter preaches for the first time inside a Gentile household.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read that Jesus is baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, while God the Father calls Jesus his beloved Son. After the baptism Jesus begins his public ministry of teaching and healing.

We have all been called through Baptism to the common vocations of holiness and service. As we begin a new year, 2021, we hopefully have turned the page from this past year and are moving forward with new goals and resolutions and trying to commit ourselves to growing deeper and stronger in our own discipleship.

Let us continue to be a Beacon of Hope here at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

A New Beginning!

Catholic Education Plus

Tune into KDKA Radio, 1020 am every other Sunday morning at 6:30am for Catholic Education Plus. This program, which I host, highlights elementary and secondary schools, colleges, youth ministry programs, and more. The next program will air next Sunday, January 17. This radio program is sponsored by Sam and Judy Spanos and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

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 received an insurance claim of \$10,000 to help offset some of the cost.

Mass Intentions

There are mass intention openings for the 10:30am Sunday masses 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 by email 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 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 e-mail at RBorza@Diocesan.com

Looking Ahead

Pastoral Council Meeting - next 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 donation of \$4.00 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.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Frank Grande**, our Business Manager, who celebrated his birthday this past Friday, January 8, and our Parochial Vicar, **Fr. Matthew Hawkins**, who is celebrating his birthday this coming Thursday, January 14!

Something to Think About...

*When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced;
live your life so that when you die,
the world cries and you rejoice.*

White Elk

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



Over the last few weeks we followed The Holy family on a journey of faith. We have been a participant in this journey. Today, as we conclude the Nativity Season, we join Jesus as he begins another chapter of salvation history.

Baptism begins our own faith story. As we watch Jesus begin his life's work we must examine our own. Where has the Lord led us? And most important where are we going? I was baptized in two other Christian religions before becoming Catholic. All were and continue to be a part of my faith life. All of us have a faith story. We live it out in the light of Christ. Although he did not need Baptism, there was a desire to identify with each of us. We often say that Jesus is like us in everything but sin.

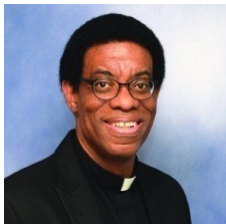
Living out our baptismal call is a real challenge. We can be lead in so many directions. It is so good to know that we can be redirected to the call of Christ. What Jesus did at the Jordan served as a model for his public ministry. As people of faith we are caught up in this same model.

This New Year will challenge our faith and how we carry it out in our daily lives. We pray for peace with justice for all. We pray for an end of this pandemic and how it has afflicted the lives of so many.

Yes, what happened at Jesus' baptism happened at our own. We are his beloved daughters and sons and we share in that same spirit.

A blessed new year to all.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Last year, on December 24th the New York Times published Esau McCaulley's thoughtful reflection on how the Covid-19 crisis is forcing us to reflect on how we experience our Sunday assembly for worship. With all of the inconveniences that the crisis imposes, McCaulley argues, we now have an opportunity to reflect on an

experience that has perhaps become too familiar to us. As we are forced to rely on streamed and recorded Masses, maybe it is time to take stock of why gathering as an assembly is so important to us in the first place.

McCaulley noted that "researchers at Barna, a group dedicated to studying faith and culture, found church attendance in America had dropped significantly during the pandemic." He was not surprised by this, because he and his family found worship over Zoom to be "fundamentally inadequate." For many people, however, given the seriousness of the illness and its ability to spread, live streaming is the only reasonable option.

But McCaulley argued that the inadequacy of worship over the internet is an opportunity to reflect on "the very idea of what we look for in church." He added that "If bodies and physical spaces are really means by which we attempt to encounter God on earth, something immeasurable is lost when worship goes virtual. This loss becomes all the more acute during the holiday season, a time when churches are usually filled with candles, flowers and flowing vestments. Instead, the choir stalls and pews will be largely empty."

The faith that we live is incarnate. This means that an important dimension of how we experience our faith is embodied; we experience it through the sense of sight (the colors throughout the liturgical year), sound (the ringing of the bell at the elevation of the Eucharist and the voices of the choir and cantors leading us in musical worship), smell (the incense burning in the thurible), taste (the body and blood of Jesus Christ on our tongues), and touch (the physical sensation of kneeling, standing, and walking toward the altar).

McCaulley says, of the Sunday assembly: "[it] is not about what the church gives us; it is our way of offering something to God. It is a small rebellion, a way of saying that there is more to life than simply the acquisition of more. It is an attempt to become the kind of people who live lives of charity and service."

He adds that "the very inadequacy of church services, Zoom and otherwise, is a reminder we do not come into churches to encounter a life lesson on how to raise our children or to learn to be good Americans, whatever that means. Our aim is much more audacious. We are attempting to encounter God and, in so doing, find ourselves, possibly for the first time..."