



March 22, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
5th 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*

Today, March 22nd @ 2:00pm
Many Priests in attendance

Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 27
2:15PM & 7:00PM

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Hop N Treat/Sponsored by KOC
Saturday, March 28th from 11AM-1PM
Rain or shine!

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,

Now is the time to get serious. These last four weeks of Lent have been tough for me, and maybe for you as well. But the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus was still far off.

That is no longer the case. Today begins "Passiontide." This is the two weeks leading up to the three days that changed the world, and allowed Eternity to be open to us.

It is marked in our church most noticeably by the "veiling" of statues. The Crucifix should be veiled as well, but we cannot practically do it, so it is uncovered. But the covering of statues is to symbolize the absence of Christ – representing His Death on Good Friday – and making us feel it in a new way.

Yes, in our heads we know that He was crucified, but we don't feel it unless we actually see something different in our lives. And the veiling of the statues is an ancient tradition that helps us along the way.

Another way we enter "Passiontide" with Jesus is to go to Confession. We have all of our normal times, but this Sunday (Mar. 22) at 2PM we will have our parish time of Confessions. There are over 12 priests who will be here. Please, take advantage of this time! There is no better way to FEEL the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus than walking into Confession, and being healed of our sins.

Please, even if it's been a very long time, go to Confession. You will be grateful for the opportunity to be freed. There is no substitute for Confession as a Catholic. We need to do it – yes, by obligation, but also naturally. Jesus knows we need to physically get rid of the sins we have committed, and to hear the words that those sins have been destroyed by the power of the Cross!

The three most important days of the year are upon us. Are you ready?

Palm Sunday

Next week is Palm Sunday, otherwise known as Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The beginning of the Mass starts with the blessing of our palms, and then the Gospel of the procession with Jesus and the palms is immediately proclaimed. Afterward, the Mass continues as normal, but with the normal Gospel replaced by the reading (by parts) of Jesus' Passion.

This begins the chaotic ups-and-downs of Holy Week: the joy of the people worshipping Jesus with a palm procession, just days later followed by asking for His death; the joy and emotion of the Last Supper, followed immediately by the traitorous handover by Judas in the Garden; the horrendous Passion of Jesus, followed by His Conquering Resurrection.

It is necessary to take part in these events if we wish to feel moved by them. We can't experience the joy of Easter if we have not experienced the sorrow and passion of Good Friday. All of the days are essential, and it starts with Mass on Sunday. I look forward to worshipping with you then.

State's (Championship) Evidence

As I mentioned last week at Mass, our parish Varsity girls (7-8 Grade) basketball team won the State CYO Tournament in Philadelphia. They won 34-32 on an amazing play at the buzzer against a tall and physical team from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia: St. Alphonsus in Maple Glen.

I am so proud of all of our kids, but these girls fought hard and tough, and also enjoyed playing on that stage and had joy playing together. Because of that, they brought back the first championship for any sports team in our parish, ever.

This brought media attention to our parish, believe it or not. Thanks be to God for our girls, and even more importantly, may God be praised and glorified through His work, done through this team, and our parish!

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, MARCH 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 St. Turibius

8:00 am +Abbot John Neitzel O-Praem

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 St. Oscar Romaro

8:00 am +Janet Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 am +Eddy Kerwin

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm **CONFESSION**
 6:00 pm +Bonnie Pacifico

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

8:00 am +Special Intentions of Jan Chaverini

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

7:15 am -7:50 am **CONFESSION**
 8:00 am +Robert White
 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **CONFESSION**
 4:30 pm +Gene DeCamp

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 am Our Parish Family
 10:30 am +Ron Goles
 6:00 pm +Jim Benson



DAILY READINGS

Sun. March 22	Ezek 37:12-14 (34A)/ Rom 8:8-11/ John 11:1-45
Mon. March 23	Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 / John 8:1-11
Tue. March 24	Num 21:4-9 / John 8:21-30
Wed. March 25	Isa 7:10-14; 8:10 /Heb 10:4-10 / Luke 1:26-38
Thu. March 26	Gen 17:3-9 / John 8:51-59
Fri. March 27	Jer 20:10-13 / John 10:31-42
Sat. March 28	Ezek 37:21-28 / John 11:45-56
Sun. March 29	Isa 50:4-7 (38ABC) / Phil 2:6-11 / Matt 26:14-27:66



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday giving \$11,446.00
 Online giving 3,968.25
 QCD** 9,000.00
 Total \$24,414.25

MARCH 15, 2026



Scan for Online Giving

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC) UPDATE

2026 Goal: \$177,793

Collected and Pledged: \$74,330 (42% of goal)

**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 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 **Church**

MONDAY MARCH 23
Parish Office Closed & No Adoration
 11:30 am Rosary and Prayer Group **Church**
 6:00 pm Legion of Mary
 6:30 pm Bible Study **Art Room**

TUESDAY MARCH 24
Parish Office Closed & No Adoration
 7:00 pm Scouts **Cafeteria**

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25
 6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY MARCH 26
 8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team # 1**
 6:00 pm Senior Ministry Game Night **Cafeteria**
 6:30 pm OCIA **Library**

FRIDAY MARCH 27
 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 28
 6:30 am TMIY **Cafeteria**
 11:00 am Hop n Treat **Parking Lot (in gym in case of rain)**

SUNDAY MARCH 29
 10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**
 11:30 am Parish Rosary Making **Art Room**



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Anne Skirmantis
David Erby cousin of Joan Scardino

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



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.

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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“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” - Proverbs 3:5-6

If you or a loved one would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please reach out to:

Donna Jennings at 717-566-3184 or via email: djennings2095@comcast.net.

NEED TO KNOW



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent 2:15pm and 7pm

FINAL PUSH FOR PB JARS:

Thank you for your donations of 40 & 48oz of Jif Creamy peanut butter! You may place your donations on the cart in the Narthex. Our Goal: 1,000 To Date: 818



Parish Rosary Making

Join us to make Rosaries for the Missions in the school Art room Sun. March 29 anytime from 11:30AM to 4:30PM. If you make two for the Missions, you can make one for yourself! Adults are welcome.

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

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 or the SSBVM PTT at ptt@ssbvm.org

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:
 03/29/26 No Class/Palm Sunday
 04/05/26 - No Class/Happy Easter!

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



Virtue recognition for Self Control Our School's Virtue recognition for the Month of February was Self Control. Congratulations to the following SSBVM Students (K5-8th) who were nominated by their teachers for exemplifying Self Control: Wyatt Tritch, Elijah Novak, Sophia Farr-Stine, Corinne Breen, Savannah Hoffacker, Caden Johnson, Prynceton Cunningham, Emmanuel Melendrez, Gianna Accorsi, Brynley Eddy, Clare Simon

Congratulations to the following Seven Sorrows school students in Grades 4th - 8th on their academic achievements for the 2nd marking period of this school year.

Distinguished Honor: Miriam Astfalk, Jamimesyn Wells, Jacob Astfalk, Ella Dale, Gianna Accorsi, Chris Nagassou, Aela Mulhearn, Blake Underhill, Christian Bordner, Prynceton Cunningham, Charles Dale, Kinsley Intrieri, Maggie Krieg,
Honor Roll: Celia Bolesky, Clare Breen, Joseph Kennedy, Isabella Sample, Clare Simon, Luca Atkins-Carricato, Brooklynn Barnes, Gracelynn Brubacher, Brynley Eddy, Diego Flores-Garcia, Jesus Melendrez, Claire Roda, Dalton Underhill, Ava Vickery, Mya Williams, Andrew Bolesky, Joseph Breen, Mila Carnes, Mary Joy Hanna, Landon Matson, Adelyn Rogati, Luke Thomas, Jacqueline Barajas, Alexandra Bolesky, Colton Bordner, Emmanuel Melendrez, Phoebe Milkovich, Shiloh Benitez, Lilyaunah Bonner, David Ferguson, Gennaro Ferruffino, Andrew Rogati, Lily Sides

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

Jesus' promise of a new life inspires all vocations. Could He be calling you to the priesthood, to bring His word to others through the sacraments? Open your heart to His plan.

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

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