



March 1, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
2nd Sunday of Lent

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 (Stations 2:15 & 7:00pm)

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



— Lenten — *Presentation*

Why does God allow suffering?

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Immediately following the
6:30pm Mass

Most of us see suffering as a lack of God's presence. Join Fr. Sahd as we try to make sense of God's work through suffering.

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,

As we enter the second week of Lent, perhaps our penances and sacrifices are becoming easier, as they become more of a habit. Or they are harder, because they are a strain. Please, persevere. I am writing this for myself, too. I want to give up at every turn, but we must keep going.

Why? Because our sacrifices remind us that true happiness does not lie in eating our favorite foods, or drinking alcohol. It does not lie in time spent on social media or “likes.” It lies in Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

Lent is a time to desire Jesus Christ. To cling to Him, and to be with Him as He walks toward His Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection. To desire Him only, and in the process, discover who in our life we have been given to grow closer to Him. Perhaps that is our families, our friends, our loved ones, but also those who have been given to us to help them walk towards Him.

It is an exercise of looking outside of ourselves to God, and to others. Indeed, we are asked not to live by what we want, but by what He wants for us.

Last Sunday’s Prayer After Communion asked for something very tough, but necessary: “...that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth.”

To “hunger” for Christ. Yes, I want that! But the last part of that prayer... WHAT?! That I would live by EVERY word which proceeds from the mouth of God? That’s impossible! That’s very hard!

It very well might be both, but we must desire it. We must want to live by what He says, and not what we solely want.

On Ash Wednesday, I saw a Facebook post by a famous director, who wrote that he went to receive ashes at a Catholic church. But he wrote that he’s since changed from the Catholic Faith he lived in childhood.

He wrote: “For me, religion, like so many things, doesn’t have to be all or nothing. I can embrace what I love, ignore some of the things I don’t, and even incorporate others.”

I think many of us hold that view. Our Catholicism is something we form to our own life. If it aligns, GREAT! If not, oh well. I do that when I choose to sin, or when I choose to ignore a teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church. I believe we all do this.

But if we believe this, we are not living a Catholic, Christian life. We are not striving to live “by every word which proceeds” from God’s mouth.

Some might say this makes us weak, like sheep who follow without thought. Jesus tells us differently: “You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:14).

The point of Lent is to bring us to DESIRE to live this way with Christ. To live by every word which comes from His mouth. I am so far away from that, but my desire is to desire to live by that Word. I pray this Lent brings me closer to that, and I pray you do, too.

Thursday Night Presentation: Why Did Jesus Suffer? Why Do We Suffer?

This Thursday (Mar. 5) at 6:30PM in the church, I will give a presentation on why God allows suffering in the world, particularly among the most helpless, and the meaning of suffering. Everyone wonders why a good God would allow it. I do at times. I hope you join us.

And on Thursday, Mar. 19 at 6:30PM, I’ll give a presentation on prayer, based off of the book, “The Practice of the Presence of God,” by Brother Lawrence. This is a classic Catholic book, and one that Pope Leo said was one of his favorites. We’ll have copies of the book available soon for anyone who would like to delve deeper into the Spiritual Life.

God bless you,
Fr. Sahn

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, MARCH 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Our Parish Family
10:30 am +Dan Fuhrman
6:00 pm +Charles Stare

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

8:00 am +Patricia Kozloski

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 St. Katherine Drexel

8:00 am +James Paros

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 St. Casimir

8:30 am +Jeanne Mackarevich

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

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

6:00 pm +Art Guiterrez

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

8:00 am +Mary Loretta Fogle

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

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

8:00 am +Cindy Lou Eppinger

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

4:30 pm +Don Jennings

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 am +Evelyn Shaffer

10:30 am Our Parish Family

6:00 pm +Louie Russo



DAILY READINGS

Sun. March 1	Gen 12:1-4a(25A) / 2 Tim 1:8b-10 / Matt 17:1-9
Mon. March 2	Dan 9:4b-10 / Luke 6:36-38
Tue. March 3	Isa 1:10,16-20 / Matt 23:1-12
Wed. March 4	Jer 18:18-20 / Matt 20:17-28
Thu. March 5	Jer 17:5-10 / Luke 16:19-31
Fri. March 6	Gen 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a / Matt 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat. March 7	Micah 7:14-15,18-20 / Luke 15:1-3,11-32
Sun. March 8	Exo 17:3-7(28A) / Rom 5:1-2,5-8 / John 4:5-42



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

**Betty Shelly
Maureen Edwards**

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



SUNDAY OFFERING

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Sunday giving \$14,891.00
Online giving 5,612.25
Total \$20,503.25



Scan for Online Giving

Ash Wednesday Collection \$3,452.10



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY MARCH 1

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

MONDAY MARCH 2

11:30 am Rosary and Prayer Group Church
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 MARCH 3

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

WEDNESDAY MARCH 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 MARCH 5

8:30 am Church Cleaners Team # 2
5:30 pm Novice Girls Basketball Gym
6:30 pm OCIA Library
7:00 pm Cursillo Group Meeting Legion of Mary Room

FRIDAY MARCH 6

2:15 pm Stations of the Cross Church
5:00 pm Drive thru Fish Fry
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross Church

SATURDAY MARCH 7

6:30 am TMIY Cafeteria
5:30 pm H.S. Ministry Fundraiser Pick Up Door #4

SUNDAY MARCH 8

9:00 am H.S. Ministry Fundraiser Pick Up Door #4
9:15 am Religious Education
10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement
1:00 pm Bible Study Drexel Room

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

Committee Meeting- March 10 at 6 pm in the Drexel Room.

Mass & Game Night - March 26 Mass at 6 pm & Game Night immediately following in the Upper Cafeteria. Bring some snacks to share & your favorite soft drink to enjoy!

Annual Pilgrimage 2026 to the National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto, PA, on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, Transportation provided by Elite Coach. More details coming soon!



The tour of the **Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue** informative and a nice time had by all.

ROOM AT OUR TABLE



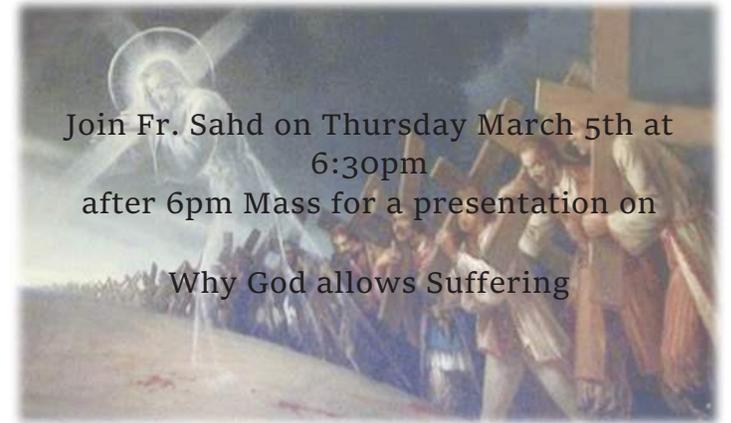
Our Phillies vs Pirates bus trip has **SOLD OUT!!**
We are contemplating taking a 2nd bus. Please put your name on the waiting list by **MARCH 13th** in the parish office if you would like to be on our 2nd bus.

NEED TO KNOW



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent 2:15pm and 7pm



Join Fr. Sahd on Thursday March 5th at 6:30pm after 6pm Mass for a presentation on

Why God allows Suffering

Join us for the 5th annual Hop & Treat!
Kids of all ages are welcome to join the festivities.
Sponsored by KOC and PTT.



We are looking for participants to decorate their trunks (or tables) in an Easter theme and provide goodies to be passed out to the children. Questions can be directed to Matt Sheaffer at sheaf418@comcast.net or the SSBVM PTT at ptt@ssbvm.org

EASTER

11 AM
to
1 PM



Hop and Treat!

Please Join Us at the 5th Seven Sorrows "Hop n' Treat" Easter Egg Hunt

- When: Saturday, March 28th from 11am - 1pm
- Where: Seven Sorrows School Parking Lots

Rain or Shine

(Event Will Be Moved to the Gym in Case of Rain)

PRIZES



Mark Your Calendar for this Family Fun Event!!!

CANDY



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:

03/01/26 Class/6th Gr. Mass
 03/08/26 Class
 03/15/26 Class/Lenten Penance Svc 3,4,5
 03/22/26 Class/Lenten Penance Svc 6,7 & 8
 03/29/26 No Class/Palm Sunday

2ND GRADE:

03/14/26 1st Penance @10am Church

Virtue recognition for Patience

Our School's Virtue recognition for the Month of January was Patience. Congratulations to the following SSBVM Students (K5-8th) who were nominated by their teachers for exemplifying Patience: Angelo Viola, Quinn Floyd, Dahiana Hinojosa, Peyton Eddy, Albi Roman, Jacob Astfalk and Celia Bolesky.

MARCH 21ST 2026
 — 6:00 PM —
 Dinner | Drinks | Dancing | Silent Auction
 2026 Distinguished Graduate Honored



GALA TICKETS & SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Now Enrolling!

Our parish PreK-8th grade Catholic School is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year.



RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"This is my beloved Son... listen to him." (Matthew 17:5)

God's voice calls us to follow His Son closely. Could priesthood be your path to proclaiming Christ's message, leading others to listen to Him? Trust His guidance.

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



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