



March 15, 2026

# SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church  
*4th 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



## — Parish Time — *of Confessions*

Sunday, March 22nd

@ 2:00PM

Many Priests in attendance

## Lenten Presentation

### *Prayer*

Thursday, March 19th @ 6:30PM

We'll discuss how we can enter into God's active Presence in our lives through the book, "Practice of the Presence of God."

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,

Lent is a slog. It seems like it's been going for a long time, and in fact we are only a bit over three weeks in. Perhaps the sacrifices you have chosen are not going so great. Maybe you've taken short cuts. I know I have.

But don't worry. Start over. Lent is a long time for a reason; it takes a while to create a new habit, and we won't generally be successful in our sacrifices the first or second time. It's worth it to get back up and try again. Jesus fell three times on His way to the Cross. While carrying our own crosses, we will fall, too.

The best way to "get back up" after falling into sin is by going to Confession. A lot of us feel like the Sacrament of Confession is optional. Like, "if I go, it's an added bonus! Look at what I'm doing for God!"

But that is not it at all. Confession is essential to our Catholic life. It's hard to go to the Sacrament, and I feel it myself. When I walk into the Confessional, I'm always either nervous, scared, or feel so weighed down. When I leave, after I've been forgiven, I feel so light, and feel the truth of Freedom that Jesus has given me.

Why is that? Because I truly walked into the Confessional with something (sin), and I truly walked out with something else (freedom). Both are real, but only one is what we were meant to live with.

I am not doing my job as your pastor if I don't hammer the importance of this Sacrament, especially in Lent. Our souls will not be healed and prepared for Heaven, and our parish will not be turbo-charged, if we do not go to Confession.

Of course, we have our normal times of Confession every week, so please take advantage of them! We also have our **parish time of Confessions, with over 11 priests, next Sunday (Mar. 22) at 2PM.** You WILL be changed by your participation!

### Prayer: Life with God

On Thursday, Mar. 19 after the 6PM Mass, I'll give a presentation on prayer. For many of us, prayer can be a huge time of distraction, or a real effort. Perhaps we're looking at it all wrong. A book that I found helpful is called, "The Practice of the Presence of God," written by a monk named Brother Lawrence in the 1600s. It is a real treasure. Pope Leo said recently that this book really shaped his life. It helped mine as well. It really simplifies life with God.

We handed out nearly 100 copies last weekend, and we ordered about 40 more for this weekend. We can't afford to buy everyone a copy, but if you'd like to order or buy your own copy, that'd be great.

Of course it's not necessary to have read the book before the presentation on Thursday, but it would help. Either way, you are invited to attend! Lent is a time for fasting and almsgiving, but also prayer. Perhaps this discussion (and book) will help!

### Diocesan Champs!!!



Congratulations to our girls Varsity and Novice teams, both of whom won their Diocesan-wide tournaments! It is an absolutely huge accomplishment to beat all of the teams in the Diocese, and for it to happen to two of our teams, that is awesome! Congratulations to all of our girls, who fought so hard and grew so much this year! We are so proud of you.

Our Varsity girls are playing in the state tournament this weekend. We are praying for you, and no matter how they do, we are so happy and proud of you!

A parish like ours is small and competes against schools and parishes much larger. And for our teams to win shows that these girls possess a toughness and skill that is unmatched. These are awesome traits to have, in Faith and life. God bless you all, and congratulations again!

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 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

- 8:00 am +Doug Kondziolka

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 St. Patrick

- 8:00 am +Mario Corradi

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 St. Cyril

- 8:30 am +John Stremick

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 St. Joseph

- 5:15 pm - 5:50 pm CONFESSION
- 6:00 pm +Joseph and Annarose Hepner

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

- 8:00 am +Bob Douglass

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

- 7:15 am -7:50 am CONFESSION
- 8:00 am +Vince Varankar
- 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm CONFESSION
- 4:30 pm Our Parish Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am +Merle and Marcella Boslet
- 10:30 am +Jean and Vernon Klingner
- 6:00 pm +Eric Breon



# DAILY READINGS

Sun. March 15	1 Sam 16:1b,6-7,10-13a(31A) / Eph 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41
Mon. March 16	Isa 65:17-21 / John 4:43-54
Tue. March 17	Ezek 47:1-9, 12 / John 5:1-16
Wed. March 18	Isa 49:8-15 / John 5:17-30
Thu. March 19	2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Matt 1:16, 18-21,24a
Fri. March 20	Wis 2: 1a, 12-22 / John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat. March 21	Jer 11:18-20 / John 7:40-53
Sun. March 22	Ezek 37:12-14 (34A)/ Rom 8:8-11/ John 11:1-45



# REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Robert Kaylor father of Megan Lister  
 Teresa Speitel mother of Reverend Mark Speitel  
 Dolores Walter mother of Rick Walter  
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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.



# SUNDAY OFFERING

MARCH 8, 2026

Sunday giving \$15,701.00  
 Online giving 5,662.25  
 QCD\*\* 5,000.00  
 Total \$26,363.25



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**

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 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

MONDAY MARCH 16

- 6:00 pm Legion of Mary
- 6:30 pm Bible Study Art Room

TUESDAY MARCH 17

- 7:00 pm Scouts Cafeteria

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY MARCH 19

- 8:30 am Church Cleaners Team # 4
- 6:30 pm OCIA Library
- 6:30 pm Father Sahd Lenten Talk Church

FRIDAY MARCH 20

- 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 21

- 6:30 am TMIY Cafeteria

SUNDAY MARCH 22

- 9:00 am RE Lenten Penance Service Church (Grades 6,7,8)
- 9:15 am Religious Education
- 10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement
- 1:00 pm Bible Study Drexel Room
- 2:00 pm Parish Penance Service Church



### 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

**Mass and Game Night - March 26** Mass at 6 pm & Game Night immediately following in the Upper Cafeteria until 8:30 pm. 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, The day will be filled with many events including Holy Mass, Rosary, Veneration, Orientation of Centre & Tours, to name a few. Information & Registration Flyer will be available in the Narthex beginning the Weekend of April 11-12. Payment of \$99 will be due on or before May 20. The cost covers transportation, driver's gratuity, taxes/fees & lunch. Transportation provided by Elite Coach.

## 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)

Where can you get delicious, freshly battered fish on Friday?

**SEVEN SORROWS DRIVE-THRU FISH FRY**  
5:00pm to 8:00pm March 20 & 27



Please visit <https://www.ssbvm.org/fish-fry24cc6bab> for our menu.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our 2026 FISH FRY SPONSORS**

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## NEED TO KNOW



### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent 2:15pm and 7pm

Seek the LORD and his strength,  
Seek His face continually.  
1 Chronicles 16:11

**Presentation on Prayer**  
Join Fr. Sahd Thursday,  
March 19th at 6:30pm  
after Mass .

# EASTER



## 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

Parish Festival news coming your way!

Keep an eye on your mailbox! The Summer Festival newsletter, volunteer details and raffle tickets will arrive shortly.

#### EGG Season 2026

Thank you for your donations of 40 & 48oz Jif Creamy  
PB Goal: 1000 To Date: 801



# 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:**  
 03/22/26 Class/Lenten Penance Svc 6,7 & 8  
 03/29/26 No Class/Palm Sunday

**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



"I am the light of the world." (John 9:5)

Christ's light shines through those who answer His call. In marriage, couples reflect that light by the way they love, forgive, and serve one another. Their faith-filled witness creates a home filled with love and grace, drawing others closer to Christ. How does your marriage reveal God's love to those around you?



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