

Baptismal site of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by his cousin, John the Baptist

January 11, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

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

CONFESIONS:

Thursday: 5:00pm-5:45pm

Saturday: 7:15-7:50am and 3:30-4:15pm

ADORATION: (in the Chapel)

Monday: 9:00am-10:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am-10pm

Wednesday: 10:00am-10:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am-10:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-Noon



EGG Production Hours

To all current volunteers:

We begin rolling, dipping and bagging on
Monday January 19th, 2026

Monday: 8:30am-11:30am

Tuesday: 8:30am-11:30am

12:00-4:00pm

Wednesday: 8:30am-11:30am

12:00-2:30pm

Thursday: 8:30am-11:30am

NEW volunteers are welcome to join us!

Please email Lisa Fortunato

[lfortunato@ssbvm.org](mailto:@lfortunato@ssbvm.org) or leave a message with
the parish office @ 717-944-3133.

Discover additional ways to help:



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,

During Christmas, we celebrate so many Feast Days: The Holy Family; Mary, Mother of God; Epiphany; and several Saints Feast Days. Today is another: The Baptism of Our Lord!

Today is actually a day of Ordinary Time, and not the Christmas season, but this Feast Day of Jesus' baptism means we hold off on Ordinary Time for one more day. We have this Feast on the first Sunday of Ordinary Time because this was the event that kicked off Jesus' three years of public ministry.

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, at a place that is near Jericho, the ancient city in the Bible that Israel invaded by blowing horns and the city walls came tumbling down.

Jericho is now in the West Bank, which is a Palestinian-controlled territory in Israel. The location of Jesus' baptism is also on the Jordan River, and on the other bank of the river is the country of Jordan.



Here is a picture of the site of Jesus' baptism, on the river. The river is not wide AT ALL. It's not even as wide as the Swatara Creek!

I think I have spoken before that, when I was visiting the awesome site, there were guards on the Jordan side that were holding machine guns.

This is a very tense territory. There are so many competing interests. It seems like this would not be in the spirit of what Jesus' baptism represents, which is Peace and Forgiveness.

But we have to remember that Jesus entered a world that was divided, and even at His baptism, there were people there who did not like John the Baptist (and he called them out!). There was division then, and there is division now.

But that didn't stop Jesus from being present in the messiness, in the division, in the war. Jesus entered right into it. Just like today, He enters with His Divinity, His Holiness, His Mercy, into the disasters of our world today, whether that is in our own lives, our families, our parish, our country or world.

The presence of division and war does not mean He is not here. It just means that we make a mess of what we've been given, no matter the century or day. It does mean that He is always present, and desires for us to recognize His presence in the disasters of our day. Do we run for Him, do we seek Him out, or ignore Him (as the leaders of Jesus' day did)?

Happy Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, and may it re-ignite our desire to allow Jesus to change us from our unsettledness to His Peace, just as He did on the day of our baptism!

A Steeler blessing?

After the Steelers/Ravens game, in which the Steelers won in a crazy fashion, you may have seen that a priest blessed the field with Holy Water before the game. Here's a photo of him doing it:

The announcer said that the priest blessed just that end zone (where the Steelers eventually won the game). St. Vincent College, where he lives, wrote that Father Max and the other priests there always bless the field before every game, asking God for the safety of the players of both teams.

It just so happens that the Steelers won! Does that mean the blessing worked? Well, for me as a Steeler fan, yes! But God is glorified when we live to our fullest. Our God is with the winners and the losers, as attested by the Ravens kicker, who missed the game-winning field goal. He said after the game that he knows that "God's got his back," no matter what! How true! 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

Tina D'Angelo - tdangelo@ssbvm.org
Kristin Stetler - kstetler@ssbvm.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lisa Fortunato - lfortunato@ssbvm.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joe Trojcak - joetrojcak@gmail.com

PARISH SCHOOL



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am +Andrew and Helen Hyduk
10:30 am Our Parish Family
6:00 pm +Ann Savidge

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

8:00 am +Charles Cole

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 St. Hilary

8:00 am +Anthony Horney

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

8:30 am +Lawrence Gustin

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm CONFESSION

6:00 pm +Vince Varankar

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

8:00 am +Art Gutierrez

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026 St. Anthony

7:15 am -7:50 am CONFESSION

8:00 am +Gene DeCamp

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm CONFESSION

4:30 pm +Richard Ste. Marie

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Mario Corradi

10:30 am +William Arch

6:00 pm Our Parish Family

DAILY READINGS

Sun. Jan 11	Isa 42:1-4,6-7 (21ABC) / Acts 10:34-38 /Matt 3:13-17 (21A)
Mon. Jan 12	1 Sam 1:1-8 / Mark 1:14-20
Tue. Jan 13	1 Sam 1:9-20 / Mark 1:21-28
Wed. Jan 14	1 Sam 3:1-10,19-20 / Mark 1:29-39
Thu. Jan 15	1 Sam 4:1-11 / Mark 1:40-45
Fri. Jan 16	1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a / Mark 2:1-12
Sat. Jan. 17	1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1 / Mark 2:13-17
Sun. Jan 18	Isa 49:3,5-6(64) / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34



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.

Can't make Mass?

If you or someone you know is unable to attend Mass for a short period of time or extended time, due to recuperation, age or housebound, please call the Church Office.



SUNDAY OFFERING

December 28, 2025

Sunday Giving \$17,688.00

Online Giving \$4,480.00

Total \$22,168.00

January 4, 2026

\$15,027.00

\$6,601.25

\$21,628.25



Christmas Collection \$51,142.00

Flower Collection \$2,906.00

Scan for Online Giving



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY

JANUARY 11

9:15 am Religious Education

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

1:00 pm Little Dribblers Gym

MONDAY

JANUARY 12

6:00 pm Legion of Mary

7:00 pm JV Girls Basketball Gym

TUESDAY

JANUARY 13

5:00 pm Novice Boys Basketball Gym

6:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball Gym

6:00 pm Senior Ministry Meeting Drexel Room

7:00 pm Scouts Cafeteria

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

5:00 pm Novice Girls Basketball Gym

6:00 pm JV Girls Basketball Gym

6:15 pm Off the Streets Library

6:30 pm Choir Practice

7:00 pm Varsity Girls Basketball Gym

THURSDAY JANUARY 15

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 JANUARY 16

5:30 pm Novice Boys Basketball Gym

SATURDAY JANUARY 17

10:00 am Women of Grace Art Room

4:30 pm CCW Bake Sale Narthex

SUNDAY JANUARY 18

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

9:15 am Religious Education

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

1:00 pm Little Dribblers Gym



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Jim Benson

June Finch

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



Remember Our Military In Our Prayers

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.

RANK	NAME	BRANCH
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
1st 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
MGST	Daniel Brought	Marines
A1C	Nicolas A. Corradi	USAF



Authentic Femininity : for such a time as this. Esther 4:14

"Fight Like a Catholic", Spiritual Warfare in the Catholic Tradition, Book Study by Susan Brinkmann, OCDS, Director of Communications and New Age Research for the Women of Grace Apostolate.

Study begins Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows Catholic Church in Middletown for Five Saturdays (also January 24, January 31, February 14, and February 21).

Study includes weekly video; cost of book \$15.95. Purchase book prior to the first meeting.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

HOPE IS A VERB



Hope is about taking action.
It is like motivation; We need to start practicing it before we actually start feeling it.
Hope is something we DO - Not something we wait for.

David Orr

EGG Season 2026

Thank you for your donations of 40 & 48oz Jif Creamy PB Goal: 1000 To Date: 375



Missed the Photo session?

You may submit digital or printed image for inclusion in directory for \$15 fee.

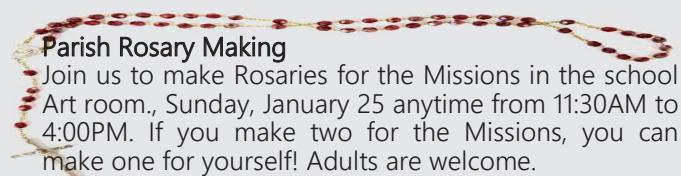
Include names of everyone included in photo. If submitting a copyrighted photo, include copy of permission to reproduce image. You will receive copy of directory but no 8x10 portrait.

\$15 check payable to "Seven Sorrows" and photo must be received in parish office no later than January 19th.

To submit printed image (will NOT be returned)
 Mail photo (with permission to reproduce, if applicable) with check to:

Seven Sorrows Parish
 280 Race Street
 Middletown, PA 17057

To submit digital image (at least 300 dpi)
 Email to: clarry@ssbvm.org
 Include permission to reproduce, if applicable



Parish Rosary Making

Join us to make Rosaries for the Missions in the school Art room., Sunday, January 25 anytime from 11:30AM to 4:00PM. If you make two for the Missions, you can make one for yourself! Adults are welcome.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



Bake Sale on Jan. 17/18.

All donations from our parish bakers are welcome.

Sweet treats are for sale after all Masses until sold out.

SENIOR MINISTRY

SIGNUPS IN NARTHEX for inner at Gilligan's - Now through Sunday, January 11. Join our New Year Celebration 2026 at Gilligan's Bar & Grill, Eisenhower Boulevard, on January 24, at 6 pm, after Saturday Evening Mass. Details available on signup table in Narthex.

SENIOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS - January 13, 2026, at 6 pm in the Drexel Room.

HOLY MASS & GAME NIGHT - January 22 Thursday
 Evening Mass at 6 pm & Game Night immediately following in the Upper School Cafeteria, weather permitting. Bring some snacks to share & your favorite soft drink to enjoy!

RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato

ssbvm.org/Education
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

SSBVM Catholic School
Principal - Angela Warner

Sevensorrowsschool.com
awarner@ssbvm.org

RAISING DISCIPLES:

01/11/26 - Class & 7th Gr. Student Mass
01/12/26 - 1st Communion Quilt Square due
01/17/26 - Jr. High Youth Ministry event - Paramount Sports
01/18/26 - No Class
01/25/26 - Class

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!

Nominate

Scan to nominate a Seven Sorrows alumni for the 2026 Distinguished Graduate Award or Email awarner@ssbvm.org

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

God's delight in His Son mirrors the joy He takes in those who follow His call. As a child of God, He desires what is best for you. Take time this week to pray and listen for His guidance in how He wants you to serve Him.

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


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