



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream: [facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://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](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

Rev. David H. Taylor, Senior Parochial Vicar:  
[dtaylor@diopitt.org](mailto:dtaylor@diopitt.org)

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins, Parochial Vicar:  
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Christopher Catone, Music Director

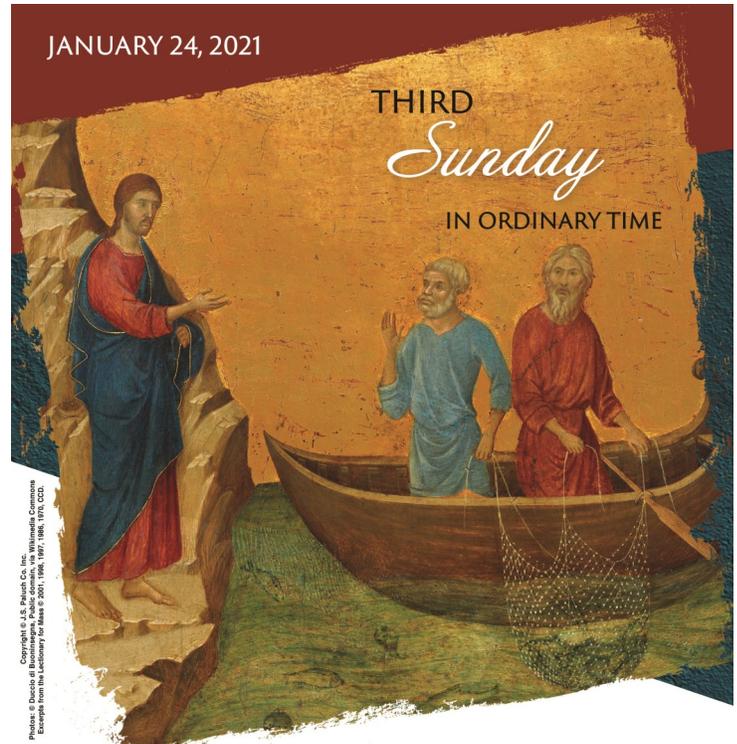
Priscilla Davis, Office Manager

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THEY ABANDONED THEIR NETS  
AND FOLLOWED

*Jesus.*

MARK 1:18

Saint Benedict the Moor Church  
91 Crawford Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15219

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



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



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## Mass Intentions

January 24  
Fr. Thomas Burke  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jack A. Forte  
Priscilla Davis

January 31  
Fr. David Taylor  
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Anthony and Dorothy Raffaele  
Cathy Raffaele



This week  
the Sanctuary Candle  
is lit in Memory  
of David Orlando.

Theresa Orlando

## Stewardship

January 17

Offertory	Parish Share	Special Collections
\$2,040.00	\$225.00	\$425.00

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

[saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org/bible-study-videos](http://saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org/bible-study-videos)

For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or [mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org).

To register (required): [craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org)



CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
PLUS

**Radio Program,**  
with Fr. Tom Burke as  
host, highlights elemen-

tary 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 January 31

Link to the podcasts of the program on KDKA:

[kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)

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

*Duane Ashley, 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.



**MARCH for LIFE**

The protection of all of those who participate in the annual March, as well as the many law enforcement personnel and others who work tirelessly each year to ensure a safe and peaceful event, is a top priority of the March for Life. In light of the fact that we are in the midst of a pandemic which may be peaking, and in view of the heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are currently facing in and around the Capitol, this year's March for Life will look different.

The annual rally will take place virtually and we are asking all participants to stay home and to join the March virtually. We will invite a small group of pro-life leaders from across the country to march in Washington, DC this year. These leaders will represent pro-life Americans everywhere who, each in their own unique ways, work to make abortion unthinkable and build a culture where every human life is valued and protected.

We are profoundly grateful for the countless women, men, and families who sacrifice to come out in such great numbers each year as a witness for life – and we look forward to being together in person next year. As for this year's march, we look forward to being with you virtually.

RSVP to watch virtually on Friday, January 29, at 11 am:

[marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events](http://marchforlife.org/2021-virtual-events)

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

**January 24** Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, known as the "Sherlock Holmes" of Negro History, was born on this date in 1874 in Puerto Rico to a Black mother and a father of German descent. Young Arturo often wondered about the lack of African history taught in his classrooms. This interest formed the cornerstone of Schomburg's eventual lifework consisting of research and preservation—work that would lead him to become one of the world's premier collectors of Black literature, slave narratives, artwork, and diasporic materials.

He was one of the most influential forces behind the creation of The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He died in 1938

**New Bulletin Coming in February** We invite you to consider placing an ad in our bulletin and sharing this information with others. It is a great way to support our parish and parishioners. Diocesan Publications is our new bulletin publisher. For information on ads, please contact Rick Cortez: [rcortez@diocesan.com](mailto:rcortez@diocesan.com) or 412.897.6610

## PASTOR'S NOTE



### Repent and Believe in the Good News!

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and all three readings focus on discipleship. In 2019, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time be set aside for "Sunday of the Word of God." We hear stories of being called to follow, conversion, repentance,

and discipleship.

In the first reading from Jonah, we read how God sends the prophet Jonah into the City of Nineveh to offer the gift of salvation. Jonah initially resisted to go into the city and be a prophet, but he later changed his mind and went. One day of hearing God's call for repentance was more than enough for the citizens of Nineveh to change their ways. In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul speaks of us as members of the Body of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. The things of this world are only for a limited time.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus begins his ministry by calling people to repent and embrace the Good News. Repentance is one of the main themes of all three readings this weekend. Jesus also calls his first disciples: Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Jesus never intended to undertake his ministry alone. From the beginning of his ministry, he sought out followers to assist him in the ministry of healing and preaching the Good News.

Jesus calls each of us to share in the apostolic mission. Each of us is called to have a change of heart by our baptism. Let us take this opportunity to listen closely and discern how we can hear Jesus calling us to something more in life.

Catholic Schools week kicks off next Sunday and runs thru February 5. With the Covid-19 pandemic there will be internal celebrations going on in our school throughout the week but there will be information available next weekend on registration and taking a tour of St. Benedict the Moor School.

### Repent and Believe in the Good News

## Offertory Envelopes

Every registered parishioner should be receiving weekly offertory envelopes via mail or using the online giving program "Faith Direct." Using your weekly offertory envelopes helps run the day-to-day operations of our office, liturgical services, pays the insurance, taxes, and utilities.

Other "Special" Envelopes are earmarked for specific purposes not attached to the regular parish operating account including: Care for the Poor Church Building Upkeep, Parish Share, and Technology Expenses. If possible, please write a separate check for the weekly offertory but you can combine your "specials" into one payment.

Please remember to make all donations payable to **St. Benedict the Moor Parish**. Please remember to check your bank if you mail in an automatic weekly check to the parish; that they have our correct mailing address: **91 Crawford Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219**.

## St. Benedict the Moor Center

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 paperwork.

## 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 have received 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 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 at [office@sbtmparish-pgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparish-pgh.com).

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

Gluten Free Hosts are now available at every Mass!

Our Parish Office is now open! We are open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm.

Let us pray for unity and healing in our country.

## Something to Think About...

*God does not ask about our ability  
or our inability but our availability.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

## Fr. David Taylor



It is not unusual for people to ask a member of the clergy or religious about vocations. The question is often about the circumstances of how the decision was made. To be sure there are many different situations which may lead to a vocation. My own circumstances were related to

my families conversion to the faith and our attendance in Catholic schools. My older brother's vocation and ordination was a source of encouragement.

Religious vocations today often come later in life after other careers. My brother entered the seminary at a time in the church when preparation began in high school.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Today, there are at least two crises that challenge our faith: a global pandemic on one hand, and social divisions that lead us to demonize those with whom we disagree on the other. The pandemic exposes our contingency, how we are utterly dependent on God for every breath. The social divisions

expose the danger of defining our communities in terms of who we are not – who is not one of us – instead of by who we are – what we have in common.

Last week, we celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. King was a leader of the Civil Rights movement during the 1950s and 60s. It was a movement that was grounded in prayer and organized in interfaith and ecumenical houses of worship, but principally in churches of the historically Black Protestant Tradition. The focus of that movement was on promoting the dignity of the human person and to do so without fear. There is a lot that we can learn from that movement.

If we respect the dignity of the human person it will not be easy to demonize those who do not share our social and political views. Dr. King emphasized that not only must one assert the humanity of people who were being treated by the laws as being less-than-human, one must also assert the humanity of those who oppose the struggle for human dignity. To treat such persons as human, without allowing them to deny the humanity of others, is the only way to awaken in such persons to what it really means to be human. This is an important distinction that is missing in today's social and political discourse.

There were many high school seminary programs. Men and women religious were likewise encouraged to begin at an early age.

The gospel today shows that the call always begins with the Lord. There is much emphasis today on freedom in choosing a way of life. This freedom of choice, however, can be influenced by the constant call to serve in ways we may have never imagined. Jesus called his disciples in the ordinariness of life. They had no special skills or desires to leave and follow him. The best preparation is just to be open to the ways of God.

The overwhelming challenges we have today present endless opportunities to serve. Everyone is called to some kind of ministry. All we have to do is be generous in our response.

The Civil Rights movement can also teach us what it means to have moral courage in dangerous times. Such courage would serve us well as the global pandemic continues. One of the phrases that we hear most frequently from the Lord, in sacred scripture, is this: "Be not afraid." We must not live in fear.

At the end of his life, King challenged the nation with this question: "Where do we go from here, chaos or community?" This same question confronts us today.

In today's reading, the great city of Nineveh nearly brought about their own destruction until they reconsidered the path they were on, repented of their sins and changed their ways (Jon 3:1-5,10). In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he emphasized the urgency of the situation by cautioning his readers that "time is running out" (1 Cor. 7:29-31). He told them not to resume life with business-as-usual complacency, but to live in anticipation of the new creation. Jesus, himself, spoke with urgency in the Gospel when he said, "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel" (Mk 1:14-20).

We need that same sense of urgency as we cry out with this week's psalm; "Your ways, O' Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me. You are God, my savior" (Ps 25:4-5).