

# ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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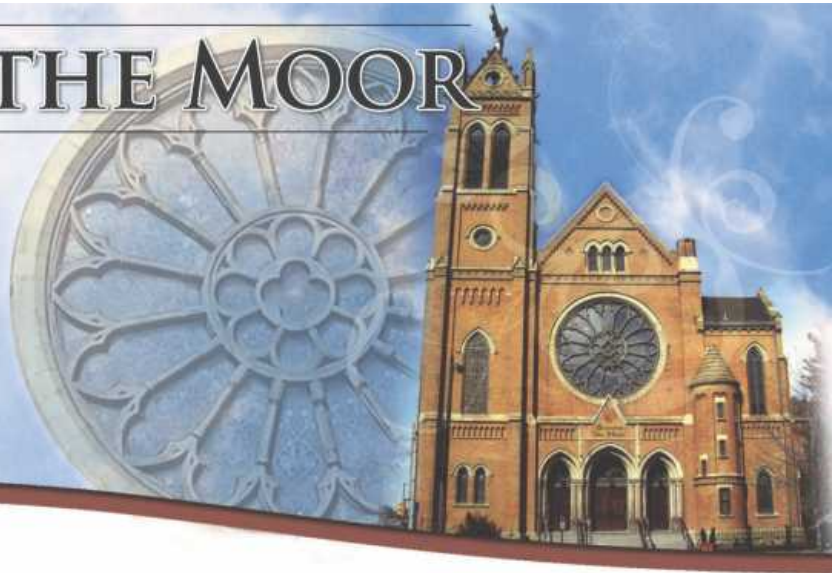
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Church: 412-281-3141 • Fax: 412-391-7151

School: 412-682-3755 • Fax: 412-682-4058

Website: [www.stbenedictthemoor.org](http://www.stbenedictthemoor.org)

Email: [churchoffice@stbenedictthemoor.org](mailto:churchoffice@stbenedictthemoor.org)



*December 4, 2011*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*



*Prepare for  
the Lord*

• John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me."

*Mk 1:4, 6-7a*

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### STAFF

*Pastor* .....Rev. Richard J Zelik, OFM Cap

*Pastoral Associate* Deacon Reynold Wilmer

*Receptionist*..... Priscilla Davis

*Business Manager* ..... Brenda Younger

*Chair, Pastoral Council*.....Janice Simmons

*Chair, Finance Council*.....Deborah Gory

*Music Ministers:*

.....Peggy Bullard and Antonia Long

*Principal* ..... Joelynn Parham

*Rel Ed. Coordinator* ..... Suzanne Davis

### BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saint Benedict the Moor Parish ministers in cooperation with two other Center City Parishes (Saint Mary of Mercy and Epiphany Churches) as well as with Saint Charles Lwanga Church in the Homewood and Sister Thea Bowman Academy in Wilkinsburg

The parish also cooperates in the ministry of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries in the Diocese.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:15 a.m.

*(according to school schedule)*

### RECONCILIATION

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.–8:50 a.m.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1st. Saturday of the month:

9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

### NOVENA

February 1 to March 29

### PASTORAL AND SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

(Inside)



**Thursday, December 8, 2011**

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception (A Holy Day of Obligation)*

**Mass at Saint Benedict the Moor is at 6:30 p.m.**

*or worship at a Catholic Church near you*

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

**Saint Benedict the Moor Church** is a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled Roman Catholic parish located on Freedom Corner in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1889 as an African American parish, we are diverse, multinational, and intercultural where all are welcome.

We are committed to the spiritual growth of our parish community through prayer, devotion to the Scriptures and the Sacraments, dedication to evangelization, education, advocacy, service and outreach.

We are committed to creating in our parish family a deeper awareness that through our Baptism we have become part of the Body of Christ. It is because of our participation in the Sacred Celebration of the Eucharist with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we have the responsibility to use our time, talent and resources to spread the good news of salvation to the people of God.

We are committed to the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:16-21)

**PASTORAL AND SACRAMENTAL NEEDS**

**BAPTISMS:** To have an infant baptized or a child (RCIC) or to be baptized (and celebrate other Sacraments of Initiation) as an adult (RCIA) please contact Deacon Reynold Wilmer at 412-471-0257 Ext 115

**CONFIRMATIONS:** Youth wanting to celebration Confirmation and adults wishing Confirmation need to contact Deacon Reynold Wilmer (phone above).

**FIRST COMMUNION:** Parents wishing to have their children prepared to receive First Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 412-281-3141 Ext 0.

**RECONCILIATION:** The regular scheduled time is at 8:30 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. or call to schedule a time.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** At most hospitals, nursing homes and personal care homes, the facilities have arrangements with local Catholic clergy to address this need if one is seriously ill.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Couples planning to marry are to contact our Deacon at least six months before the desired date. Marriage preparation is required.

**FUNERALS:** Please call the Parish Office so that the Bereavement Committee call assist you

**NEW PARISHIONERS** are invited to join our Catholic community. Call the Parish Office.

**RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS:** If you feel called to the Diocesan Priesthood or Religious Life, contact the Vocation Office at 412-456-3123.



(†) DENOTES DECEASED

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4** *2nd Sunday of Advent*  
 9:00 a.m. Gertrude Comer † (Richard and Marlene Graham)  
 12:00 p.m. Morris Satz † (Simone Hickey)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8** *Immaculate Conception*  
 6:30 p.m. Adrian and Asha Gomez

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11** *3rd Sunday of Advent*  
 9:00 a.m. Ray Bossong †  
 12:00 p.m. Gertrude Comer † (Richard and Marlene Graham)

**NOVEMBER 26-27 STEWARDSHIP ~ THANK YOU!**

9:00 a.m. ....	1,646.00
12:00 p.m. ....	1,005.37
Mail-ins.....	30.00
Total 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Mail in .....	2,681.37
Development Fund & Parish Share .....	0.00
Religious Retirement .....	135.00

**Readings for the Week of December 4, 2011**

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**THE GOOD NEWS THAT FOLKS NEED TO HEAR**

I will use this section of the bulletin to share with the parishioners how I see, experience or learn from others the good news of folks or organizations living the Gospels or the Good News of Jesus Christ who is always with us and never abandons us.

On Sunday (11/20/11) there were no altar servers to help at the 12:00 NOON liturgy. Deacon and I had asked a younger member to vest and to help at the liturgy. The young person declined to help. I had a little mixed feelings about his refusal. However, during the greeting of peace, the young person told me that he was not feeling well and did not think that it was wise to serve and to “share” his illness with others. (I could see that during the liturgy he was not feeling well.) My mixed feeling turned to joy when I learned about the good judgment that the young fellow made.

Sometimes it is important to wait patiently until Christ’s light is shed on a situation. *The Good News is the good judgment of youth.*

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK , HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED**

*The following requests our prayers:*

James Burwell, Edward Davis, Lydia Francis, Brenda Glenn, Elouise Humphrey, Joyce Johnson, Theresa Lewis, Sherry McGinnis, Nathaniel McKenzie, Patrick Moran, Betty Muse, Josephine O’Connor, Marva Price, Agnes Robinson, Barbara Tucker, Mary Walker, Adelaide Wilson, Jim Cunningham, Edward and Dolores Zelik, Ralph Zelik and Ann Fultz.



## THE FIRST 100 DAYS



The First 100 Days (9/15 to 12/24/2011)...

*Update #10 (Written on 11/28/2011)*

Our parish hosted the Celebration of Confirmation on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for the candidates from our parish and Saint Charles Lwanga Parish. Needless to say, it was a great celebration. I took the pictures of each candidate and had them printed. Priscilla Davis assembled a display board with our candidates' pictures on it which is in the lobby of the Church. Please take the time to learn who our fully initiated youth are and to speak with them and to encourage them to join you in the ministries in which you partake.

On Monday (11/21/2011), I met with the men on staff at Saint Benedict the Moor School. There were eight of us in attendance. The meeting was very productive. The purpose of the meeting was to discover if there was a need for the men on staff to develop a strategic approach to assist the boys in the school to improve their learning skills and to develop life skills for their maturing process. After sharing, we agreed that there is a need for us to meet and to organize ourselves to better assist the boys in the school. I will draft a working paper for the men on staff so we can organize ourselves to develop a programmatic approach to helping the boys in school to improve their learning skills and life skills.

Monday was also the due date to submit the 11/27/2011 bulletin to the printer. I worked on the bulletin and submitted it.

On Tuesday, Bob Wisdom, the web master for the three Center City Parishes, meet with me. He and I began to look at the necessary changes to be done on the parish web site. If you take a look at the site, you will see some of the changes. The school web site also needs reviewed and to have changes made to it.

Since it was Thanksgiving week, it was a short work week. However, I cannot close without saying how beautiful the liturgy was on Thanksgiving Day. We had around 127 parishioners in attendance. Thanks for gathering for the Eucharist and giving thanks.

*Fr. Rich*

## BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY

*In the Parish...*

- Andrew James reports that the kneelers offered to the parish are in great condition. He is putting together a proposal regarding the cost to install them in the Church. **The Diocese will transport the kneelers** to our worship site. Andrew will organize the project to install the kneelers, oversee the installation and work with other parish volunteers on this project. This joint effort of replacing the kneelers gives witness to the cooperation on which our faith life is built. It also shows the benefits of PSP. The Diocese operates on a broader level than the parish and parishioners. The Diocese learned of the kneelers and considered our needs. By supporting the Diocese through PSP, the parish became a beneficiary of our PSP payments and of the work of a Diocesan Department.
- Somehow the Worship Committee and I did not schedule a Reconciliation Service here in the parish during Advent. It is too late to schedule one now. I encourage parishioners to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Advent Season. I will provide the parishioners with times and places where there are Reconciliation Services. I will also give you times when I will be available for you to participate in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

*In the Diocese and in cooperative ministries...*

- **Reminder: Monday, December 12, 2011 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** and is celebrated annually in the Diocese with the Latino Catholic Community. On the 12th, there is 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at the Cathedral.
- **Janice Simmons and I (Fr. Rich) are 2 of about 20 members of the Bishop's Diocesan Pastoral Council.** The Council discusses and advises the Bishop on various matters on which the Bishop chooses to seek our input. The Council meets quarterly. At the last meeting, the Bishop had a member of the Diocesan staff **explain the nature of a Diocese and its parishes and the relationship of each other to each other in light of theology, canon law and civil law.** After the presentation, the current financial picture of the Diocese in relationship to the current economic times was presented and discussed. I have been sharing insights from the presentation with the parish leadership.

*In Society...*

- **On December 13, 2011,** there will be a luncheon meeting at the Offices of **Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania for the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium.** Fr. John McKenna and I are invited to the luncheon. The purpose of the Ministerium is ongoing fellowship among the downtown churches, mutual support that members give to each other and joint efforts to continue to serve the downtown region.
- Are you aware of the book entitled **August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays?** It was written by Laurence A. Glasco and Christopher Rawson. It is being promoted by the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation (PHLF). The parish supports education. This book can help one to learn more about August Wilson and to learn about significant places in the Hill District. **For more information regarding the book, call Franker Stroker at the PHLF at 412-471-5808 ext 525 or email him at frank@phlf.org**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



David Udekwu (Dec. 4); Sonya Thilghman (Dec. 5);  
Vincente Helder (Dec. 6); Katharine Dean, Karen McDill  
(Dec 7); Marie Holmes, Michael Ngugi, Denier J Watson  
(Dec. 8); Michael Nwokike, Ngosa Pepala (Dec. 9)

*Remember no one votes to be born! You do not vote on which family in which you are born! So be the best gift that God has given and in turn make your family the best!*

*Come Join Us*  
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