



# The Immaculate Conception

## A Holy Day of Obligation

December 8, 2025  
6:30am, 8:30am (school)  
Noon & 6:00pm

December 7, 2025

# SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church  
*2nd Sunday of Advent*

Reverend Timothy J. Sahd, Pastor

FrSahd@ssbvm.org

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

#### DAILY MASS:

Monday: 6:30am, 8:30am, Noon, 6pm  
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 & Tuesday: 9:00am-10:00pm  
Wednesday: 10:00am-10:00pm  
Friday: 9:00am-Noon



### Parish *Time of Confessions*

"Prepare the Way of the Lord."  
Isaiah 40:3

Sunday, December 14th @ 2:00pm  
Many priests in attendance

### Bambinelli Sunday

December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Bring your Baby Jesus' from your home  
Creches to Mass on the weekend of  
Dec. 13-14 to be blessed.

In Italy, this is called Bambinelli Sunday, because the  
"Bambinelli" is the name for Baby Jesus in Italian.

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,

We are growing closer to the great Feast of Christmas! And there are a ton of traditions we all have to mark these days.

Perhaps you go to Christmas Candylane at Hershey. Or maybe you go to the display at Stone Gables Estates in Elizabethtown. Or if you bake peanut butter cookies with the Hershey Kiss in them (I don't get a kickback from Hershey, I promise!). Or maybe you put up your decorations early (and watch the inflatables deflate every day!).

Whatever it may be, this time of year is so special.

But we truly cannot celebrate Christmas unless we have traditions that help us mark the birth of Our Savior. All of the lights, cookies, decorations, music – whatever – exists because of THAT BIRTH. And NOTHING ELSE.

And if God being given human flesh is the event we are celebrating, how do we prepare?

First, we have a tradition of blessing the baby Jesus' from your home nativity sets. Please bring them next Sunday so that we may bless them and see how beautiful they are!

Also – and more importantly -- as John the Baptist said in today's Gospel, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand" (John 3:2). We prepare by asking forgiveness of God first. And the way we do that is the Sacrament of Confession.

The hours for Confession are normal (see the front of the bulletin), but we will add our twice-yearly parish time of confession NEXT SUNDAY at 2PM. We will have a lot of priests to hear confessions, so please come and be prepared for the birth of Our Savior.

And as the Gospels of these last weeks have also told us, this is also a time to prepare for that day when we will meet Him again. We want to run to Him when we meet Him, and the only way to run to Him is to run to Him now and ask Him for forgiveness.

I know it is so hard, but please know that Jesus WANTS you to bring to Him your sins, even the ones you are most scared of talking about. He WANTS you to be free from them, so that you are no longer living in shame and darkness. That is what sin does to us. When we are free, we run to Him! Not away from Him!

Please take advantage of this time of confessions. If you can't make it Sunday, please come to our other scheduled times!

But Confession is not our only preparation. John later says in today's Gospel, we must show "good fruit as evidence of your repentance" (Matthew 3:8). In other words, once we are freed from sin, we must live as though we are members of Jesus' Body. We must serve others in love and in truth. Our Catholicism is not just lived out in the Confessional and at Mass, although it starts there. It is lived as we go home and to work and to the store as well.

God bless you, and as you prepare for Christmas, I pray you feel the warmth and love of Jesus. You will feel Him if you take advantage of the Sacraments He offers!

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

Tina D'Angelo - tdangelo@ssbvm.org  
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, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am Our Parish Family  
10:30 am +Mae Licata  
6:00 pm +Anna Schmeltzer

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:30 am +James Paros  
8:30 am +Mario Corradi  
12:00 pm +Gizella Ferstinger Koor and Family  
6:00pm +Anne and Milton Bilger

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 St Juan Diego**

8:00 am +Jerry Guy

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025 Our Lady of Loreto**

8:30 am +Charlie Stare

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 St. Damasus**

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm **CONFESSION**

6:00 pm +Denise Pilsitz Breskosky

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00 am +Special Intentions of Linda Justice

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 St. Lucy**

7:15 am -7:50 am **CONFESSION**

8:00 am +Joe Sullivan

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **CONFESSION**

4:30 pm +Bob Douglass

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am +Charles Steven Gerhards  
10:30 am Our Parish Family  
6:00 pm +James "Butch" Douglass



## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec 7	Isa 11:1-10(4A) / Rom 15:4-9 / Matt 3:1-12
Mon. Dec 8	Gen3:9-15,20(689)/ Eph1:3-6,11-12/ Lk 1:28
Tue. Dec. 9	Isa 40:1-11 / Matt 18:12-14
Wed. Dec. 10	Isa 40:25-31 / Matt 11:28-30
Thu. Dec. 11	Isa 41:13-20 / Matt 11:11-15
Fri. Dec. 12	Rev 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab(690A) / Luke 1:39-47
Sat. Dec. 13	Sir 48:1-4,9-11 / Matt 17:9a,,10-13
Sun. Dec. 14	Isa 35:1-6a,10 (7A)/James 5:7-10/Matt 11:2-11



## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Elaine Carter

BJ Smertneck

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



## SUNDAY OFFERING

**THE SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR 11 - 23/30- 2025**

	November 23	November 30
Sunday Giving	\$14,695.00	\$11,467.00
Online Giving	\$ 4,761.00	\$ 6,007.00
**QCD	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$20,656.00	\$19,474.00

**\*\*QCD - Qualified Charitable Distribution is a withdrawal from an individual retirement account (IRA) that's made directly to an eligible charity, such as our parish. In many cases, IRA account holders can contribute some or all to a charity. This strategy allows one to transfer funds from their IRA directly to a charity without being counted as taxable income**



## THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7**

8:00 am KOC Ornament **Narthex**  
9:00 am Advent Penance Service (gr. 3,4,5)  
9:15 am Religious Education  
10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**  
11:30 am Children's Rosary **Church**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 8**

6:00 pm Legion of Mary  
7:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 9**

5:00 pm Novice Boys Basketball **Gym**  
6:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball **Gym**  
6:00 pm Senior Ministry Meeting **Drexel Room**  
6:30 pm PTT Meeting **Library**  
7:00 pm Scouts **Cafeteria**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10**

5:00 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**  
6:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**  
6:15 pm Off the Streets **Zoom meeting**  
6:30 pm Choir Practice  
7:00 pm Varsity Girls Basketball **Gym**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 11**

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team #2**  
5:30 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**  
6:30 pm OCIA **Library**  
6:30 pm Mental Health Support **Rectory**  
7:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball **Gym**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 12**

5:30 pm Novice Boys Basketball **Gym**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 13**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14**

8:30 am Breakfast with Santa **Cafeteria**  
9:00 am Religious Ed Penance Service (Grades 6,7,8)  
9:15 am Religious Education  
10:30am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**  
2:00 pm Parish Penance Service **Church**



## REMEMBER IN PRAYERS 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
ACI	Trey Kephart	USAF

## SENIOR MINISTRY

**HOLY MASS & CHRISTMAS CAROLING at OAK HILL VILLAGE** - December 10 at 11am in the OHV Chapel. Mass celebrated by Father Sahd & Holiday Singing with the residents immediately following.

### CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON

**Paid Reservations Only.** December 16 at 1pm at the Middletown American Legion.

**GAME NIGHT** -January 22 after 6pm Mass, weather permitting.

## MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



### Spiritual Support Group

2nd Thursday of every month.

**Dec. 11 at 6:30 pm**

Parish Living Room

Mental Health Ministry  
Seven Sorrows BVM

**Saint Ann Byzantine Catholic Church Christmas Bake Sale** on Saturday, December 13th from 9am to 12noon. Homemade nut rolls will be available for \$12 each with walnut, poppy seed, and apricot fillings, first come first served. The parish gift shop will be open with a wide selection of religious, ethnic, and Christmas items. Frozen pierohi will be \$7 a dozen and kielbasa rings will be \$8 each.



### "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" - Proverbs 3:5-6

If you or a loved one would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please reach out to:

Donna Jennings at 717-566-3184 or via email at [djennings2095@comcast.net](mailto:djennings2095@comcast.net).



## NEED TO KNOW

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
**Church Photo Directory**  
**You still can be a part of it!**  
December 26-27 will be the last two days the photographer will be available. Everyone that is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory. Scan the QR code to schedule your photo session.

Church Code: **pa1213**  
Church Password: **photos**



**BREAKFAST WITH Santa**  
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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
VISIT & PHOTO OP WITH SANTA  
CHILDREN'S CRAFT & CHRISTMAS TREAT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025**  
SSBVM SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**RSVP BY DEC 12**  
COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED





**The Bishop McDevitt Pro-life Club** is holding a fundraiser for their bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington.

**The Wharf on Derry St.**  
**Thursday, December 18**  
**4pm - 9 pm.**

If you tell the waiter or bartender you're here for the Pro-Life Club, 10% of your bill will go towards the cost of their bus. For questions or additional donation options for the Pro-Life Club's bus, contact Felicity Astfalk at [fpastfalk@gmail.com](mailto:fpastfalk@gmail.com) or (717)-497-0080.

### EGG Season 2026

40 & 48oz Jif Creamy PB Goal: 1000 To Date: 288





# RAISING DISCIPLES

**Religious Education  
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato**

ssbvm.org/Education  
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

12/07/25 - Class/Advent Penance Svc 3, 4 & 5  
12/15/25 - Sacrament Forms due 2nd & 8th gr.  
12/14/25 - Class/Advent Penance Svc 6, 7 & 8  
12/21/25 - Group Christmas Party

## Support the Heart of Mary Fund

The Heart of Mary Fund helps Seven Sorrows BVM School provide tuition assistance, improve academic programs, and enhance the spiritual and educational experience for every student. Your generosity directly strengthens our parish school and supports families who desire a Catholic education.



To make a gift, scan the QR code or visit  
SevenSorrowsSchool.com and click  
"Donate."  
Thank you for investing in the future of  
our children!

**SSBVM Catholic School  
Principal - Angela Warner**

Sevensorrowsschool.com  
awarner@ssbvm.org

## Seven Sorrows Distinguished Graduate Award

SCAN ME



Alumni of Seven Sorrows and other supporters of our school are invited to nominate school alumni for the annual Seven Sorrows Distinguished Graduate Award. Award recipients are notified during Catholic Schools Week and will be recognized and honored at the School Gala on March 21, 2026. Nominations are due by January 5, 2026 via the online form where you will also find a description of suggested nomination criteria. <https://forms.gle/CgdDuvRooCmrqFrt9>

After School Aide 3:30pm - 5:30pm any day Mon.- Fri.  
Diocesan Clearances are needed. Contact principal Angela Warner

# RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2)

John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children.

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



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