



January 25, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

3rd 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: 7:15-7:50am 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



— Fish Fry — *Volunteers*

Fish Fry starts early this year!

February 20th - March 27, 2026

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Many hands are needed & welcomed!

Please contact Sam and Linda Kelly
Fishfry@ssbvm.org or leave a message
with the parish office @ 717-944-3133.

Sign up 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,

A lot of people ask questions about the Faith whenever I'm in different situations around town. And it seems that most people really do want to know about sin.

What about sin? People want to know whether something is a mortal sin or a venial sin.

St. John tells us there is a distinction between the two: "If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin, about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly" (1John 5:16-17).

So, "deadly sin": mortal (keeps us from heaven); "not deadly sin": Venial sin.

People will ask what sins specifically are deadly. Well, there is no official list. There are three criteria for mortal sin:

1. Is it grave (serious)?
2. Do you know it's grave?
3. Do you freely choose to do it anyway?

If you truly don't know if something is grave, then it is not a mortal sin. Also, if you do not choose to do something freely (I missed Mass because I was sick, or because I physically couldn't get there), then it is not mortal.

Does that make sense? Surely, though, there are some sins that are always mortal: the deliberate taking of another's life that is not self-defense; missing Mass for no excuse; unfaithfulness in marriage; sexual relations outside of marriage, to start a list. We must go to confession and seek God's forgiveness for these sins.

Some ask if using foul language is mortally sinful. If using the Lord's Name in vain, and you are doing it purposely, then it is mortal. However, if using foul language and it is not meant to tear anyone down, it is likely venial.

I hope this is helpful to you when answering this question. It's not meant to point a finger or make anyone feel singled out. But for the sake of our own salvation, we all need to examine our life to see if we are living with God, or if we are perhaps committing mortal sin. If so, God is merciful and He welcomes us to the Confessional to seek His forgiveness and again live with Him in His Grace!

Mass Question: Raised Hands at the Our Father?

A few parishioners have asked a question about whether we are allowed to raise our hands in prayer during the Our Father. The Roman Missal (the big red book that I use at Mass and that is our instruction and prayer book for Mass), writes this instruction for the priest about the Our Father:

"He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:" Our Father...

The **"extends his hands,"** is the same thing that is written for the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest is offering that prayer on behalf of the people, and so he **"extends his hands."** The people are never directed to extend their hands with the priest, at any point in the Mass. So, the congregation should not raise their hands at the Our Father, as it mimics the priest's offering.

Some families hold hands during the Our Father. While there is no direction for the congregation except to pray the Our Father, holding hands probably would not be disallowed, since it does not mimic the actions of the priest (as the **"extending of hands"** does). But the only instruction is that the priest extends his hands and he, and the people, continue with the "Our Father". I hope this answers the question.

God bless you!
Fr. Sahd

PARISH STAFF



SCHOOL STAFF

IN RESIDENCE

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

PARISH MANAGER

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Lisa Fortunato - lfortunato@ssbvm.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joe Trojcek - joetrojcek@gmail.com

PARISH SCHOOL

School Phone - 717-944-5371



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Rene McCurdy
10:30 am +Nancy Kosheba
6:00 pm +Albert Schmeltzer Sr.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 St. Timothy and St. Titus

8:00 am +Alvina Frangoulis

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 St. Angela Merici

8:00 am +Rhoda Rupp

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 St. Thomas Aquinas

8:30 am +Terry Findlay

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm **CONFESSION**

6:00 pm +Susan Hodorovic

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

8:00 am +Dale and Nancy Pilsitz

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 St John Bosco

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

8:00 am +Larry Eastbourn

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

4:30 pm +Cathy Benson

SUNDAY, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Our Parish Family
10:30 am +Katherine Harkins
6:00 pm +Dave Shipkowski



DAILY READINGS

Sun. Jan 25	Isa 8:23-9:3 (67A) / 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 / Matt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
Mon. Jan 26	2 Tim 1:1-8 / Mark 3:22-30
Tue. Jan 27	2 Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19 / Mark 3:31-35
Wed. Jan 28	2 Sam 7:4-17 / Mark 4:1-20
Thu. Jan 29	2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29 / Mark 4:21-25
Fri. Jan 30	2 Sam 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 / Mark 4:26-34
Sat. Jan. 31	2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17 / Mark 4:35-41
Sun. Feb. 1	Zeph 2:3;3:12-13(70A)/1 Cor1:26-31/Matt 5:12a



PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar this weekend are

dedicated to The Children of the Parish.

They are our hope for the future and a blessing today.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary for special occasions or in memory of a loved one. Call Deborah Breon at 717-986-1959 for details.



SUNDAY OFFERING

JANUARY 18 2026

Sunday Giving \$9,630.00

Online Giving \$ 5,100.25

Total \$14,730.25



Scan for Online Giving

Attention: Through federal legislation, starting this tax year (2026), there is a permanent, above-the-line charitable deduction for individuals who don't itemize, allowing them to deduct up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (joint) for cash contributions to public charities. This aims to encourage giving by allowing a deduction *in addition* to the standard deduction, though it excludes non-cash gifts and donations to donor-advised funds or private foundations. In short, if you donate to Seven Sorrows or any other charity, you can take an additional \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (joint) deduction on top of the standard deduction you already receive. This is great news for any taxpayer who donates!



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

8:00 am Smiles for Abby Collection **Narthex**
9:15 am Religious Education
10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**
11:30 am Parish Rosary Making **Art Room in School**
1:00 pm Little Dribblers **Gym**
1:00 pm Scouts Pinewood Derby **Cafeteria**

MONDAY JANUARY 26

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

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

5:00 pm Novice Boys Basketball **Gym**
6:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball **Gym**

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY JANUARY 29

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team #3**
5:30 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**
6:30 pm OCIA **Library**
7:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball **Gym**

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

6:30 am TMIY **Cafeteria**
10:00 am Women of Grace **Art Room**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1

9:15 am Religious Education
10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**
11:30 am Children's Rosary
1:00 pm Little Dribblers **Gym**
1:00 pm Bible Study **Drexel Room**



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Paul Steere

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



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.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
LT. Col	Sam Herbert	Army
GYSGT	Brendon J. Parkhill	Marines
	Mackenzie Mehalick	Navy
CPT	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

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce a \$1,000.00 scholarship to be awarded to a high-school senior Catholic girl for the freshman year 2026-2027 at an accredited college, university or trade school.

The applicant must meet all conditions established by the Scholarship Committee as set forth in its Rules and Regulations included in the application packet on the HDCCW Website (<https://www.harrisburgdiocesancw.com>). Please complete the application and submit all material no later than May 1, 2026.

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!

NEED TO KNOW

2025 TAX STATEMENTS – the Diocesan Office for Stewardship and Development will be e-mailing to any donor with an email address on file with the Diocese later in January. Please watch your email for your statement. This statement will only reflect gifts given to the Diocese such as the Diocesan Annual Campaign or in response to a direct mail letter. If a parishioner wishes to receive a statement mailed to them at their home address and they have not previously requested to receive one, they may contact the Development Office at 717-657-4804 x 336 and we will be happy to mail them one. A tax statement for Sunday Offering gifts or gifts to second collections given to the parish will be coming from your parish. Please contact your parish for those tax statements.

OFF THE STREETS

Next weekend, Off the Streets will have its donation house displayed in the narthex. We are in particular need of bakeware, such as sheet pans and muffin tins. Sign-up sheets for our 5k walk on February 28 will also be available.

SUPERBOWL CHARCUTERIE

Join us for a fun night of charcuterie, fun, fellowship & football!

ROOM AT OUR TABLE IS OUR PARISH GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULT PARISHIONERS (AGE 21-55) FOCUSING ON CREATING A CONNECTION THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES WITH FELLOW CATHOLICS WHO ARE NAVIGATING SIMILAR SEASONS OF LIFE.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH**

6:30PM SCHOOL UPPER CAFETERIA

\$20 per person due by 2/2/26

to parish office or VENMO @Angela-Stover-5

RSVP HERE :
PLEASE SIGN
UP FOR ONE OR
A FEW ITEMS.



SENIOR MINISTRY

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW - Registration/ Payment Due in Parish Office on or before noon January 28, 2026. Details are on the Elite Coach/Philadelphia Flower Show Flyer available in the Narthex Flyer Rack.

TOUR OF CHURCHES CONTINUES - Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue - February 24, 2026, 10:30 am. 220 Nissley Street (Corner of Nissley & Water Streets), Middletown. Lunch at the RiverHouse.

HOLY MASS & GAME NIGHT - February 26 Thursday Evening Mass at 6pm & Game Night immediately following in the Upper School Cafeteria, weather permitting. Bring some snacks to share & your favorite soft drink to enjoy!



SEVEN SORROWS BIBLE STUDY

Join us for 11 weeks to study the Book of Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come from Ascension Press.

Either Sunday 1 - 2:30 pm or Monday 6:30 - 8 pm in the Drexel Room

contact: John Stene email jks43@aol.com

RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato

ssbvm.org/Education
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

RAISING DISCIPLES:

01/25/26 Class
02/01/26 Class/8th Gr. Student Mass
02/08/26 Class
02/22/26 Class

CONFIRMATION:

02/11/26 Student & Sponsor Rehearsal 6:30pm Church
02/15/26 Confirmation Mass 10:30am



Become a Crusader! Applications are being accepted for the 2026-2027 school year at Bishop McDevitt High School for new and transfer students entering grades 9th-12th. Visit bishopmcdevitt.org to complete your application today!

SSBVM Catholic School
Principal - Angela Warner

Sevensorrowsschool.com
awarner@ssbvm.org

Want a chance to win a pair of tickets to the SSBVM 75th Anniversary Diamond Gala?

We're raffling off a set during our *Day of Giving* on Wednesday 1/28.

Visit <https://sevensorrowsschool.betterworld.org/campaigns/day-of-giving> to learn more.

SEVEN SORROWS OF THE BLESSED MARY
HEART OF MARY FUND
DAY OF GIVING



We're enrolling! Come see the Seven Sorrows Difference at our school Open House event this Sunday, 1/25/26 from 12:00- 1:00 pm. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/SSBVMTOUR>

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

During National Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate how education forms disciples in faith and character. Just as educators guide students in their growth, Jesus invites you to follow Him boldly. Could He be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life to help form others in His ways?

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

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