

**PASTORAL TEAM**

Reverend Carmen A. D'Amico  
Reverend Thomas A. Sparacino  
Deacon Reynold Wilmer

**PASTORAL TEAM STAFF**

Sr. Marlene Luffy, CDP, Administrative Assistant  
Brenda Younger, Business Manager

**St. Benedict the Moor Church**  
Centre and Crawford Streets, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Parish Office Phone 412-281-3141 – Fax 412-391-7151  
School Office Phone 412-682-3755 – Fax 412-682-4058  
Website: [www.stbenedictthemoor.org](http://www.stbenedictthemoor.org)  
Email: [churchoffice@stbenedictthemoor.org](mailto:churchoffice@stbenedictthemoor.org)

**Parish Staff**

Suzanne Davis, Sunday School Director  
Sr. Margery Kunder, CSJ, School Principal  
Lalla Smalley, Parish Nurse, Outreach Ministry  
Peggy Bullard, A.G.O, Music Ministry  
Antonia Long, Music Ministry  
Priscilla Davis, Receptionist

**Epiphany Catholic Church**

1018 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3502  
Parish Office Phone 412-471-0257 – Fax 412-471-1345  
McDowell Hall, Fish Fry 412-471-1008  
Website: [www.epiphanychurch.net](http://www.epiphanychurch.net)  
Email: [churchoffice@epiphanychurch.net](mailto:churchoffice@epiphanychurch.net)

**Clergy in Residence**

Reverend Neil McCaulley

**Clergy, Sacramental Ministry**

Reverend John F. Walsh

**Parish Staff**

Lalla Smalley, Parish Nurse, Outreach Ministry  
Dr. John Raevens, Music Ministry  
Greg Fuhrman, Music Ministry

**St. Mary of Mercy Church**

202 Stanwix Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222-1381  
Parish Office Phone 412-261-0110 – Fax 412-261-0113  
Website: [www.stmaryofmercy.org](http://www.stmaryofmercy.org)  
Email: [services\\_stmaryofmercy@verizon.net](mailto:services_stmaryofmercy@verizon.net)

**Clergy in Residence**

Reverend Ronald P. Lengwin  
Reverend Thomas M. O'Donnell

**Parish Staff**

Lois Elder, Television Ministry Director  
Betty Penny, Social Concerns Outreach Minister  
Dennis Johnson, Music Ministry  
A.R. Valletta, Music Ministry

**LITURGICAL DIRECTORY**

**Weekend/Sunday Mass Schedule**

5:00 p.m. St. Mary of Mercy (Vigil)  
6:00 p.m. Epiphany (Vigil)  
7:30 a.m. St. Mary of Mercy  
8:00 a.m. Epiphany  
9:00 a.m. St. Benedict the Moor  
9:30 a.m. St. Mary of Mercy  
10:00 a.m. Epiphany  
12:00 p.m. St. Benedict the Moor  
12:00 p.m. St. Mary of Mercy  
5:00 p.m. Epiphany

**Weekday Mass Schedule**

**St. Benedict the Moor**

9:15 a.m. Thursday (according to school schedule)

**Epiphany**

7:00 a.m. Wednesday and Friday  
12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday

**St. Mary of Mercy**

6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday  
12:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**St. Benedict the Moor**

8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Sunday

**Epiphany**

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday  
5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Saturday

**St. Mary of Mercy**

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Monday through Saturday  
12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Monday through Saturday

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**St. Benedict the Moor** (1st. Saturday of the month)

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**Epiphany**

Friday, following 12:05 p.m. Mass - 5:00 p.m.

**St. Mary of Mercy**

Tuesday, following 7:30 a.m. Mass - 11:45  
Thursday, following 12:00 p.m. Mass - 5:30 p.m.

**Epiphany**

**Novena** to the Sorrowful Mother  
Fridays following 12:05 Mass  
**Novena** to St. Rita of Cascia  
Mondays following 12:05 Mass

**St. Mary of Mercy**

Miraculous Medal **Novena**  
Mondays 12:30

**St. Benedict the Moor**

**Novena** to St. Benedict the Moor

**What does it mean to be blessed?**

Today's gospel tells the wondrous story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and Elizabeth's recognition that the baby Mary is carrying will be the long-awaited Savior. The passage closes with Elizabeth's declaration of Mary's blessedness ~ "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

What does it mean to be "blessed"? Some who knew Mary might have thought she was not blessed at all. After all, she was pregnant under what seemed suspicious circumstances, and she was most likely gossiped about and shunned. But Mary's blessedness had to do with something much deeper ~ with having a heart that was open to God and to God's mysterious ways.

In the Bible, the word "blessed" is sometimes translated as "happy". We tend to associate happiness with quite superficial things; however, the biblical association of blessedness with happiness offers us a more meaningful understanding of both words.

We also are blessed when, like Mary, we believe, that God's promises to us will be fulfilled. As we approach Christmas, let us treasure and draw strength from the most comforting of promises, that God is Emmanuel ~ "God with us". In all the ups and downs, the trials and joys of our lives and relationships, God is always with us, and our awareness of this can be the source of the most profound happiness. Blessed are we who believe and live our days with this assurance!

*~ Living with Christ*

**Year for Priests:** Through the intercession of St. John Vianney, let us pray that our priests be encouraged, through the support and love of their congregations. This week we pray for the following priests:

Fr. Edward Laurent, OFM Cap, Fr. Triew Ngoc Le, Fr. Richard Lelonis, Fr. John Lendvai, Fr. Ronald Lengwin, Fr. Michael Lenz, OFM Cap, Fr. Thomas Lewandowski, Fr. Donald Lippert, OFM, Cap, Fr. Edward Litavec, Fr. Joseph Luisi, Fr. Gerald Lutz, Fr. Michael John Lynam.

*Pray daily for the priests who serve our parish and those who assist them.*

*Pray for vocations to the priesthood and Religious life.*

**Christmas Greetings!**

*As we begin to celebrate the Christ Child at Christmas we want to take this time, on behalf of Deacon Reynold, Fr. Lengwin, Fr. Neil, Fr. Jack, Fr. Utz, Fr. Reginald and the entire staffs of our parishes, to wish everyone who calls our Center City Parishes "home", a very Blessed Christmas. May the newborn King be born in the hearts of you and your family. May the Lord bless you and yours with a happy and healthy new year.*

*In the joy of Christmas,  
Fr. Carmen and Fr. Tom*

**Mass schedule, Confessions and Exposition**

*Please refer to the schedule on your parish page of this bulletin.*

*There will not be confessions heard on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31, Jan. 1*

**Second Collection ~ Christmas**

The second collection at all the Masses on Christmas is the *Christmas Charities for Children and Youth*

**Offices closed**

The offices at all three churches will be closed for business from Dec. 24, noon until Jan. 4, 2010. Emergency calls will be taken at 412-261-0110.

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Fish Fry resumes on Friday, Jan. 8, 2010 at the regular time.

**Readings for the Week of December 20**

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Lk 1:67-79  
Friday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14  
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24/Lk 2:41-52



**Blood Drive**

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive for Life will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at St. Benedict the Moor Church. Give the gift of life. Call Black Catholic Ministries now to pre-register, 412-456-3170.

**Hold the Dates!**

“Black Catholic Leadership Conference: Developing Church Leaders to Serve,” April 23-25, 2010, sponsored by the Office for Black Catholic Ministries. Look for more information from the planning committee in the coming weeks.

**Christian Mothers Newsflash!**

Please pick up your “Silent Tea” fundraising package from one of the officers. In addition, items with the Steelers’ logo are needed immediately for the “Steelers’ Basket” to be raffled in January. All proceeds from fundraisers support the tuition assistance fund for St. Benedict the Moor School.

**Missionary Help**

“I am a member of St. Benedict the Moor Church and will be joining Covenant Mercies in construction projects to help an orphanage in Nagongera, in Eastern Uganda, with their water system and school. The team is collecting Bibles, reading glasses, boys clothing, girls dresses or skirts, soccer balls, soccer pumps, pencils, coloring books with Christian themes, and medicine cabinet supplies. Items can be placed in the back of church in the box marked “UGANDA”. Any of these items and small purchases would be appreciated by the people of Nagongera! Please keep our team in prayer.”

God bless you! Alicia Hartle

**~ Happy Birthday ~**

Elliot Constantine, Samson Ikiki, Elmira Sizemore, Anthony Young, Jr.(Dec.20); Sheri Harris, Evan Melendez, Cate Reed, Alex Simmons, Alysia Michelle Tucker (Dec. 21); Rosemary Carter, Abinjah Ngugi (Dec. 22); Vivien Iloeje, Mary Reed, Maxwell Tchatehoua (Dec. 23); Lisa Hall-Williams (Dec. 24); Theodore Nathaniel Ketchum, Ken Osunkwo, Christopher Peacock, Richard Stewart (Dec. 25); Deborah Cox, Robert Foster, Theron Ladd (Dec. 26)

**MASSSES THIS WEEK AT ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR**

(†) DENOTES DECEASED

**Sunday, December 20** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 9:00 a.m. Caroline Kamau by Younger Family  
 12:00 p.m. Mary Pace † by the Pace Family

**Thursday, December 24** **Christmas Eve**  
 12:00 Midnight Rev. Leo Vanyo Estate  
 Intention of donor

**Friday, December 25** **Nativity of the Lord**  
 9:00 a.m. Rev. Leo Vanyo Estate  
 Intention of donor

**Sunday, December 27** **Feast of the Holy Family**  
 9:00 a.m. For the unborn, elderly, handicapped  
 and all causes of life.  
 12:00 p.m. Rev. Leo Vanyo Estate  
 Intention of donor

**School News**

Christmas vacation begins on Wednesday, December 23 with early dismissal at 11:30 am. School will resume on Monday, January 4, 2010 at the regular time. May all our students, families and staff enjoy a blessed and safe Christmas vacation!

**Masses for the Christmas Season**

Christmas Eve ~ Midnight, 12:00 a.m.  
 Christmas Day ~ 9:00 a.m.  
 New Years Eve ~ 6:30 p.m.  
 New Years Day ~ 9:00 a.m.

There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010

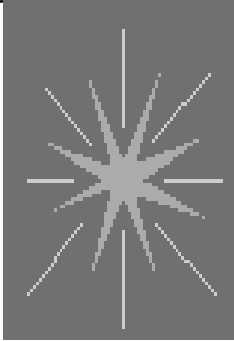
**Pray for Our Sick and Hospitalized**

The following request our prayers: Dorothy Brisbane, James Burwell, Priscilla Charles, Lydia Francis, Brenda Glenn, Ruth Haston, Florence Hester, Elouise Humphrey, Joyce Johnson, Theresa Lewis, Nathaniel McKenzie, Betty Muse, Josephine O’Connor, Alan Stewart, Lucretia Tabb, Barbara Tucker, Adelaide Wilson.

**Last Week’s Stewardship**

December 8 .....\$ 233.00  
 9:00 a.m.....\$ 494.00  
 12:00 p.m.....\$ 896.00  
 Mail-ins .....\$ 512.00

Thank you!



**Preparation for Christmas**  
 Confessions will be heard on  
*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*  
*Dec. 21, Dec. 22, Dec. 23*  
*11:15 –11:45 a.m.*  
*(two priests will be available)*

There will not be *Exposition*  
*of the Blessed Sacrament* on  
 Fridays ~ Dec. 25, Jan. 1, Jan. 8

**Mass Schedule at Epiphany**

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Day ~ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
 (Christmas Carols will begin one half hour before Mass)  
 New Years Eve ~ 6:00 p.m.  
 New Years Day ~ 10:00 a.m.

**Something Missing?**

I'm sure you have noticed that the statues of St. Rita and St. Agnes have been removed. They have been taken away to be refurbished and will return after Christmas. We will soon be working through the same procedure as we care for the others. If you have special devotion to these saints or you would like to contribute to this project, place your contribution in an envelop marked "statues".

**Our Pastoral Council**

We would like to recognize the following parishioners who have given time for prayer, study and discernment and now have committed themselves to take a leadership role in the parish by becoming our new Pastoral Council. So we wish to congratulate and thank the following for their service to the parish: Michele Fagan, George Francis, Judy Kail, Jerry Magnelli, Jim Marraway, Terry Marraway, Josie Pitta, Marc Pitta, Co-chairs: Arlene Gallagher, Sue Pavick. Let us keep them in prayer.

**Sanctuary Lamp**

During the weeks of **December 13 and December 20**, the 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn **in memory of the death anniversary of Fr. Richard Scherer** requested by **Ken Scherer and family**.

**Monthly Remembrance**

The altar wine and hosts to be consecrated during the Masses for the month of **December** will be offered in remembrance of **Margaret DeCort, deceased, requested by the Family**.

**Pray for the Sick, Homebound and Hospitalized**

We ask you to remember the following in your prayers ~ Mary Barry, Virginia Chiappetta, Dee DiPofi, Chrystil Dougherty, Margaret Hagan, Karen Kraeer, Vince Lusardi, Carmella Magnelli, Nancy Meinert, K. Prosser, Joe Schramm, Mary Beth Starosielec, Jodi Stebler, Dan Simsick.

**MASSES THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY**

(†) DENOTES DECEASED

**Saturday, December 19** **Weekday**  
 6:00 p.m. Fred Feith † Bill & Elaine Heufelder

**Sunday, December 20** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 a.m. Fr. Richard P. Scherer † (Anniv)  
 Ken Scherer Family  
 10:00 a.m. Robert P. Horgos (spl int)  
 Robert P. Horgos  
 5:00 p.m. Sabato Monaco † (B/Day) Theresa Runco

**Monday, December 21** **Weekday**  
 12:05 p.m. Mary Francis † (Anniv)  
 Frank & Rosalie Francis

**Tuesday, December 22** **Weekday**  
 12:05 p.m. Genevieve Conley † (B/Day)  
 M/M John Chiappetta

**Wednesday, December 23** **Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Simon Whaby † Simone Hickey  
 12:05 p.m. Mary Medvid † John Sedlock †  
 M/M Robert Anisko

**Thursday, December 24** **Christmas Eve**  
 4:00 p.m. Barbara Rosella † (Anniv) Mary Florian  
 6:00 p.m. Sam & Clara Manfredi, Sr. † & John Urban †  
 M/M Sam Manfredi, Jr.

**Friday, December 25** **Nativity of the Lord**  
 8:00 a.m. Murphy & Scholl Families (liv & dec)  
 Norma F. Murphy  
 10:00 p.m. Mass for the people of Epiphany

**Saturday, December 26** **St. Stephen**  
 6:00 p.m. Nellie & Irven Anisko † M/M Robert Anisko

**Sunday, December 27** **Feast of the Holy Family**  
 8:00 a.m. Sr. Margaret Cecilia Hirsh † (Anniv)  
 Michele Fagan  
 10:00 a.m. Patrick Tunney † Daniel & Joyce Murphy  
 5:00 p.m. Robert W. Wisdom † (Anniv)  
 Robert S. Wisdom

**Last Week's Stewardship**

1st Collection..... \$1,511.00  
 2nd Collection (maintenance) ..... \$ 329.00

**Thank you!**



**Preparation for Christmas  
~ Confessions ~**

Confessions will be heard at St. Mary of Mercy at the following times:  
*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*  
*Dec. 21, 22, 23*  
 11:00.-11:45 am & 12:30 - 1:15 pm.  
 Four priests will be available

*(There will be no confessions heard on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, nor on New Years Eve, Dec. 31)*

**Christmas & New Years Masses at St. Mary of Mercy**

*Christmas Eve (Vigil) ~ 5:00 pm.*  
*Christmas Day ~ 7:30 am & 12:00 noon*  
*New Years Eve (Vigil) ~ 5:00 pm.*  
*New Years Day ~ 12:00 noon*

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament....**

*will be cancelled on the followings days:  
 Dec. 22 & 24; Dec. 29 & 31; Jan. 5 & 7*

*The Parish Office will be closed from noon on Dec. 24 until Monday, Jan. 4, 2010*

**St. Mary of Mercy Food Drive**

St. Mary of Mercy Food Pantry is in urgent need of canned goods and baked goods to give to the needy families who come to our door. You may bring your donations to the Parish Office Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am. until 3:30 pm. You may also place your items daily at the church and these will be collected between Masses. Thank you for responding to Christ's call to share our blessings with those who are poor, needy and hungry. If you have questions call Betty at 412-261-0110.

**Christmas Traditions**

It's interesting to find the origin of some of the traditions that have come down through the years. For those who are interested, we offer:

**The Poinsettia :** This plant was introduced to the United States by our neighbors in Mexico, where it grows as a shrub. It is called the flower of the Holy Night"; it was brought to this country by the first US ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851).. Eventually the plant was named after him and was introduced into the potted plant as we have today.

**.Holly:** The use of holly is a religious tradition and decoration that originated in northern Europe, where it was known as the "holy tree". It became associated with the burning bush of Moses as well as Mary's burning love for God. The red berries and prickly points also became symbolic of the crown of thorns and the bloody death that the Christ Child would eventually suffer.

**MASSES THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY OF MERCY**

|                                                                     |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, December 19</b>                                        | <b>Weekday</b>                  |
| 12:00 p.m. Henry L. Bechtold<br>by Wife, Betty & Family             |                                 |
| 5:00 p.m. Mary Louise Stone, deceased<br>by Carole Clifford         |                                 |
| <b>Sunday, December 20</b>                                          | <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  |
| 7:30 a.m. Mass for the people                                       |                                 |
| 9:30 a.m. Flynn & Mulroy Families<br>by Kathleen & Marion Mulroy    |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. Helen Babbie by Family                                   |                                 |
| <b>Monday, December 21</b>                                          | <b>Weekday</b>                  |
| 6:30 a.m. Andrew DiGuilio<br>by Dolores Molinaro, daughter          |                                 |
| 7:30 a.m. John E. Ashton<br>by Betty Ashton Boonie & Family         |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. Deceased uncles by Elaine & Lois Elder                   |                                 |
| <b>Tuesday, December 22</b>                                         | <b>Weekday</b>                  |
| 6:30 a.m. Rev. Leo Vanyo Estate<br>Intention of the donor           |                                 |
| 7:30 a.m. John R. Wargo by The Filetei Family                       |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. Joseph Romancik by Pauline                               |                                 |
| <b>Wednesday, December 23</b>                                       | <b>Weekday</b>                  |
| 6:30 a.m. Paul Murphy                                               |                                 |
| 7:30 a.m. Joseph McCullough                                         |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. Joseph Nedzlek, Sr. by Daughter, Flo                     |                                 |
| <b>Thursday, December 24</b>                                        | <b>Christmas Eve</b>            |
| 12:00 p.m. Anthony Kojundic by The Kojundic Family                  |                                 |
| 5:00 p.m. Rev. Leo Vanyo Estate<br>Intention of donor               |                                 |
| <b>Friday, December 25</b>                                          | <b>Nativity of the Lord</b>     |
| 7:30 a.m. Mary C. Brennan & deceased of Family                      |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. Mass for the people                                      |                                 |
| <b>Saturday, December 26</b>                                        | <b>St. Stephen</b>              |
| 12:00 p.m. William McElligott, deceased<br>by Charles J. McElligott |                                 |
| 5:00 p.m. Elias Hakim, deceased by D.J. Mariano                     |                                 |
| <b>Sunday, December 27</b>                                          | <b>Feast of the Holy Family</b> |
| 7:30 a.m. Mass for the people                                       |                                 |
| 9:30 a.m. Alex & Anna Gerwell by Gerwell Family                     |                                 |
| 12:00 p.m. John Korbe by Lillian Korbe                              |                                 |

**Last Week's Stewardship**

Offertory.....\$2,884.00

Thank you

**SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES**

**Infant Baptism:** To schedule, call Deacon Reynold Wilmer, 412-281-3141, x 5.

**Adult Baptism and Children (RCIA):** Call Deacon Reynold Wilmer.

**Reconciliation (Confession):** See the Directory for the schedule or call for an appointment.

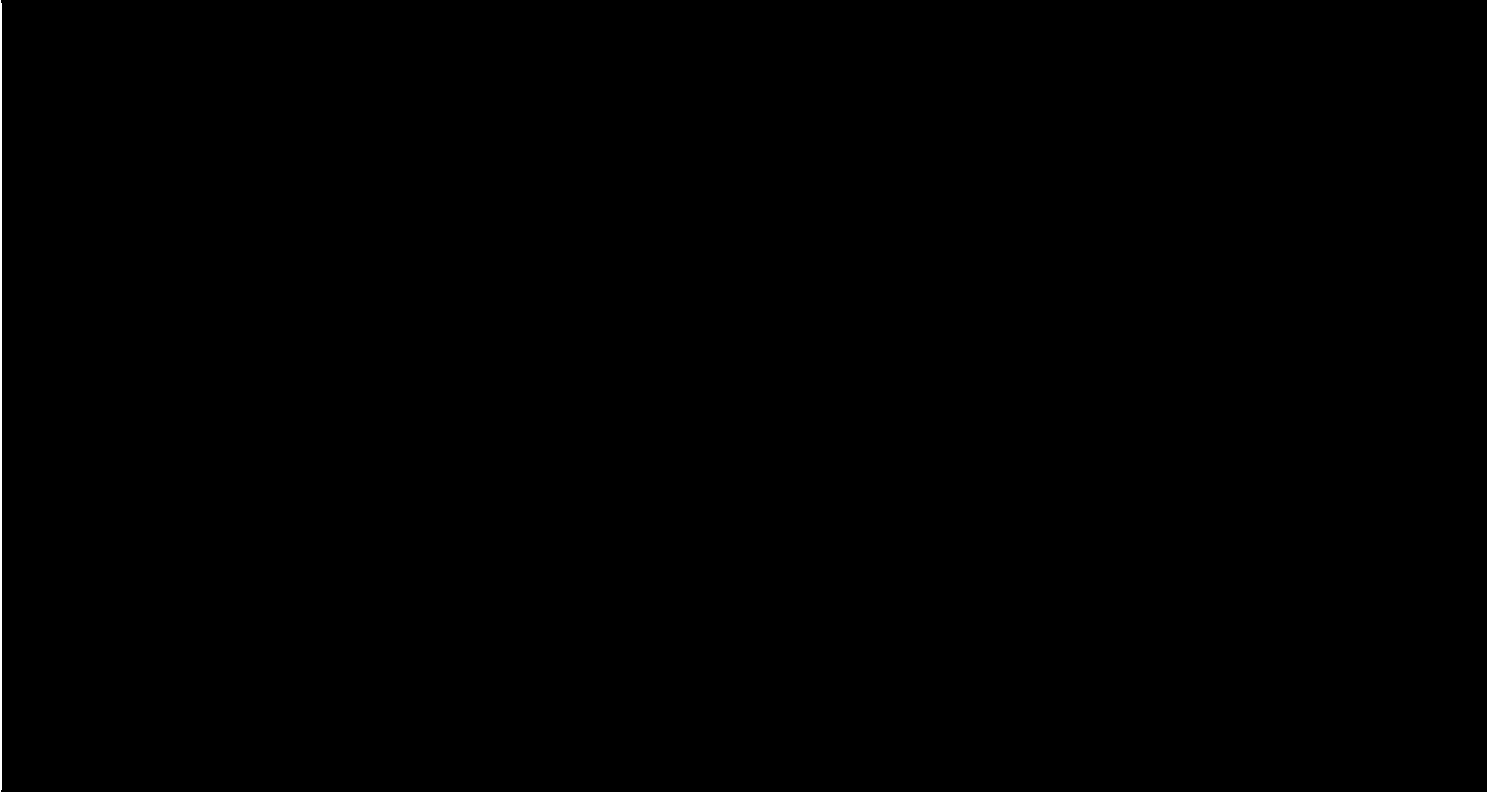
**Holy Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick:** For those who are sick and confined to home or those who are seriously ill, call the Parish Office for a priest to visit.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Couples planning to marry are to contact our Deacon at least six months before the desired date. Marriage preparation is required.

**Religious Vocations:** If you feel called to the Diocesan Priesthood or Religious Life, contact Fr. Carmen, Fr. Tom or Sr. Marlene.

**Inactive Catholics** are warmly welcomed back to our Faith. Call the Parish Office.

**New parishioners** are invited to join our Catholic community. Call the Parish Office.



**Pastoral Council Chairs**

Janice Simmons, St. Benedict the Moor Church  
Arlene Gallagher, Sue Pavick, Epiphany Church  
Interim Pastoral Council, St. Mary of Mercy Church

**Business Office Hours**

St. Benedict the Moor Church  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Epiphany Catholic Church  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
St. Mary of Mercy Church  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

***The Center City Parishes Membership Form***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:  New Registration  Change of Address  
 Moving Out of Parish  Need Envelopes

CHECK ONE:  
 St. Benedict the Moor  
 Epiphany  
 St. Mary of Mercy

Please drop membership form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory.

Note: Use of this form does not automatically register you with the church. You will be contacted to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

**CHURCH NAME: CENTER CITY PARISHES**

**CHURCH NO.: 042**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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Any special instructions go here.

We do not proofread pages 2 and 7. Please let us know if changes are ever made to these two pages.