



May 24, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

Pentecost

Reverend Timothy J. Sahd, Pastor

FrSahd@ssbvm.org

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

DAILY MASS:

Monday: 9:00am - Memorial Day

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



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,

The Feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, is today! Fifty days after Easter, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles. Jesus told His Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for this great gift, and they listened. They were rewarded with His Presence.

The Holy Spirit is the one who bridges Heaven and Earth for us! He is the one who brings the power of Eternity to us on Earth. Without Him, we have no link to Heaven. Without Him, our prayers are not heard, because we do not have voices loud enough to shout to Heaven!

Without Him, Jesus cannot be brought to us in what first was bread and wine. Without the Holy Spirit, we are not changed into God Himself, which is what the Sacraments do. He transforms us into God Himself!

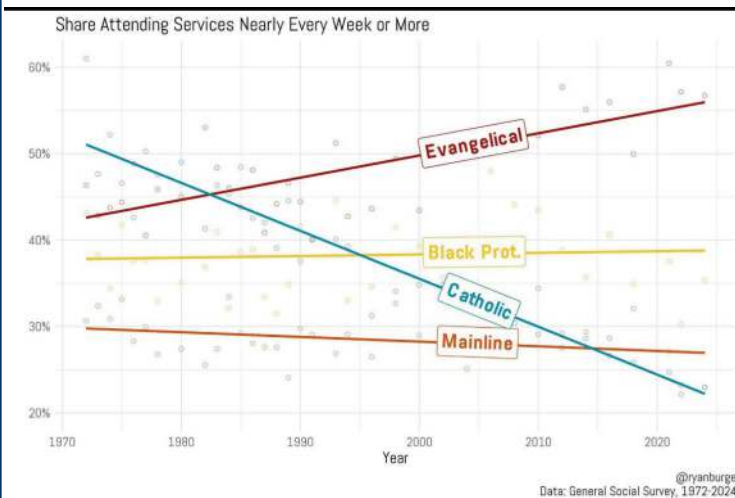
Because this is the Feast in which the power of Heaven was transferred to the Apostles -- the Church -- through the Holy Spirit, it is called the birthday of the Church!

It is in the Church that we receive this power. It is inside of this Church in which the power of the Holy Spirit, first given to the Apostles, is transferred to us. It is lived out today through Apostolic succession, in the role of the bishops. It is through them which we receive that same power of the Holy Spirit, the power of Heaven, the power to be transformed into Him!

The Sacramental life of the Church is the central focus of our life as Catholics. It is where the Holy Spirit meets our unworthiness, and makes it Holy!

Two charts I saw recently made me think we've fallen from that understanding.

First, this chart shows weekly Sunday worship among Catholics and the other Christian denominations. Only Catholics teach we must attend Sunday Mass. Look at this trend, from 1970 to today:



While other denominations have stayed flat or gone up, the number of those attending weekly Sunday Mass has crashed to about 22%. How can that be, when we KNOW that the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus is truly present at Mass, and made available to change you and me?

Since the middle of the First Century, the Didache (The Teaching of the Apostles), a document that tells us what life was like for the earliest Christians, said that Catholics attended Mass weekly, on Sunday. This is not a new teaching, and yet it seems like it has fallen off, as if it's only an "extra" or a "good thing" if I go, and if I don't, whatever.

But that is not true. It is essential, and if we can attend, we are obliged to go, because we are worshipping our True God! If we are sick, or in a circumstance where we simply cannot attend, then the obligation is lifted.

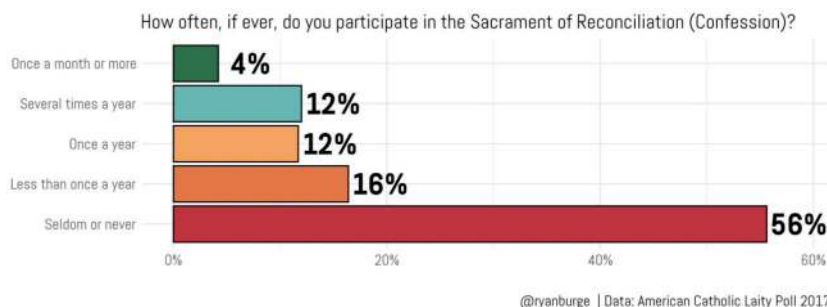
Confession, too, is linked to reception of Jesus' Body and Blood. In the Didache, it teaches, "On Sundays, get together and break the bread and give thanks, confessing your sins in order that your sacrifice may be pure."

Confession also plays an essential role in our Catholic lives, especially if we have mortal sins that need to be healed and forgiven.

Yet, another survey tells us that Catholics don't really take part in it regularly.

This survey tells us that only 28% of Catholics attend Confession once-a-year or more.

The Feast of the Holy Spirit is a great Feast, but is not really fulfilled in our lives unless we take part in the Sacraments as necessary. They are not "extras," but essential, if we are to be transformed into the life of God, and be able to enter into Heaven.



As your pastor, I love you and want to be in Heaven with you. I must follow this same advice, and not grow slack in my Spiritual life. I want you to know this, too, so that we may all enjoy the great gift of Heaven together, by the grace of the Holy Spirit!

God bless you,
Fr. Sahd



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

8:00 am +Earl J. Lipiec Sr.
10:30 am Our Parish Family
6:00 pm +Ron Goles

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026 The Blessed Virgin Mary

Memorial Day

9:00 am +Don Jennings

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026 St Philip Neri

8:00 am +Tony Shipkowski Jr.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 St. Augustine

8:30 am +James Spagnolo

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm **CONFESISON**

6:00 pm +Steve Pacini

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 St. Paul VI

8:00 am +Judy Dupes Phillips

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

7:15 am - 7:50 am **CONFESSION**

8:00 am +Jessie McCurdy

4:30 pm +Eileen Sceski

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

The Most Holy Trinity

8:00 am +Joe and Stephanie Lawruk

10:30 am +Gary Livalsberger



DAILY READINGS

Sun. May 24	Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23
Mon. May 25	Gen 3:9-15, 20 / John 19:25-34
Tue. May 26	1 Peter 1:10-16 / Mark 10:28-31
Wed. May 27	1 Peter 1:18-25 / Mark 10:32-45
Thu. May 28	1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12 / Mark 10:46-52
Fri. May 29	1 Peter 4:7-13 / Mark 11:11-26
Sat. May 30	Jude 17, 20b-25 / Mark 11:27-33
Sun. May 31	Exo 34:4b-6, 8-9 / 2 Cor 13:11-13 / John 3:16-18



SUNDAY OFFERING

MAY 17, 2026

Sunday giving \$11,303.00
Online giving 5,978.25
Total giving \$17,281.25



Scan for Online Giving

Ascension Thursday \$2,374.00

2026 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC)

Goal: \$177,793

Collected and Pledged: \$132,219 (72%)



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY MAY 24

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

MONDAY MAY 25 MEMORIAL DAY

Parish Office and Adoration Chapel Closed

TUESDAY MAY 26

WEDNESDAY MAY 27

THURSDAY MAY 28

8:30 am Church Cleaners Team #2

6:00 pm Senior Ministry Game Night Cafeteria

FRIDAY MAY 29

SATURDAY MAY 30

SUNDAY MAY 31

9:00 am Sub Sale Pick Up School

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

11:30 am Parish Rosary Making School's Art Room



PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar this weekend are in loving memory of **R. Michael Gearhart**. They are a gift from the Gearhart family.



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Dolly Kametz

Loretta Wall

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.

RANK	NAME	BRANCH
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 & GAME NIGHT - May 28 - Mass at 6 pm with Game Night immediately following in the Upper Cafeteria until 8:30 pm.

BOCCE - June 4 at 8:30 am at Sunset Park.

RIVER HOUSE - Dinner under the Tent - Saturday, June 13 at 6 pm.

Separate Checks will be available. Text/Call your reservation to Kathy Bednarik at 717-574-1929 by 10 am on May 29. Leave message with Guest Name(s) & Phone #.



A heartfelt thank you to the many, many people who bought or sold tickets, promoted the event, donated meals, made monetary or in-kind contributions, delivered meals, or volunteered their time for our annual Chicken BBQ. Through the generosity of our parishioners and others, we were able to deliver 65 meals to shut ins, families in need, and the retired Priests at the Diocesan Center.

And, the Kauffman's chicken was awesome, too!



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



Mental Health Ministry
Seven Sorrows BVM



Do you or someone you love live with **Addiction** ?

Let us help you get started on your road to recovery!

Substance Use Disorders

potentially addictive substances

- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- Cannabis (marijuana)
- Stimulants
- Prescription/Non-prescription drugs
- Tobacco/nicotine

Behavioral Addictions

potentially addictive activities

- Gambling
- Eating
- Shopping
- Shoplifting or other risky behaviors
- Viewing pornography
- Video gaming

Addiction is treatable. There is no shame in asking for help.

NEED TO KNOW

Capital Campaign - Check Your Mailboxes!

The Our Faith, Our Future campaign will fund essential, comprehensive renovations for our 32,000 square foot gym and cafeteria. The \$3.7 million campaign will upgrade the facility, ensuring safety, bringing it up to code, and creating a modern, functional community space for BOTH the church's and school's futures. These are unbudgeted items that require a separate fundraising effort.

Please take the time to read, pray, and discern how you may join with our Seven Sorrows parish family in making this vision a reality. Commitment Weekend will be held June 6th and 7th. We are asking all parishioners to complete a commitment form and return before or by this week.

While your physical gift does not need to begin yet, pledges of incoming funds guide leadership to better understand how the funds will come in affecting our ability to fund this renovation.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Richie Musser at 484-364-0781 or rmusser@kirbysmith.com**. Thank you for your dedication, support and generosity!



Parish Family,

Thank-you to everyone that supported this year's festival! We hope you had a great time mixing with neighbors and friends as well as enjoying a nice meal and maybe a drink while listening to the bands.

Thank-you to all the volunteers that worked a game, sold treasures at the flea market, served food, and cleaned tables.

A special THANK YOU to all our event leads: Basket Raffle, Flea Market, Inside Meals, Outside Food, Prize Tent, Plant Stand, Chuck-a-Luck, Bake Sale, Bingo, Set-up & Counting Cash. You each took charge of your area and your resilience in returning year after year is critical to our success.

Look for our report on the numbers in the coming weeks. **Thanks again!**

Judi Leo & Donna Huggins

2026 Drive-thru FISH FRY Financial Update

Income	\$78,715.00
Sponsors	\$1,250.00
Startup Money	\$800.00
Total Income	\$80,765.00
Expenses	\$38,818.15
Repay Start-up Money	\$800.00
Total Expenses	\$39,618.15

Fish Fry Profit to Benefit Seven Sorrows School **\$41,946.85**

We want to thank all our wonderful volunteers, everyone who purchased a meal in support of the 2026 Fish Fry, as well as our very generous 2026 Fish Fry Sponsors.

RAISING DISCIPLES

Religious Education Coordinator - Lisa Fortunato
 ssbvm.org/Education
 lfortunato@ssbvm.org

SSBVM Catholic School Principal - Angela Warner
 Sevensorrowsschool.com
 awarner@ssbvm.org

Vacation Bible School - Junkyard Redemption
 June 22-June 26, 2026 9:00am -11:30am
 Details @ sevensorrowsschool.com

Join us at Seven Sorrows, BVM School this summer from June 15 to June 19 or August 3 to August 7 for an exciting week of all-new, confidence-building #STEM fun with @CampInvention! Discounts available. #SummerCamp invent.org/mylocalcamp

NOW ENROLLING

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



Come see the Seven Sorrows Difference!
 Guided Tours for Prospective Families
Monday, June 8

Book your tour time today! <https://bit.ly/SSBVMTOUR>
 Three sessions available: 10 am | 11 am | 12 pm
 Don't miss this final opportunity to visit our classrooms before the school building undergoes summer cleaning.

Looking for a fun summer camp for your preschooler or kindergartener? Is your child ready to explore, discover, get wet, make friends, and have fun? Then look no further than Seven Sorrows Summer Camp! We offer an 8 week, full day camp here at Seven Sorrows School! Registration can be completed online at <https://www.sevensorrowsschool.com/summer-camp>. Questions can be directed to Megan Zapcic at mzapcic@ssbvm.org. See you this summer!

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)

On the day of His resurrection, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into His disciples, empowering them to continue His mission of love, truth, and service. In priesthood, consecrated life, and holy matrimony, the Holy Spirit strengthens hearts to answer God's call courageously, guiding, inspiring, and sanctifying their work in the world. Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit, that more men and women may be filled with His grace and step boldly into their vocations.

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