

Joy



December 14, 2025

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

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 & Tuesday: 9:00am-10:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am-10:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-Noon



Christmas Mass *Schedule*

Christmas Eve Masses
4:00pm, 7:00pm &
9:00pm (Candlelight)

Christmas Day Mass
10:30am, No 6:00pm

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,

I pray your Advent is going well. Today (Sunday) is our parish time of confessions. Please consider attending and receiving Jesus' Love and Mercy and His healing power through this great Sacrament.

If it's been awhile since you've been to Confession, please don't worry! Many Catholics do not go to Confession often, or even rarely. Many of us feel as though it's another "option." I felt that way. It is not; it's actually essential to our life in Jesus!

Here are some questions you may have if it's been a long time since you've been to Confession.

"It's been so long, I don't know what I'm supposed to do"

- Don't worry! We'll have a cheat sheet available that will have the order of Penance, and also the prayer we must pray (The Act of Contrition). Even if you are confused with this information, the priest will ALWAYS help you.

In addition, you do not need to put together a whole presentation. Just list your sins, and the frequency of times (if possible, specifically, but generically if not possible to be specific). A confession is not meant to be a long conversation. It must be short so that others may attend without having to wait a long time or getting told to leave because there wasn't enough time.

"The priest will yell at me if it's been a long time, or if I say something bad."

- I can speak for myself, but I also know most every priest feels this way: We are blown away by your humility to attend Confession. Instead of judging you, we are grateful for your witness of Faith, and your example is powerful for us. Remember, we go to confession too, and want to feel Jesus' love and mercy, so we have the same worries you do, and we seek to alleviate them!

"I don't know what sins I am supposed to confess."

- We'll have an "Examination of Conscience" which will help you see what sins you may need to confess. Remember, we don't need to confess EVERY sin we've committed since our last confession. We MUST confess mortal sins (they are serious, we know they are serious, and we freely chose to do them). We CAN confess venial sins (less serious), especially those which we struggle with consistently.

I hope this helps! Please do not worry – it may be hard to get up the courage to go, but when you do go, you'll feel free, and you'll be so glad you went! Trust me, I know because I refused to go for 18 years before returning! And I'm so glad I did.

THANK YOU – LIVE NATIVITY

I cannot thank everyone involved with the Live Nativity enough for all they did to put on such a beautiful and prayerful event. We had over 700 people attend over the two hours, and many were moved to tears with the beauty of the night.

They may have thought they were moved by the nativity scene itself or the church or the star pretzels (!), but they were really moved by Jesus Christ! And I'm so grateful that all of our volunteers made themselves the face of Jesus to our visitors. Thank you!

Our Joseph and Mary this year were John and Jacqueline Punako. I asked them to write about why they chose to volunteer, and what they got out of the event:

"For both of us, it was an honor and a pleasure. It was truly meaningful for us to be able to participate in this together, and we found it to be a beautiful reminder of the Holy Family's love, faith, and simplicity. It also gave us the opportunity to slow down in this busy season and spend a moment focusing on the heart of the Christmas story. We were grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of something so special and to share in the spirit of the season with our parish community!"

John and Jacqueline helped others see Jesus, and through witnessing to their Faith, they found new friends and deepened their relationship with our parish and Jesus.

Thank you so much to Lisa Fortunato and Kate Warnagiris, who spearheaded this event, and the MANY parishioners who helped in any way.

Jesus is truly alive here at Seven Sorrows! May God bless you!
Fr. Sahn

PARISH 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

SCHOOL STAFF

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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

8:00 am +Frank and Peggy Matinchek

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

8:00 am +Don Jennings

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

8:30 am +Bonita Markus Berstler

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

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

6:00 pm Special Intentions of Bob and Diane McNulty and Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

8:00 am +Milton and Anne Bilger

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

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

8:00 am +Phyllis Gravino

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

4:30 pm +Vince Varankar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am +Tom Misheck

10:30 am +Shawn Maydak

6:00 pm Our Parish Family



DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec 14	Isa 35:1-6a,10 (7A) / James 5:7-10 / Matt 11:2-11
Mon. Dec 15	Num 24:2-7,15-17a / Matt 21:23-27
Tue. Dec. 16	Zeph 3:1-2,9-13 / Matt 21:28-32
Wed. Dec. 17	Gen 49:2,8-10 / Matt 1:1-17
Thu. Dec. 18	Jer 23:5-8 / Matt 1:18-25
Fri. Dec. 19	Judg 13:2-7, 24-25a / Luke 1:5-25
Sat. Dec. 20	Isa 7:10-14 / Luke 1:26-38
Sun. Dec. 21	Isa 7:10-14(10A) / Rom1:1-7 / Matt 1:18-24

Altar 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.



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Rosemarie Zeiser

Canaan Joyful Demko – Hawkins

(great grandchild of Brian and Janie Demko)

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



SUNDAY OFFERING

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR 12- 7- 2025

Sunday Giving \$17,687.00

Online Giving \$ 5,974.00

Total \$23,661.00



Scan for Online Giving

Tuition Angel Donation

Designate your Tuition Angel donation to a relative or family in need. Your donation can go to a school family or Religious Ed family. Mark the designated family's name on the envelope.

THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

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**

MONDAY DECEMBER 15

6:00 pm Legion of Mary

7:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

5:00 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**

6:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**

6:30 pm Choir Practice

7:00 pm Varsity Girls Basketball **Gym**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team #4**

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

6:30 pm OCIA **Library**

7:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball **Gym**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19

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

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

4:30 pm Off the Street Donation House **Narthex**

4:30 pm CCW Bake Sale **Narthex**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

8:00 am Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex**
(after all Masses)

8:00 am CCW Bake Sale **Narthex**
(after all Masses)

9:15 am Religious Education

10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**



BAPTISM

Our Parish Family rejoices and welcomes
Vivian Harper Lauria

Child of Michael and Brittany Lauria
who was baptized by Water and the Spirit.



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

CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON -
Paid Reservations Only. December 16 at 1pm at the Middletown American Legion. Join us in the Spirit of Giving. We will be collecting canned food items for our Middletown neighbors. Please bring a **CANNED FOOD ITEM** to donate to a needy community member. Our Senior Ministry Committee will make the arrangements to have these generous donations taken to the local Food Pantry. Thank You for your Kindness!

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION DINNER - Gilligan's Bar & Grill. January 24, 2026 after Evening Mass.
More Details Coming Soon!

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Bake Sale will be held after Masses on December 20/21
All donations from our parish bakers are welcome.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



Joy is different than Happiness.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

It is present in every moment.

It's an *attitude* of the heart and spirit,
wrapped in peace.

It is limitless and transformative,
requiring the utmost *surrender*.

Joy transforms difficult times into blessings
and heartaches into gratitude.

Joy is a choice.



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**



Parish Rosary Making

Join us to make Rosaries for the Missions in the school Art room., Sunday, December 28 anytime from 11:30AM to 4:00PM. If you make two for the Missions, you can make one for yourself! Adults are welcome.

Seven Sorrows Distinguished Graduate Award 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>

Experience the joyful Advent season of the coming of Christ by reflecting on the Gospels, meditating on the music, and experiencing the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. A perfect time for us to reflect on our journey as we welcome Christ into our hearts. Join us and Mark Forrest, Irish Tenor, for this evening of prayer.

St. Peter Catholic Church
904 Mill Rd

Elizabethtown

Monday, December 15

7:00pm

THE EPIPHANY ITALIAN MASS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 AT 12:15 PM SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

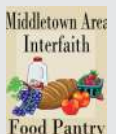
212 State Street, Harrisburg

Reverend Joshua Brommer, Celebrant

Please join us for the Holy Mass, Italian reception after Mass.

For information please contact: Maria DiSanto at 717-554-5698
disanto1@comcast.net or Mariella Amato at 717-278-9420

Middletown Food Pantry is in need of canned soup - chicken noodle, tomato, and vegetable are the favorites, but any flavors are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.



RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato

ssbvm.org/Education
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

CALENDAR:

12/14/25 - Class/Advent Penance Svc 6, 7 & 8th
12/21/25 - Class Christmas Party
12/28/25 - No Class
01/04/26 - No Class

SACRAMENT FORMS DUE

12/15/25 - 2nd & 8th Grade Sacrament Forms Due

JR. HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (6th, 7th & 8th)

01/17/25 - Paramount Sports Complex (Saturday 4:00pm - 9:00pm)

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)



John's question invites us to seek God's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice.

Talk to Father Sahd or reach out to Father Weaver at the Vocations Office at Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org

SSBVM Catholic School
Principal - Angela Warner

Sevensorrowsschool.com
awarner@ssbvm.org

Congratulations to the following Seven Sorrows school students in Grades 4th – 8th on their academic achievements for the 1st marking period of this school year.

Distinguished Honors: Miriam Astfalk, Clare Breen, Joseph Kennedy, Jaimesyn Wells, Jacob Astfalk, Ella Dale, Jesus Melendrez, Gianna Accorsi, Andrew Bolesky, Chris Nagassou, Adelyn Rogati, Aela Mulhearn, Christian Bordner, Charles Dale **Honor Roll:** Celia Bolesky, Clare Simon, Luca Atkins-Carricato, Brooklynn Barnes, Diego Flores-Garcia, Brynley Eddy, Emily Navarro, Claire Roda, Dalton Underhill, Ava Vickery, Mya Williams, Joseph Breen, Maria Hronis, Panayioti Hronis, Landon Matson, Luke Thomas, Jacqueline Barajas, Alexandra Bolesky, Colton Bordner, Emmanuel Melendrez, Phoebe Milkovich, Blake Underhill, Shiloh Benitez, Lilyaunah Bonner, Timothy Breen, Prynceton Cunningham, David Ferguson, Gennaro Ferrufino, Kinsley Intrieri, Maggie Krieg, Alex Nunez, Andrew Rogati **Virtue recognition for Kindness** Our School's Virtue recognition for the Month of November was Kindness. Congratulations to the following SSBVM Students (K5-8th) and Teachers who were nominated by their teachers and coworkers for exemplifying Kindness: Cameron Russ, Danahe' Hinojosa, Brynn Murphy, Natalie Guy, Katherine Dale, Simon Kennedy, Maggie Krieg, Timothy Breen, Luke Thomas, Mya Williams and Ms. Laurie Still.


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