



March 8, 2026

# SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church  
*3rd 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



## — Adoration — *Chapel*

Take advantage of our Adoration Chapel to spend time with God in prayer, and also potentially consider attending Daily Mass!

They are beautiful times to be with Jesus and grow deeper in relationship with our Savior!

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## Fast for Vocations

Fr. Josh is asking you to consider fasting on Wednesdays for an increase in vocations to our Diocese.

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,

We are almost at the halfway point of Lent, and I just wanted to say something:

You are role models to me, and I am sure to others.

Many of you have entered into Lent with a renewed passion for a deeper connection to our Crucified and Risen Lord. You have taken penances seriously, and you've prayed and reflected on Him more deeply. Some of you have mentioned that the "Little Black Books" or the nails that we passed out, have been helpful guides and reminders.

You've attended presentations, daily Mass, adoration. Our Sunday Mass numbers are increasing every week.

This is Lent! You're entering it.

And even more, many of you are giving so much to help our parish fundraisers - the Fish Fry and Eggs. They are both going spectacularly, by the way. You're spending yourself for Him and for us.

Thank you so much. Please continue to enter into His Passion.

Another way to do this is to come to Stations of the Cross. It is a beautiful, yet simple, devotion. We pray them together on Fridays at 2:15PM (with the school) and at 7PM. Please join us. Thank you again!

### Reception of Holy Communion

It is so edifying to see you receive Jesus in His Body and Blood with joy and anticipation. Thank you for receiving Him with a sacred disposition, whether on the tongue or in the hand.

When receiving on the tongue, Father Josh and I have made some observations these last few months. We write this, knowing that "stick your tongue out" sounds profane. But it really is the only way to describe this action, so thank you for understanding. Here are some comments:

- Please, remain stationary while receiving. We will wait for you to come to a stop before we distribute. It is not necessary to lower yourself to us, even if you are taller than us.
- Also, please stick your tongue out so that we have some place to put the Sacred Host, and keep it there until the Host is placed on your tongue. Be assured, the Host will stick.
- There is no need to bite down on the host immediately. In addition, please do not quickly stick your tongue out and immediately move it back before we place the host. The Host is more likely to fall if this happens.

I know many are receiving on the tongue for the first time since we began intinction. That is awesome AND beautiful! Please, just stick your tongue out and receive. Thank you so much! God bless you for your love of Jesus and His Blessed Sacrament!

### Update on Gym/Cafeteria Renovation

As I noted in the bulletin a few weeks ago, the Diocese approved our initial plans for the renovation of our gym and cafeteria, and also approved the plans for our capital campaign to raise money for that purpose.

So, we will begin that capital campaign in the months ahead. The group that is helping us to put it together (Kirby-Smith Associates) has already been in touch with people who, in the feasibility study, suggested they'd be interested in helping on a campaign committee.

This means that we'll be ready to start raising money for this project, but we will not be able to start the project until we raise at least half of the funds necessary. It's a \$3.7M project, so that means \$1.9M. In addition, we'll also need to nail down our final plans for the building with the architect, and also put the project out to bid, to ensure we have a good price for the project.

So, we are not looking to start the renovation until NEXT May (2027). I know it is not as early as I'd like, but it is the earliest that is doable, considering all of the work that is needed to make sure it'll be successful.

We'll keep you updated along the way, but thank you so much for your patience, generosity, and excitement for this project.

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, MARCH 8, 2026**

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 am +Evelyn Shaffer  
10:30 am Our Parish Family  
6:00 pm +Louie Russo

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 St. Frances**

8:00 am +Ed Fox

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

8:00 am +Christine DeFilippo

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026**

8:30 am +Georgina Barbara

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026**

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm **CONFESSION**  
6:00 pm +Harry Fink

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026**

8:00 am Special Intentions of Chris Grimme

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**

7:15 am -7:50 am **CONFESSION**  
8:00 am Special Intentions Vicki Bosso  
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **CONFESSION**  
4:30 pm +Cathy Benson

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am +Deceased of the Veet and Degatis Families  
10:30 am +Richard Baril  
6:00 pm Our Parish Family



## DAILY READINGS

Sun. March 8	Exo 17:3-7(28A) / Rom 5:1-2,5-8 / John 4:5-42
Mon. March 9	2 Kings 5:1-15ab / Luke 4:24-30
Tue. March 10	Dan 3:25,34-43 / Matt 18:21-35
Wed. March 11	Deut 4:1,5-9 / Matt 5:17-19
Thu. March 12	Jer 7:23-28 / Luke 11:14-23
Fri. March 13	Hosea 14:2-10 / Mark 12:28-34
Sat. March 14	Hosea 6:1-6 / Luke 18:9-14
Sun. March 15	1 Sam 16:1b,6-7,10-13a(31A) / Eph 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41



## SUNDAY OFFERING

**MARCH 1, 2026**

Sunday giving \$14,586.00  
Online giving 6,889.25  
Total \$21,475.25



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!

A reminder to use your church envelopes for tax benefits.



## THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

**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**  
1:00 pm Little Dribblers **Gym**

**MONDAY MARCH 9**

6:00 pm Legion of Mary  
6:00 pm Girls End of Season Basketball Party **Gym**  
6:30 pm Bible Study **Art Room**

**TUESDAY MARCH 10**

6:00 pm Senior Ministry Meeting **Drexel Room**  
6:30 pm PTT Meeting **Library**  
7:00 pm Scouts **Cafeteria**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 11**

6:15 pm Off the Streets Meeting **Library**  
6:30 pm Choir Practice

**THURSDAY MARCH 12**

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team # 3**  
6:30 pm OCIA **Library**  
6:30 pm Mental Health Ministry **Rectory**

**FRIDAY MARCH 13**

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 14**

6:30 am TMIY **Cafeteria**  
10:00 am Second Grade First Penance **Church**  
4:30 pm Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex**

**SUNDAY MARCH 15**

8:00 am Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex**  
(after all Masses)  
9:00 am RE Lenten Penance **Church**  
(Grades 3,4,5)  
9:15 am Religious Education  
10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**  
1:00 pm Bible Study **Drexel Room**



### 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!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL

**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](mailto:sheaf418@comcast.net) or the SSBVM PTT at [ptt@ssbvm.org](mailto:ptt@ssbvm.org)

### COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN



**\$1,000.00 scholarship** to be awarded to a high-school senior Catholic girl for the freshman year 2026-2027.

(<https://www.harrisburgdiocesancw.com>)

Please complete the application and submit all material no later than May 1, 2026. Sponsored by the Harrisburg Diocesan of Catholic Women.

**HDCCW invites all women:  
14th Annual Weekend Retreat  
Mount St. Mary's University  
June 12th -14<sup>th</sup>**

Registration deadline May 23, 2026.

Contact Jeanne Warren, Registration Chair, [warrenrjs@aol.com](mailto:warrenrjs@aol.com) or 717-503-9429



### NEED TO KNOW



### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent 2:15pm and 7pm

Lent provides opportunity to show gratitude for God's gifts and to share those gifts with others.



Our parish's Knights of Columbus invite you to help needy families in our community by making "40 Cans for Lent" part of your Lenten journey.

Simply donate a can of food for each of the 40 days of Lent. Drop off donations in the large bin in the Narthex.



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.

**Catholic Charities** would like to thank you for the support on the Souper Bowl Sale. Because of your generosity and throughout the Diocese this year's sale raised an incredible \$31,127 to help those they serve.

### Parish Playroom

Babysitters are on duty to provide care for little ones during the 10:30am Mass. The Playroom is located in the church basement. Entry is to the left of the Narthex down the stairs.



### MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

#### *A Song of Surrender*

God, You're the Gardener and Jesus the vine  
 Come have Your way in the branch of my life  
 Whatever is growing that doesn't belong, cut it away  
 Whatever is thriving, rooted and strong, oh, let it stay  
 For my good, for Your glory  
 Jesus, You grafted me into Your tree  
 Through every season You're working in me  
 Make me pure, make me holy  
 Prune me to bear Your fruit

Scan to Hear



the Song

Gardener by Sarah Kroger

# 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:

03/08/26 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

## High School Ministry:

THANK YOU! Our fundraiser was a huge success! Your generosity allowed us to deliver 18 meals to parishioners in need or to shut-in parishioners. Dinners can be picked up this weekend outside the school library.

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 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



"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst." (John 4:14)

Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts. When we encounter Him, our lives overflow with the living water of grace. Some are called to share that grace as priests, religious brothers or sisters, or consecrated virgins.

Could God be inviting you to share His living water with others? Talk to Father Sahd or reach out to Father Weaver at the Vocations Office at [Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:Frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org)



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