



April 19, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
3rd Sunday of Easter

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
Saturday: 8:00am

SUNDAY MASS:

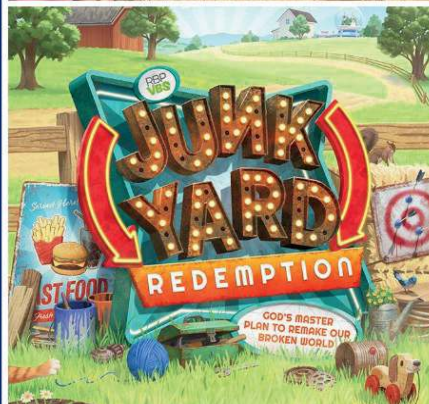
Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

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



Summer Camp 2026

1st week of June thru August
Monday - Friday
8AM-3PM



Vacation Bible School

June 22 - June 29th
Monday - Friday
9AM-11:30AM



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,

Over these last few weeks, we have heard of prayers and words of peace come from Pope Leo, as he has responded to the fighting in Iran. This culminated last weekend in a back-and-forth between President Trump and Pope Leo, after Pope Leo held a Vigil for Peace at the Vatican.

President Trump wrote last week that Pope Leo is "Weak on Crime, Weak on Nuclear Weapons..." and that he should "focus on being a Great Pope, not a Politician." He argues that the attacks on Iran are/were justified, because Iran was going to soon build a nuclear weapon.

Some American Catholics agree that Pope Leo should "mind his own business." Vice President Vance is one of them, saying "that in some cases it would be best for the Vatican to stick to matters of morality" and out of American life.

But war IS a moral issue, and the pope would be derelict if he didn't urge peace.

In fact, our Faith is not real if it isn't lived out. It cannot be something we just invest in for an hour a week. I'm kind of surprised how easily some of the Faithful can put aside real moral questions (like war, abortion, etc) when they contradict our politics. This is not how we are to live out our Faith. I do it at times. Is eternity really that non-essential to me? Do the teachings of Jesus not matter to me?

Our Holy Father's desire for peace is not new. His first words after his election last year were "The Peace of the Lord be with you always." And the Catechism backs him up, saying that peace "cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity" (2304). Pope Leo has urged Iran and the United States to hold talks to resolve their differences, something that has happened recently, and according to the President, something that he wants Iran and the US to engage in again.

Another area of contention is the proportionality of the U.S.'s threats and military response in general. Pope Leo called Pres. Trump's threat to destroy Iranian civilization "truly unacceptable." Bishop Senior told ABC27 that Iran's terrorist attacks over the last 47 years are evil, but destroying Iran's infrastructure and putting innocent lives in danger doesn't seem like a proportional response. President Trump says that the United States has a right to attack Iran to defend itself against a nuclear attack.

The Church states that "just wars" are permissible, and a country may start one when: the damage inflicted by the enemy on their country is grave and devastating; all other means of putting an end to it must be ineffective; there must be good chances of success; and the armed response must be proportional to what has been inflicted.

Do the conditions for a just war exist here? Some Catholics say that our response is not proportional, and others say that we haven't exhausted all of our peacemaking efforts. And so, they may conclude this is not a justified war. President Trump says that 47 years of Iranian terrorist attacks, combined with their persistent desire for a nuclear bomb, are reasons enough for war.

Pope Leo said that he will continue to pray for peace and promote dialogue among the US and Iran. This may seem naive. We might think, "Do we really think Iran would engage in serious negotiations after they have planned and enacted attacks against the US and others?"

But Pope Leo's "peace" reaction has long been the posture of the Church. In 1991, Pope John Paul II urged an end to war when the US kicked Iraq's invading forces out of Kuwait. John Paul said then, "No more war, a journey with no return."

And in 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq after 9/11, John Paul said, "I belong to that generation that lived through World War II and, thanks be to God, survived it. I have the duty to say to all young people, to those who are younger than I, who have not had this experience: "No more war."

Leo is not alone in his quest for peace. Even John Paul II, who is partly credited with dismantling the communist Soviet Union, boldly urged peace during conflicts. This is the Catholic response to war, and IS a moral issue.

We may disagree with him, and argue that this war is justified. Whether the facts back that up, I am certainly not qualified to state, but Pope Leo has been making his case that it isn't. But we can't say that Pope Leo has no right to speak on this issue. Previous popes have spoken, and have been right to do so. And as Catholics who seek the Kingdom of God, we should try to understand, and not dismiss it out of hand, even if we disagree. This goes for all issues of morality, if we truly want to live as a Body of Christ.

We are called to pray for peace, the protection of all innocent people, and for our armed forces. May the Prince of Peace be with you always, and may we be united as a Church and a nation.

Fr. Sahn



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Our Parish Family
 10:30 am +Robert Kerwin
 6:00 pm +Joanne Sieminiski

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

8:00 am +Mario Corradi

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 St. Anselm

8:00 am +Patricia Kozloski

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

8:30 am +Donald Shields

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 St. George

5:15 pm - 5:50 pm **CONFESSION**
 6:00 pm +Edward and Gertrude Kerwin

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 St. Fidelis

8:00 am +Don and Pauline Smith

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 St. Mark

7:15 am - 7:50 am **CONFESSION**
 8:00 am +Vince Varankar
 4:30 pm +Ann Savidge

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Paul Steere
 10:30 am Our Parish Family
 6:00 pm +Maryann Nigro



DAILY READINGS

Sun. April 19	Acts 2:14,22-23 / 1 Peter 1:17-21 / Luke 24:13-35
Mon. April 20	Acts 6: 8-15 / John 22-29
Tue. April 21	Acts 7:51-8:1a / John 6:30-35
Wed. April 22	Acts 8:1b-8 / John 6:35-40
Thu. April 23	Acts 8:26-40 / John 6:44-51
Fri. April 24	Acts 9:1-20 / John 6:52-59
Sat. April 25	Peter 5:5b-14 / Mark 16:15-20
Sun. April 26	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 / 1Peter 2:20b-25 / John 10:1-10

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.



“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.



SUNDAY OFFERING

APRIL 12, 2026

Sunday Collection \$14,234.00
 Online Giving 4,525.25
 Total \$18,759.25



Scan for Online Giving

2026 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC)

Goal: \$177,793
 Collected and Pledged: \$109,768 (62%)

THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY APRIL 19

8:00 am KOC BBQ Ticket Sales **Narthex (all Masses)**
 8:00 am CCW Bake Sale **Narthex (all Masses)**
 8:00 am Off the Streets Donation House **Narthex (all Masses)**
 9:15 am Religious Education
 10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**
 1:00 pm Bible Study **Library**

MONDAY APRIL 20

6:00 pm Legion of Mary
 6:30 pm Bible Study **Library**

TUESDAY APRIL 21

7:00 pm Scouts **Cafeteria**

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22

6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY APRIL 23

8:30 am Church Cleaners **Team #1**
 6:00 pm Senior Ministry Game Night **Cafeteria**

FRIDAY APRIL 24

SATURDAY APRIL 25

10:00 am First Holy Communion Photo Session **Church**
 4:30 pm KOC BBQ Ticket Sales **Narthex**
 4:30 pm Smiles for Abby **Narthex**

SUNDAY APRIL 26

8:00 am KOC BBQ Ticket Sales **Narthex (after all Masses)**
 8:00 am Smiles for Abby **Narthex (after all Masses)**
 9:15 am Religious Education
 10:30 am Parish Playroom **Church Basement**



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Fran Merryman
 Mark Shipkowski
 Diane Souders
 Katie Stence
 (niece of Deb MCGovern)

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

A DAY IN HUMMELSTOWN - TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

10:00am - Historical Museum 20 N. Rosanna Street.

12:00pm- Chatter Box for Lunch 254 W. Main Street,

Text your reservation request by April 21 to our Augie Spadone at 717-877-4131.

PILGRIMAGE 2026 - National Centre for Padre Pio. Flyers detailing the bus trip are available on the Narthex Flyers Rack. Reservation/Payment is due by 10 am on May 20th.

MASS & GAME NIGHT - April 23. Game Night immediately follows 6 pm Mass in the Upper Cafe.



We are currently accepting donations for our upcoming festival basket raffle. We welcome ready-made themed baskets, new items to help create baskets, as well as cash or gift card donations.

Your generosity helps make this a fun and successful event for our parish community. Donations can be dropped off at the parish office. Please contact Angela with any questions- 717-982-3875

All donations due by April 24th

Festival News

Spring is here! Just a reminder when spring cleaning, to donate your unwanted treasures to our Annual Flea Market.

Corrected Drop off dates in the gym: 5/7 3:30pm - 5:30pm, 5/15 3:30pm-5:30pm, 5/17 12noon-2:00pm.

Middletown Food Pantry wish list: condiments, salad dressing, pudding (chocolate and vanilla), Jello (any flavor), and personal care items toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.).



NEED TO KNOW



The 4th annual Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held on May 17th in the school parking lot from 9am to 1pm.

Tickets cost \$12 and will be sold after all weekend Masses beginning on 4/18 and in the Parish Office.

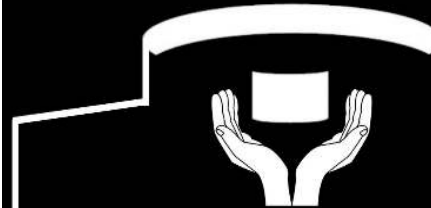
Proceeds benefit :PPT, Smiles for Abby, & KOC



MAY 17

9am - 1pm

School parking lot



Please take a card at the Scrip Table to leave a note for Father Sahd & Father Josh

Uplift Your Priest

APRIL 11TH - APRIL 19TH

WAYS TO UPLIFT YOUR PRIEST

PRAY | FAST | SACRIFICE | AFFIRM

SEVEN SORROWS

SUMMER FESTIVAL

MAY 21ST, 22ND & 23RD

5PM-9PM

HOW CAN YOU HELP::

- **CASH RAFFLE AND SHOP TILL YOU DROP TICKETS** - PURCHASE & RETURN THEM TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR SUNDAY COLLECTION BASKET.
- **JEWELRY EXTRAVAGANZA** - PLACE YOUR HIGH QUALITY & COSTUME JEWELRY JEWELRY IN THE SUNDAY COLLECTION OR DELIVER TO THE PARISH OFFICE. IF YOU ARE AWARE OF PRECIOUS STONES OR METALS, PLEASE ADD A NOTE FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS.
- **CANDY WHEEL** - CONSIDER DONATING LOLLIPOPS, CHOCOLATES, LICORICE & GUM TO OUR COLLECTION BIN IN THE NARTHEX.
- **VOLUNTEER** - SIGN-UP TO WORK A GAME (4 HOURS) OR A BINGO RUNNER (3 HOURS) OR A DISHWASHER (7:30 - 9 PM).

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:
 04/26/26 Class/End of Year Celebration

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

NOW ENROLLING

- Preschool through 8th Grade
- Financial Aid Available
- Whole-child approach
- Busing from surrounding districts
- S.T.E.M-focused project based learning



Stepping into Seven Sorrows BVM School

Is your little one ready to take a BIG first step into school this fall? Come see the Seven Sorrows Difference! **LEARN MORE & EXPLORE ON MAY 1st**
 Preschool Session 9:30 am | Kindergarten Session 1:30 pm
 Register to attend this event: <https://bit.ly/STEPINTOSS>

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

As we begin the annual Uplift your Priest, we pray for those who bring Christ's peace through the priesthood, honoring and supporting them in their vocation. If you sense a call to this ministry of mercy, take time to explore God's plan for you.

Talk to Father Sahd or reach out to Father Weaver at the Vocations Office at Fjweaver@hbgiocese.org

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