



October 5, 2025

# SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church  
*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Reverend Timothy J. Sahd, Pastor

FrSahd@ssbvm.org

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

### DAILY MASS:

Monday: 8:00am  
Tuesday: 8:00am  
Wednesday: 8:30am  
Thursday: 6:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am  
Saturday: 8:00am

### SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday: 4:30pm  
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

### CONFESSIONS:

Thursday 5:00pm-5:45pm  
Saturday 7:15am-7:50am and  
3:30pm-4:15pm

### ADORATION: (in the Chapel)

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-10pm  
Friday: 9:00am-Noon



## — St. Monica — *Holy Hour* of Petition and Hope

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

7:00pm

The Holy Hour is a powerful and moving devotion, in which we gather to worship Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament, to ask for His Mercy, and to invoke St. Monica's intercession for the return of our brothers and sisters to the Faith.

PARISH: 280 N. Race Street; Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-3133 Phone | 717-944-1170 Fax | ssbvm.org

RECTORY HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm, Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

# A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Winning! We're all about winning and avoiding losing at all costs. In particular, we will avoid losing or failure with everything we have.

It's natural; we just don't want to suffer embarrassment or defeat. And there's nothing wrong with wanting to win. I'm such a huge fan of sports, and I really get into my teams and live and die with them winning. And I really like it when teams I do not like lose.

That's all for fun. And it's ok to want to be successful at work or school or in sports or hobbies. But when we carry that over to our Faith, it just doesn't work that way.

People will often come up to me and say, "if the Church wants to grow, it needs to change with the times and change its teachings." In this statement is the thought that the Church is "losing" because it may be smaller than it has been in the past. And the way to "win" -- or to grow -- is to change Jesus' Teachings to fit into our times.

First of all, the Church's Teachings -- which come from Jesus and the Apostles -- cannot change. Even if *everyone* left, we are Christians and follow Jesus, and His Teachings cannot be altered in any way.

But even more, the thinking that the Catholic Church needs to change in order to "win" is actually, well, losing right now.

So many people over the last year have asked to enter the Catholic Church. It's more than any time I've ever noticed as a priest. It's awesome! Don't believe me? It's happening all over the world. In France, 10,000 adults were baptized last Easter, a 45% increase from 2023. And in England, dioceses recorded the highest number of conversions in decades! And in our parish, inquiries for joining the Church come in every week, and our OCIA program is as big as it's been in decades. It is so awesome and exciting. We need a new photo directory because people are either coming back to the Church or they are becoming Catholic!

And why do they want to enter? I ask everyone who wants to join, and the most popular answer is this: "The Catholic Church is the only Church that has been around since the earthly time of Jesus, and it is the only Church which retains His Teachings."

What was once seen as a negative, is now a positive! Why? Because people want to find a place of reliability, stability, and peace amongst a world that is constantly changing, and causing all kinds of volatility. They want the Truth of Jesus!

It does not mean that the Church does not seek to answer the questions of the day. It certainly does! But what it does mean is that Jesus' Teachings are applied to our problems. Sometimes, they are easy to accept. And sometimes they are difficult.

But either way, because we are Christians, we follow HIM, and not our own desires. And the world is suddenly looking at this "stodgy old Church", and it finds peace. Wow!

Something is happening. The world is rediscovering the Church and the Truths of Jesus, and is coming to Him, especially young people. Please be welcoming to those who are new in our Church. They are seeking what we believe!

And, it can be a temptation to feel embarrassed by our Teachings. I know at times I wince at how different they can be to the teachings and dictates of the world.

But people are finding our Savior and His Church here at Seven Sorrows and throughout the world, so let's seek to deepen our understanding of the Truths of Jesus Christ and our desire to live them out, even if they are hard. Through it, Jesus works and brings peace, joy and unity to a broken world. And most of all, SALVATION! May it be through us!

God bless you,  
Fr. Sahd

## PARISH STAFF



## SCHOOL STAFF

### IN RESIDENCE

Rev. J. Weaver, Vocations Director - Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org

### PARISH MANAGER

Carole Larry - clarry@ssbvm.org

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS / BULLETIN CONTACT

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Kristin Stetler - kstetler@ssbvm.org

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lisa Fortunato - lfortunato@ssbvm.org

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joe Trojcek - joetrojcek@gmail.com

### PARISH SCHOOL

School Phone - 717-944-5371

Mrs. Angela Warner, Principal

### HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop McDevitt - 717-236-7973





## MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025**

Twenty - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Johnny and Francie Goffhus  
10:30 am +Bob Dobosh  
6:00 pm +Joe Souders

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025** St. Bruno

8:00 am +Bud Speaker

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025** Our Lady of Rosary

8:00 am +Special Intentions of Angelo Licata

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025**

8:30 am +Charlie Stare

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025**

St. Denis and St. John Leonardi

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm **CONFESSION**  
6:00 pm +Charles Stare

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025**

8:00 am +Deceased Members of the Metallo Family

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025** St. John XXIII

7:15 am -7:50 am **CONFESSION**  
8:00 am +Ronald Pristello  
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **CONFESSION**  
4:30 pm +Charles Steven Gerhards

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025**

Twenty - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Our Parish Family  
10:30 am +Deceased Members of CCW  
6:00 pm +Robert Morenei



## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Oct. 5	Hab.1:2-3;2:2-4(141C)/2Tim.1:6-8,13-14/Lk17:5-10
Mon. Oct. 6	Jonah 1:1-2::2, 11 / Lk 10:25-37
Tue. Oct. 7	Jonah 3:1-10 / Lk 10:38-42
Wed. Oct. 8	Jonah 4: 1-11 / Lk 11:1-4
Thu. Oct. 9	Mal 3:13-20b / Lk 11:5-13
Fri. Oct. 10	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2 / Lk 11:15-26
Sat. Oct. 11	Joel 4:12-21 / Lk11:27-28
Sun. Oct. 12	2 Kings 5:14-17(144C)/2Tim 2:8-13/ Lk17:11-19



## PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar and pulpit this weekend are in honor of the

69th wedding anniversary of STAN and JANE JURGILL  
May God continue to bless you today and always.

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary for special occasions or in memory of a loved one. For more details call Deborah Breon at 717-986-1959.



## SUNDAY OFFERING

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR 9 - 28 - 2025

SUNDAY GIVING \$11,029.00  
ONLINE GIVING \$ 3,093.00  
TOTAL \$14,122.00



Scan for Online Giving

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC)

2025 DAC GOAL: \$187,283

**THANK YOU!** In pledges and cash, we have surpassed our DAC goal of \$187,283! However, we have nearly \$31,000 in unpaid pledges. Thank you for continuing to pay your DAC pledges throughout the remainder of the year so that we can indeed reach our goal. God bless you



## THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**

8:00 am Photo Directory Appointments Narthex  
9:15 am Religious Ed School (early dismissal at 10am)  
10:30 am Outdoor Mass Hoffer Park  
1:00 pm Bible Study Drexel Room  
4:00 pm Youth Open Gym Gym

**MONDAY OCTOBER 6**

6:00 pm Legion of Mary Legion of Mary Room  
6:30 pm PTT Meeting Library  
6:30 pm Bible Study Drexel Room

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 7**

7:00 pm KOC Meeting Drexel Room  
7:00 pm Scout Meeting Cafeteria

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8**

5:30 pm Youth Girls Basketball Gym  
5:30 pm Choir Practice Church  
6:15 pm Off the Streets Library  
7:00 pm Saint Monica Holy Hour Church

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 9**

8:30 am Church Cleaners Team #3  
6:30 pm Mental Health Ministry Rectory

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 10**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 11**

6:45 am TMIY Cafeteria  
4:30 pm Photo Directory Appointments Narthex  
4:30 pm Boxes of Joy Narthex

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 12**

8:00 am Boxes of Joy Narthex  
8:00 am Photo Directory Appointments Narthex  
1:00 pm Bible Study Drexel Room  
4:00 pm Youth Open Gym Gym



## BAPTISM

Our Parish Family rejoices and welcomes  
**Andrew Lee Hartman**

Child of Taylor and Madison Hartman  
who was baptized by Water and the Spirit.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER OUR MILITARY

We would like to keep our parishioners and loved ones on **active** military in our thoughts and prayers. Please provide the following information & call the parish office.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
MAJ	Sam Herbert	Army
GYSGT	Brendon J. Parkhill	Marines
	Mackenzie Mehalick	Navy
1st Lt.	Luke Mrakovich	Marines
Sgt.	Corbin Stetler	ARNG
AG1	Stephen Boyland	Navy
CPT	Noah Bamert	Army
CPT	Andrew T. Lavelle	Army
2nd Lt.	Mark E. Lavelle	Army
1st Lt.	Phillip Bertovic	Army
Lt Col	Todd Campbell	Air Force
CPT	Edward C. Stene	USAR
1st Lt	Nicholas Campbell	Marines
TSgt.	Brittany MacBlane	USAF

## SENIOR MINISTRY

**Historic Walking Tour. October 6 at 10 am at the Middletown Cemetery.** Meet at the Monument/Cannon. We'll explore the past & discuss the influence on today. Dining to follow at the Brownstone.

**October Game Night Bash SIGNUPS. October 11-12 in the Narthex. Look for the purple covered table.** Signups for October 23 Game Night & the dessert/snack/munchies you'll be bringing to the event.

**Senior Ministry Reorganization Meeting. October 15 at 5:30 pm. Drexel Room.**

## COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

A sincere note of thanks to all who delivered Meals on Wheels to the shut-ins of our community in September. Your help is greatly appreciated. God bless you for your goodness.

**OCTOBER IS PRO-LIFE MONTH.** Beginning this weekend there will be a basinet in the Narthex for donations of "NEW" baby items for Morningstar Pregnancy Services.

**BOXES OF JOY**, through which Christmas gifts are sent to children in need, will be distributed by CCW members on October 11/12 after masses in the Narthex. The filled boxes must be returned the weekend of October 26/27.



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** Any woman age 18 and older is invited to join. Please consider joining Seven Sorrows Council of Catholic women

## THAT MAN IS YOU

Join us for coffee & donuts, fellowship and faith every Saturday 6:45 am in the cafeteria. All men are welcome. Learn more at [tmiy.org](http://tmiy.org) or email Martin Ciccocioppo at [martincicc@verizon.net](mailto:martincicc@verizon.net).

## Extra Ordinary and Lector Schedule October 11/12

4:30pm - E. and S. Bell, T. and K. Wilson

Lector - A. Bell

8:00am - M. LoDuca, R. Angelucci, P. Fraley, P. Sheaffer

Lector - D. Kandsberger

10:30am - K. Shreiner, C. and M. Astfalk, D. Barnoski

Lector - F. Shreiner

Schedule is on the website and posted in the Alb Room

## NEED TO KNOW



**Giving Tree** If you know of anyone from the Middletown area who is in need of help this Christmas, please have them call the Parish office, NO later than October 24th. The Giving Tree will be placed in the Narthex on the weekend of October 25/26

**Church Directory Update!** We would love for you to be a part of it! Our scheduling process has begun. You will be able to choose a date and time for your private photo session. The sessions will run Nov. 4 - 8, and the weekend of Nov 28-29. Everyone that is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory. Sign up for your photo session after masses in the Narthex or scan the QR code.



## Ministry Volunteers Needed – Dauphin County Prison

Inspired by Jesus' words, "I was in prison and you visited me," the Pastoral Ministry Team at Dauphin County Prison seeks caring and committed disciples to serve alongside them. Volunteers share Christ's love by assisting at Mass, serving as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, offering prayer, scripture reflection, and compassionate presence to those who are incarcerated. Prayerfully consider whether you are called to this vital ministry of mercy. Please get in touch with Deacon Francis "Hank" Skorija at 717-775-4669



## "BEHOLD! A Conference for the Family of God"

Everyone is invited to an exciting new event in October. Whether you are young or old, new to the faith, rooted in our Catholic traditions, or even feel yourself drifting away, BEHOLD! has something for you.

Join Bishop Senior and our keynote, Bishop Frank Caggiano, along with our dynamic breakout speakers, and musical entertainment, The Scally Brothers, for a full day of faith, fellowship, and fun on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at Holy Name of Jesus parish in Harrisburg. Register today at [hbgdiocese.org/behold](http://hbgdiocese.org/behold).

## MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

### Mental Wellness

<i>Glimmers</i>	are the opposite of triggers.	watching sunrise/sunset
They are tiny moments that make you feel		a kind interaction,
joy, happiness, gratitude and peace		a soft blanket
that cue our nervous system to feel		cool breeze on warm day
safe, calm and connected.		the sound of rain
		feeling the sun on your face
		holding a puppy

Embrace them. It's a beautiful way to see the world around you.



# RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education  
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato

ssbvm.org/Education  
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

SSBVM Catholic School  
Principal - Angela Warner

Sevensorrowsschool.com  
awarner@ssbvm.org

10/12/25 - No Class

10/19/25:

9:00am 8th Gr Confirmation Meeting/Church  
9:15am Class/10:15am Dismissal

Jr. High Corn Maze:

Permission Slips Needed.



Join us!  
SEVEN SORROWS  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
TRUNK OR TREAT  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24  
6:00 - 7:30 PM  
FOOD TRUCK, TACO STAND & MORE  
Would you like to host a trunk for this event?  
Register here: [bit.ly/SSBVM25TRUNKS](https://bit.ly/SSBVM25TRUNKS)



**Substitute Teachers** - experienced Teachers needed for substitute days.

**After School Aide** 3:30pm - 5:30pm any day Monday - Friday

**Cafeteria** - We need help serving lunches between 10:30am - 12:30pm any day of the week, No experience necessary.

**Diocesan Clearances are needed for all positions. Contact principal Angela Warner if interested in any of the positions.**

**Open Enrollment at Seven Sorrows BVM School!**

We have a few openings left in our preschool through 8th grade classroom for the upcoming school year. Current SSBVM school families are encouraged to share the gift of Catholic education-refer a friend and receive a \$250 tuition credit. Want to learn more about the SSBVM Difference? Schedule a tour today! <https://bit.ly/SSBVMTOUR>. For more information, visit [www.sevensorrowsschool.com](http://www.sevensorrowsschool.com)

## RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to the mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6)

God can do great things even with the smallest acts of faith. If you feel a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life, have faith that God will provide the strength to follow His will.

Talk to Father Sahd or reach out to Father Weaver at the Vocations Office: [Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org)

  
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