

March 29, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
Palm Sunday

Reverend Timothy J. Sahd, Pastor

Fr. Sahd@ssbvm.org

Holy Week

To be Catholic simply means that we desire to be with God now and forever in heaven, and we are with HIM in this life, through Jesus Christ and His Church.



Monday & Tuesday, March 30 & 31

8:00AM Mass (Adoration Chapel 9AM-10PM)

Wednesday, April 1

8:30AM Mass (Adoration Chapel 10AM-10PM)

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2 (Adoration Chapel closed)

No Confessions

7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration immediately following until 10PM.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 (Adoration Chapel closed)

No morning Mass

3PM The Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

Confessions immediately following.

7PM Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, April 4

NO morning Mass/9-10:00AM Confessions

10:30AM Blessing of the Easter Food

8PM The Great Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

6:30AM (Sunrise, outdoors), 8AM, 10:30AM

NO 6PM Mass on Easter

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're in it. We've finally hit Holy Week. And we're plunged into the depths of it as we jump immediately to the reading of the Passion at the Gospel.

Today is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It seems kind of strange to celebrate Jesus with a parade of palms (which is what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem 2,000 years ago), and at the same Mass dive right into Good Friday.

It's a confusing mix of joy and sadness and anger. But this Mass IS Holy Week in a nutshell: Highs and lows. Life and Death. All in the span of one week.

And we NEED to experience it. The Masses and liturgies of this week are like none other the rest of the year. I say this every year, but I mean it: PLEASE COME TO THESE MASSES. If you want to feel Jesus' Passion, enter into this week through the liturgies. Here's a brief description:

Holy Thursday: 7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper; 10PM Night Prayer

At this Mass, we honor Jesus' giving of the Eucharist to His Church, and also the institution of the Priesthood. Because of this, it starts as a joyful celebration, and even the Gloria is sung and the bells are rung. It is truly a celebration of these great gifts. I will wash the feet of 12 parishioners to echo Jesus' washing of His Apostles feet, in an act of love. It is a true honor.

But at the end, everything changes. After Holy Communion, we will strip the altar and transfer the Eucharist from the tabernacle to the Garden tabernacle, to symbolize Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane. You can feel how Jesus felt abandoned. It is so moving.

The church will stay open until 10PM for anyone to pray with Jesus (unlike His Apostles, who fell asleep), at which point we'll pray Night Prayer together (a collection of psalms and other prayers).

Good Friday: 3PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion; 7PM Stations of the Cross

This is not a Mass, but a most beautiful time to spend with Jesus, who is hanging on the Cross. At the start – at 3PM -- I enter in silence and lay prostrate before the Crucifix, as the congregation kneels. This is the minute of Jesus' death. We are united with Him at that moment.

Then, we read Jesus' Passion again. After that, intercessions are read for the salvation of the world, as the salvation brought by Jesus' Death was meant to reach every person in His Creation. Will we reach out to Him? A most beautiful tradition of "Veneration" of the Cross follows, which allows everyone in the congregation to kiss or genuflect before the Cross, which is the sign of our salvation, and Jesus' love for us.

Finally, we receive Holy Communion outside of Mass. This is the only day that Mass is not allowed to be celebrated. All leave in silence. We will have Confessions immediately after this service.

At 7PM, we will pray the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: the Great Easter Vigil

This Mass begins outside of the church, with a fire that shows the light of Jesus' Resurrection. Inside, the church's lights are off, and the Easter Candle is carried into the darkness to show Jesus as the only light. The congregation lights their candles from Easter Candle, to show that we only have light from the True Light.

An Easter proclamation is sung, and several readings that show God's work in the history of Salvation are read. This is not a short Mass. But it is so beautiful and symbolic. After these readings, the Gloria is sung, and all of the lights of the Church are turned on, to symbolize that we are now entering the life of Jesus with the proclamation of the Gospel! Joy has finally been given to us!

After the homily, six people will be baptized into the Church, and receive Confirmation! What a joy! This Mass is an Easter Mass.

Easter Sunday: 6:30AM (outdoors), 8AM, 10:30AM

Come celebrate Jesus' Resurrection! If you are attending the 6:30AM Mass, please bring a chair.

I so look forward to walking with Jesus AND you this week. Will you join Him? I know you will not be disappointed!

God bless you,
Fr. Sahn



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

Palm Sunday of Passion of the Lord

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

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

8:00 am +Florence McGreen

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

8:00 am +Bob Mraz

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

8:30 am +Jeff Hayes

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

NO CONFESSION

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

NO MORNING MASS

3:00 pm Passion of the Lord
CONFESSION
7:00 pm Stations

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

NO MORNING MASS

9:00 am CONFESSION
10:30 am Food Blessing
8:00pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5, 2026

Resurrection of the Lord

6:30 am Special Intentions of Rev. Kyle Sahd
8:00 am +Marie Barton
10:30 am Our Parish Family
NO EVENING MASS



DAILY READINGS

Sun. March 29	Isa 50:4-7/ Phil 2:6-11/ Matt 26:14-27:66
Mon. March 30	Isa 42:1-7/ John 12:1-11
Tue. March 31	Isa 49:1-6/ John 13:21-33, 36-38
Wed. April 1	Isa 50:4-9a/ Matt 26:14-25
Thu. April 2	Isa 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/ Rev 1:5-8/ Luke 4:16-21
Fri. April 3	Isa 52:13-53:12/ Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9/ John 18:1-19:42
Sat. April 4	Gen 1:1-2.2/ Gen 22:1-18/ Exo 14:15-15:1/ Isa 54:5-14/ Isa 55:1-11/ Bar 3:9-15, 32-4.4/ Eze 36:16-17a, 18-28/ Matt 28:1-10
Sun. April 5	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/ Col 3:1-4/ John 20:1-9



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday giving \$12,183.00
Online giving 5,312.25
QCD** 24,500.00
Total \$41,995.25

MARCH 22, 2026



Scan for Online Giving

DAC - Pledged and Received: \$83,093 (47%)

****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 29**
10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement
11:30 am Parish Rosary Making Art Room
- MONDAY MARCH 30**
6:00 pm Legion of Mary
- TUESDAY MARCH 31**
6:00 pm OCIA First Reconciliation Church
- WEDNESDAY APRIL 1**
6:30 pm Choir Practice
- THURSDAY APRIL 2 - HOLY THURSDAY**
8:30 am Church Cleaners Team # 2
7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper / Adoration Church
- FRIDAY APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY**
3:00 pm Passion of the Lord Church
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross Church
- SATURDAY APRIL 4**
10:30 am Blessing of Easter Food Church
8:00 pm Easter Vigil
- SUNDAY APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY**
10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Ronald Barner
Engelbert Gruszka
(brother of Annarosse Hepner)
Katherine Guth
(aunt of Marc Bolesky)
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

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.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



Spiritual Support Group

2nd Thursday of every month.
April 9 at 6:30 pm

Parish Living Room

Mental Health Ministry
Seven Sorrows BVM



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

This day joins the foretelling of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (as the crowd welcomed Him with palm branches) and the proclamation of His Passion in the Gospel reading. Hence, the day is called both "Palm Sunday" and "Passion Sunday."

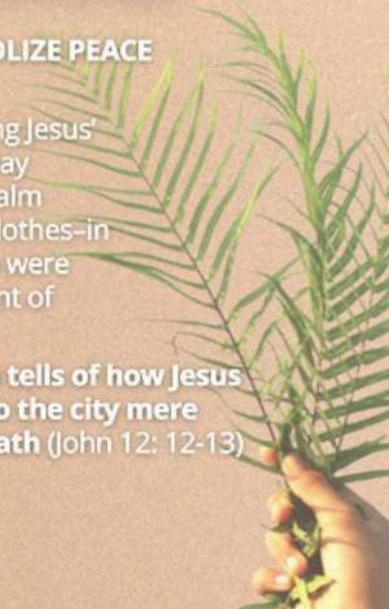
NEED TO KNOW

MEANING BEHIND THE palm branches

THE PALMS SYMBOLIZE PEACE AND VICTORY!

It was custom during Jesus' time for people to pay homage by laying palm branches—or even clothes—in front of people who were owed a great amount of respect.

The Gospel of John tells of how Jesus was welcomed into the city mere days before his death (John 12: 12-13)



DO NOT DISCARD THE PALMS

Special Note:

If you receive the blessed Palms at Mass on Sunday, do not throw them away or discard them! Instead, return unwanted palms to your parish to be used in making ashes for Ash Wednesday the following year. According to Canon Law (1171), blessed items are to be treated with reverence. If there is a need to dispose of such items, they must be buried or burned.

You can make special crosses from your palms to keep in your home!



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!
 04/12/26 Class/4th Gr. Mass & Rosary Award Ceremony
 04/26/26 Class/End of Year Celebration

2nd Grade - 1st Holy Communion
 04/11/26 Parent & Student Retreat
 04/29/26 Rehearsal
 05/02/26 1st Holy Communion Mass & May Crowning weekend

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



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



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9)

As we enter Holy Week, we honor Christ's sacrifice. Priesthood, consecrated life, and holy matrimony mirror this self-giving love, offering one's life for others. Could God be calling you to serve?

Talk to Father Sahd or reach out to Father Weaver at the Vocations Office at Frijweaver@hbg.org

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