



February 8, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
5th 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



— 29th Annual — *Fish Fry*

Join us the 6 Fridays of Lent!

February 20 & 27th

March 6, 13, 20 & 27th

5:00-8:00pm Drive Thru Only



Confirmation Mass

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place

Sunday, February 15, 2026

@ our 10:30am Mass

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

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,

Today marks the beginning of World Marriage Week, and as part of our vocations promotions, we promote the Sacrament of Marriage in addition to the Sacrament of Holy Orders to the Priesthood and Diaconate, as well as religious life.

Sometimes, the promotion of the Sacrament of Marriage gets left behind in our zeal to promote vocations to the Priesthood, especially. It is an important thing to do, especially because we are in such need of young men to discern a life to the Diocesan Priesthood.

But Marriage will be the Sacrament that most people will – and have – found to be their vocation. And entering into Holy Matrimony through the Church is a great gift.

Fewer and fewer people are entering the Sacrament. In 2000, there were nearly 267,000 marriages in the Catholic Church. In 2024, that number dropped to just over 110,000. That is a HUGE drop.

That follows a smaller drop in marriages in general in the United States. In 2000, there were 2.3 million marriages; in 2024, there were 2 million.

People just aren't getting married at the same rate as they have in the past. Marriage is hard, and even though I am not married, I believe it to be harder than a life as a priest. I have to know what God wants me to do, and then have the courage to do it. A married couple has to know what God wants them to do, agree to do it together, and then have the courage to do it. It is so hard for two people to be on the same page.

I pray for our married couples, and for those who are considering the Sacrament of Marriage. While it is hard, it is also so rewarding. Our married couples, when they sacrifice for each other and live for each other, show me how to live as Jesus lives. You show me how to be a better priest. Thank you for choosing marriage.

If you've been civilly married, but not married in the Church, and would like to explore a way to have your marriage "convalidated" (made a Sacrament), please let me know! Many people initially get married by the state outside of a church for many reasons, but later in life want their marriage made a Sacrament (some people say, "have their marriage blessed").

If it is possible to do so, I want to help you do it, and please contact me by E-mail or phone. There may be other steps involved, but we can see what we need to do to make it happen.

Marriage is such a great gift. Every year, I attend the Mass for the couples in our Diocese who reach 50 years of marriage. There are always at least a few couples from Seven Sorrows who reach that milestone. Seeing them with their families, I wonder what would happen if God had not blessed that couple with marriage, and how we would not know of those family members brought into the world by that couple!

There was a woman who survived the Holocaust, Shoshana Ovitz. She was the lone survivor of her family. She married her husband, and in 2021 had a picture taken with her family at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. She took the picture with her over 400 descendants!

That marriage produced 400 people who would not know life! Wow.

I think of my own parents, married over 55 years, and the difficulties and struggles they overcame every day in their marriage. I'm so grateful for their "I dos" at Holy Trinity in Columbia, PA on Sept. 27, 1970, and have lived since then.

May God bless all of our married couples, and may God bless those discerning marriage. Please know of my love and support for you, and our Lord's desire for you to find fulfillment in that awesome life! 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 Trojcek - joetrojcek@gmail.com

PARISH SCHOOL

School Phone - 717-944-5371

Mrs. Angela Warner, Principal



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Emil Daniels
10:30 am Our Parish Family
6:00 pm +Dolores and Richard Stichter

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

8:00 am +Christine DeFilippo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 **St. Scholastica**

8:00 am +Charles and Helen Mathias

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 **Our Lady of Lourdes**

8:30 am +Sharon Marshall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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

6:00 pm +Jennifer Oswald

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

8:00 am +Judy Douglass

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius

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

8:00 am +Vince Varankar

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

4:30 pm +Deceased Members of the Douglass Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +B.J. Smertneck
10:30 am +Joanne Lando
6:00 pm Our Parish Family



DAILY READINGS

Sun. Feb. 8	Isa 58:7-10 (73A) / 1 Cor 2:1-5 / Matt 5:13-16
Mon. Feb. 9	1Kings 8:1-7,9-13 / Mark 6:53-56
Tue. Feb. 10	1Kings 8:22-23,27-30 / Mark 7:1-13
Wed. Feb. 11	1Kings 10:1-10 / Mark 7:14-23
Thu. Feb. 12	1Kings 11:4-13 / Mark 7:24-30
Fri. Feb. 13	1Kings 11:29-32; 12:19 / Mark 7:31-37
Sat. Feb. 14	1Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34 / Mark 8:1-10
Sun. Feb. 15	Sir 15:15-20(76A) / 1Cor 2:6-10 / Matt 5:17-37



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Joseph Boley

Eileen Sceski

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



PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar this weekend are in loving memory of **Richard and Dolores Stichter**. They are a gift from their family.



SUNDAY OFFERING

JANUARY 25, 2026

Sunday giving \$17,656.00
Online giving 5,639.25
Total \$23,295.25



Scan for Online Giving



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

6:00 pm Legion of Mary
6:30 pm Bible Study **Art Room**
7:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

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

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11

5:00 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**
6:00 pm JV Girls Basketball **Gym**
6:15 pm Off the Streets Meeting **Library**
6:30 pm Choir Practice
6:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal **Church**
7:00 pm Varsity Girls Basketball **Gym**

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team # 3**
5:30 pm Novice Girls Basketball **Gym**
6:30 pm OCIA **Library**
6:30 pm Mental Health Support **Rectory**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13

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

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

6:30 am TMIY **Cafeteria**
10:00 am Women of Grace **Art Room**
4:30 pm Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15

8:00 am Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex**
(after all Masses)
10:30 am Confirmation
10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**
1:00 pm Little Dribblers **Gym**
1:00 pm Bible Study **Drexel Room**
1:00 pm Bible Study **Drexel Room**



BAPTISM

Our Parish Family rejoices and welcomes
Catherine Mary Lushko
child of Brian and Emily Lushko
who was baptized by Water and the Spirit.

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.



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

SENIOR MINISTRY

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 Mass @ 6 pm & Game Night immediately following in the Upper Cafeteria, weather permitting. Bring some snacks to share & your favorite soft drink to enjoy!

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW BUS TRIP - scheduled for March 4 has been CANCELLED, due to lack of interest.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



Spiritual Support Group
2nd Thursday of every month.
Feb. 12 at 6:30 pm
Parish Living Room

Mental Health Ministry
Seven Sorrows BVM

OFF THE STREETS

Off The Streets is holding a 5k walk around Middletown borough on Feb. 28 from 1-4 PM, starting and ending in the school gymnasium, to raise funds and awareness about those experiencing homelessness.

Want to participate, volunteer or donate?
Head to enoy.com/location/middletown, or call 717-460-2137 for more information.



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 Parish Office.



NEED TO KNOW



We are looking for additional volunteers throughout the six weeks of the 2026 Fish Fry starting the Week of Feb. 15 and ending on Friday, March 27.

If you can help, please go to the Seven Sorrows Website, and select "Fish Fry Volunteer". On the next page select "Contact Sam and Linda". Fill out the form with your contact information and in the message area tell us the dates and times you can volunteer. Here is the direct link: <https://www.ssbvm.org/fish-fry-kids>

Contribution letters have been mailed.

If you have not received it or have questions call Carole at the Parish Office 944-3133 x 156



This weekend, we celebrate World Marriage Day.

Let's take time to pray for our spouses and each other to lift our marriages. Do something special for each other this weekend to show your gratitude for your spouse. Your goal in this Vocation of Marriage should be to get your spouse to heaven. Take time to ponder in your heart how you can do that, starting right now.



*Were you married in
1976?*

Join us for a celebration of your

*Jubilee
Wedding Anniversary*

June 21, 2026

Holy Name of Jesus Church

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior
Celebrant and Homilist



Please contact your parish office with your name and address by March 1, 2026.



RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education
Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato

ssbvm.org/Education
lfortunato@ssbvm.org

RAISING DISCIPLES:

02/08/26 Class
02/15/26 No Class
02/22/26 Class
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!

SSBVM Catholic School
Principal - Angela Warner

Sevensorrowsschool.com
awarner@ssbvm.org

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



"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

On World Marriage Day, we honor couples who shine Christ's love through their union. Holy matrimony is a vocation of light, illuminating the world with faith and fidelity. Renew your commitment with your spouse in prayer.

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