



February 1, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

4th 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-10:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am-10:00pm
Thursday: 9:00am-10:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-Noon



— EGG Store — *Hours*

Opening Monday, February 9th

Monday:	9:00am-2:30pm
Tuesday:	9:00am-2:30pm
	4:30pm-8:00pm
Wednesday:	9:00am-2:30pm
	4:30pm-8:00pm
Thursday:	9:00am-2:00pm
Friday:	10:00am-2:00pm
Saturday:	1:30pm - 3:30pm

Eggs will also be sold before and after our weekend Masses starting Feb 7th & 8th (4:30pm, 8:00am, 10:30am & 6:00pm)
As well as at our Drive-Thru Fish Fries

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,

This year, there have been many people who have approached us and asked if they could join the Catholic Church. There are so many more people attending our OCIA sessions than in previous years.

In fact, in a few weeks, at least 10 people will enter the Catholic Church after having been baptized in another faith. At the Easter Vigil, at least six people will be baptized into the Church. These are just people who came to us over the last months and thought about becoming Catholic. The Holy Spirit is clearly moving!

And I can attest that to the power of your witness as disciples of Jesus Christ. So many people say that we have a warm and welcoming parish that is alive with His life. I can tell you that there are new people coming every week, just to check things out. They may decide if the Catholic Church is the right fit for them by just coming to Mass. Perhaps they'll sit next to you? Is the way each of us enter into the Sacred Mysteries edifying? If it is, it may lead that person home to Jesus' Church!

Thank you so much for all that you do to build up the Body of Christ. What you do and how you live matters.

But I can tell you that this phenomenon is happening in many places. There are so many people coming to the Church! I just read a story that there are 76 students enrolled in OCIA at the University of Notre Dame, who will enter the Church this year. Wow! There are similar numbers at colleges all across the country.

Something is happening around the world. People are experiencing the Catholic Church for the first time, and want to be a part of it. I know we all see the warts and failures of its human institution, but people are still being drawn to Her.

According to very recent reports, last year was the first time in decades where more people entered the Church than left. In addition, Generation Z (born 1997-2012) is now 21% Catholic, compared to 19% Protestant. That is the first time in a very long time that has happened.

In short, people are drawn to Jesus through His Church because of the Truth that is lived out in the Teachings and Liturgy, and because of the community that lives out the life of Jesus.

A news article captured the feelings of one student at Notre Dame, and I think it's a big reason why so many are coming to the Church: Lucas Santiago was baptized Catholic but raised in an agnostic home. He said that after coming to Notre Dame, he felt that his "individually formed moral code felt incomplete for the first time" after seeing the faith of many of his close friends (*National Catholic Register*, Jan. 26, 2026).

Two things are important to him, and to many other people: living well, and as "a good person," but doing so where it's linked to a Tradition of 2,000 years, given to us by Jesus, who is God, and not just trying to figure it out on his own.

He also felt drawn to the Church because other people lived it out themselves, and that sense of community was important. So many people want to feel that same sense of "belonging," and also accountability.

That's why the unity that is expressed as a mark of the Church is so important: because it draws people to Jesus.

Our witness, our life of Faith, does not just help with our own salvation, but draws others to Him as well.

And for the first time in a long time, our Catholic Faith is not something to hide, but is appealing and is something to proclaim! Let's live it boldly, brothers and sisters, because the Holy Spirit is working in and through Jesus' Church!

God bless you,
Fr. Sahd

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 Trojcak - joetrojcak@gmail.com

PARISH SCHOOL

School Phone - 717-944-5371

Mrs. Angela Warner, Principal



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am Our Parish Family
10:30 am +Katherine Harkins
6:00 pm +David Shipkowski

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 The Presentation Of the Lord
8:00 am +Don Jennings

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 St. Blaise & St. Ansgar
8:00 am +Ray Zanzinger

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026
8:30 am +Barbara Thumma

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026 St. Agatha

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm CONFESSION
6:00 pm Special Intentions of Joe and Sue Lawruk

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026 St. Paul Miki
8:00 am +Theresa Ciuullo Gomber

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

7:15 am -7:50 am CONFESSION
8:00 am +Pauline Smith
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm CONFESSION
4:30 pm +Russell Keating, Jr

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am +Emil Daniels
10:30 am Our Parish Family
6:00 pm +Dolores and Richard Sticher



DAILY READINGS

Sun. Feb. 1	Zeph 2:3;3:12-13(70A)/1 Cor1:26-31/Matt 5:12a
Mon. Feb .2	Mal 3:1-4 / Heb 2:14-18 / Luke 2:22-40
Tue. Feb. 3	2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/ Mark 5:21-43
Wed. Feb. 4	2 Sam 24: 2, 9-17 / Mark 6:1-6
Thu. Feb. 5	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 / Mark 6:7-13
Fri. Feb. 6	Sir 47:2-11 / Mark 6:14-29
Sat. Feb.7	1 Kings 3:4-13 / Mark 6:30-34
Sun. Feb. 8	Isa 58:7-10 (73A) / 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Matt 5:13-16



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Angela Auerbeck
(mother of Ken Auerbeck)

Tim Fraley

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



SUNDAY OFFERING

JANUARY 25, 2026

Sunday giving \$9,516.00
Online giving 4,552.25
QCD** 14,200.00
Total \$28,268.25



Scan for Online Giving

**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 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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2

11:30 am Rosary and Prayer Group
6:00 pm Legion of Mary
6:30 pm Bible Study Art Room
7:00 pm JV Girls Basketball Gym
7:00 pm CCW Meeting Drexel Room

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3

5:00 pm Novice Boys Basketball Gym
6:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball Gym
7:00 pm KOC Meeting Drexel Room
7:00 pm Scouts Cafeteria

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4

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 FEBRUARY 5

8:30 am Church Cleaners Team # 2
5:30 pm Novice Girls Basketball Gym
6:30 pm OCIA Library

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

5:30 pm Novice Boys Basketball Gym

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

6:30 am TMIY Cafeteria
9:00 am Altar Server Training Church
4:30 pm Soup Sale Narthex
5:30 pm Charcuterie Class Cafeteria

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

8:00 am Soup Sale Narthex (after all Masses)
9:15am Religious Education
10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement
1:00 pm Little Dribblers Gym
1:00 pm Bible Study Drexel Room



PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar this weekend are
in loving memory of **Charlene R. Oakley**.
They are a gift from the Wells and Schmidt families.

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
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

SENIOR MINISTRY

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

HOLY MASS & GAME NIGHT - February 26, 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!

SENIOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING - February 10 at 6 pm in the Drexel Room

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

You're allowed to begin again
not just on Mondays, not just in January
but in the middle of an ordinary day
after a deep breath
after a small mistake
after losing your way
don't wait for the right time
decide that now is enough

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.harrisburgdiocesanccw.com>). Please complete the application and submit all material no later than May 1, 2026.

NEED TO KNOW



Next weekend our parish will host the annual Catholic Charities Souper Bowl Soup Sale. Please email the types of soup and number of (FROZEN) quarts you plan to make to Adrienne@TrianglePress.net. Any questions, call 717-648-0261. Quart containers and lids are available for pick up at the parish office.



Volunteers will be collecting soup on Sat., Feb. 7 from 9am-11am at the Diocesan Center from the participating parishes to equally distribute the various kinds. It's still not too late to make and freeze your homemade soup. If you'd prefer to drop off your soup at our parish before Mass, please email or call Adrienne.



We are looking for additional volunteers throughout the six weeks starting the Week of Feb. 15 and ending on Friday, March 27.

If you are interested in helping, please go to the Seven Sorrows Website, and select "Fish Fry Volunteer". On the next page select "Contact Sam & Linda". Fill out the form with your contact information and

in the message area tell us the dates and times you can volunteer. <https://www.ssbvm.org/fish-fry-kids>)



EGG Season 2026

Thank you for your donations of 40 & 48oz Jif Creamy PB Goal: 1000 To Date: 508

A parishioner at Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish in Ephrata, PA is asking for prayers and the help of a truly generous individual.

Jody is in need of a living donor kidney transplant. Due to a genetic condition, both her kidneys are slowly failing.

If you would like to learn more about the disease or the donation process, please contact her at: kidneyforjody@gmail.com.

ROOM AT OUR TABLE

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH

6:30PM SCHOOL UPPER CAFETERIA

\$20 per person due by 2/2/26
to parish office or VENMO @Angela-Stover-5



What to Expect:

Charcuterie demo by Melissa,
owner of MJ Luxury Picnics &
Events. Create your own
football shaped charcuterie to
take home to enjoy!

BYOB

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:

02/01/26 Class/8th Gr. Student Mass
02/08/26 Class
02/22/26 Class
Add: 03/01/26 - 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!

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!

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

The Beatitudes guide us in living holy and generous lives no matter the vocation He has placed on our heart. We are all called to embody these virtues, serving God and His people with humble hearts. Pray for discernment and openness to where God might be inviting you to follow Him.

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

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