



August 23, 2026

SEVEN SORROWS

of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reverend Timothy J. Sahd, Pastor

FrSahd@ssbvm.org

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

DAILY MASS:

Monday: 8:00am

Tuesday: 8:00am

Wednesday: 8:30am (New Time)

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 (New)

Thursday: 9:00am-10:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-Noon



Our Daily Mass

Our daily Mass on Wednesdays will return to 8:30am starting August 26th as we welcome back our students for another school year.

For all students returning to school: Please know of our love and prayers for your learning and success!

PARISH: 280 N. Race Street; Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-3133 Phone | ssbvm.org

RECTORY HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm, Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Faith feeds us with Jesus' life, and then teaches us how to live as His Body. Pope Leo -- while speaking to pilgrims in Rome last week, talked about the importance of attending Mass each Sunday. "To sanctify Sunday, it is essential to celebrate the Eucharist. This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering."

Every Sunday, when we enter Mass, we enter into the Sacrifice of Jesus and the power of His resurrection. It is where we find Eternal Life. That celebration is what we do on the day of rest. It's not something we "can" do, but what we "must" do. We do it together, as a people of God.

And holding to that, you worship our God on vacation! Here's the proof: you sent pictures of where you attended Mass last week at St. Paul's in Stone Harbor, NJ; Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, MO; San Lorenzo, Castro, Spain; the Cathedral in Las Vegas, NV; St. Pio in Seaside Heights, NJ; and St. Kinga's Chapel, located 331 feet underground in the Wieliczka Salt Mine near Krakow, Poland. It looks beautiful!



It is the best part of my week to be with you at Mass, and most joyful, to go to the Cross and the empty tomb with you every week. See you at Mass!

Second, as we further are taught by our Faith, we saw a few things happened recently that go against our Church's understanding of Life, and its sanctity. What are we to believe?

A new law went into effect this month in New York that allows someone who has 6 months or less to live to "ingest medication to die peacefully in their sleep if suffering is unbearable." At first this seems compassionate, as no one wants anyone to suffer. And we have all experienced this with family and friends. The law is popular, as polls showed a large majority of New Yorkers approve of this law.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, a new law was enacted that removed ALL previous limits on abortion, and says that a child's life may be ended at any point, even to birth, "by a physician based upon the professional judgment of the physician."

As Catholics, we know that God gave us life and is the author of life. We have a God-given right to it. Life is sacred. So, it is not a right WE control. This dictates our teachings on all life issues, and while it may not be popular, and may be difficult to follow, it is what makes Christians and Catholics different.

In these instances, we see that life can be ended -- by our say-so -- right up to birth, and at the end. Life is getting squeezed on both ends. Where does this go? In Canada, where euthanasia has been in effect for several years, they are expanding the program in March to allow those who suffer mental health issues - only - to be eligible for euthanasia. That is scary.

These are issues we all struggle with. We want to be compassionate, and we certainly don't talk about these things flippantly. But we also must live the Kingdom on Earth, and God's Kingdom is one of life.

When life loses its sacredness at the beginning or the end, it is attacked in the middle. We see that in so many different ways, where the poor, those with mental challenges, and the disadvantaged, are denigrated or left to rot.

Let's pray for those facing very tough decisions, and for a humility to accept God's teaching on life for each of us who struggle with these real life events. God bless you and protect you always.

Fr. Sahd



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Elizabeth Christner
10:30 am +Peter and Marcella Perpetua
6:00 pm Our Parish Family

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 St. Bartholomew

8:00 am +Helen Ostrowski

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 Sts. Louis and Joseph Calasanz

8:00 am +Albert Schmeltzer Jr.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

8:30 am Special Intentions of Dan Sahd

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 St. Monica

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm **CONFESSION**

6:00 pm +Helen Manik

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026 St. Augustine

8:00 am +Cathy Benson

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

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

8:00 am +Steph Matincheck

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm **CONFESSION**

4:30 pm Our Parish Family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am +Theresa Goles

10:30 am +Joe Souders

6:00 pm +Kim Shipkowski



DAILY READINGS

Sun. Aug. 23	Isa 22:19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Matt 16:13-20
Mon. Aug. 24	Rev 21:9b-14 / John 1:45-51
Tue. Aug. 25	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 / Matt 23:23-26
Wed. Aug. 26	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 / Matt 23:27-32
Thu. Aug. 27	1 Cor 1:1-9 / Matt 24:42-51
Fri. Aug. 28	1 Cor 1:17-25 / Matt 25:1-13
Sat. Aug. 29	1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mark 6:17-29
Sun. Aug. 30	Jer 20:7-9 / Rom 12:1-2 / Matt 16:21-27



PULPIT & ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers located at the altar this weekend
are in loving memory of
RAY ZANZINGER.

They are a gift from his wife and family.

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

August 16, 2026

Sunday collection \$12,232.00

Online 3,940.25

Total \$16,172.25

Scan for Online Giving



2026 DAC

Goal: \$177,793

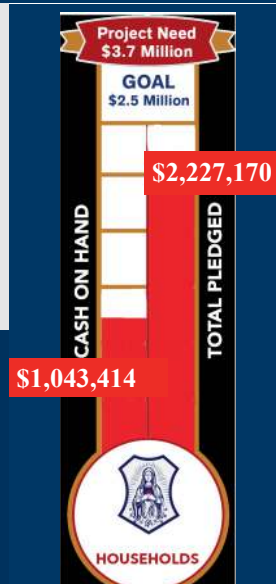
Collected & Pledged: \$156,882(88%)

Capital Campaign

If you have questions, please reach out to Campaign Manager Richie Musser at 484-364-0781 or rmusser@kirbysmith.com.



Thank you for your continued dedication to Seven Sorrows!



THIS WEEK @ SSBVM

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

11:30 am Back to School Social Courtyard
(gymnasium if inclement weather)

MONDAY AUGUST 24

6:00 pm Legion of Mary

TUESDAY AUGUST 25

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

THURSDAY AUGUST 27

8:30 am Church Cleaners Team #3

6:00 pm Senior Ministry Game Night Cafeteria

FRIDAY AUGUST 28

SATURDAY AUGUST 29

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

10:30 am Parish Playroom Church Basement

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



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Joann Dragas
(niece of Evelyn Shields)
Jim Shillow
Daniel Dougherty
Mary Cain
Jennifer Kaszubski
(sister of Keith Quarry)
Edward Costik

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
	Luke Mrakovich	Marines
CPT	Corbin Stetler	ARNG
SSG	Stephen Boyland	Navy
AG1	Andrew T. Lavelle	Army
CPT	Mark E. Lavelle	Army
1st Lt.	Phillip Bertovic	Army
CPT	Todd Campbell	Air Force
Lt Col	Edward C. Stene	USAR
CPT	Nicholas Campbell	Marines
1st Lt	Trey Kephart	USAF
ACI	Daniel Brought	Marines
MGST	Nicolas A. Corradi	USAF
AIC		

SENIOR MINISTRY

Mass & Game Night - August 27. 6 pm Mass then games until 8:30 pm in Upper Cafe.

Lake Tobias Wildlife Park - September 3. Meet at 7:45 am in church parking lot for carpooling.

Brunch in the Park - September 27. Potluck signups September 5-6 & 12-13 in the Narthex. More details in the newsletter in flyer rack.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN



SLICE INTO SISTERHOOD



CALLING ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH, PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FIRST CCW MEETING OF THE 2026-2027 YEAR ON AUGUST 31ST AT 7PM IN THE DREXEL ROOM. ENJOY SOME PIZZA, SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP WITH US. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO AND HOW YOU CAN JOIN US IN THIS REWARDING MINISTRY.

2026 Shooting Star 5K Run and Walk

Harrisburg City Island
Saturday, September 19

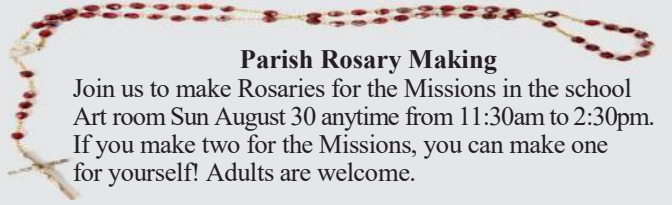
Registration pamphlets will be at the CCW table

Or log on to:

https://supportmorningstar.com/news_events/2026-shooting-star-5k-run-walk-for-life/.



NEED TO KNOW



Parish Rosary Making

Join us to make Rosaries for the Missions in the school Art room Sun August 30 anytime from 11:30am to 2:30pm. If you make two for the Missions, you can make one for yourself! Adults are welcome.



Off the Streets Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Friday Sept. 4 at Sunset Golf Course.

Players and raffle gift baskets are needed.

Forms with contact information are on church website and in the Narthex.

ANCHORED



Anchored Meetings/Events

A Young Adult Ministry - all aged 18 to 35 are welcome to attend.

Planning Meeting - held the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Drexel Room (next meeting is September 9).

September Event - join our table at the Ministry Fair on Sept. 20 in the cafeteria after the 10:30 am Mass; afterward we will go to the Middletown Home Pumpkin Festival.

Please email anchored.ssbvm@gmail.com with questions or to join our GroupMe.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY



Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering for the Meals on Wheels Program. 2 drivers and 2 runners are needed each weekday for the month of September. Meals are picked up at the First Church of God on High Street and delivered to area shut-ins. Any help would be appreciated.

Please sign up on the calendar in the Narthex or call or email Mickey with any questions:
717-571-6704 or mzinger@verizon.net

RAISING DISCIPLES

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

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

Schedule:

09/20/26 - Meet Your Catechist/Parent Folder pick up
09/27/26 - 1st Class
10/04/26 - Class/Early Dismissal for Outdoor Mass @ Hoffer Park

1st Communion Dates:

10/25/26 - Parent/student meeting @ 9am
03/13/27 - 1st Penance @ 10am
04/10/27 - Parent/Student Retreat @ 8am
04/28/27 - Rehearsal @ 6:30am
05/01/27 - 1st Holy Communion Mass @10am
05/02/27 - 1st Holy Communion Mass/breakfast 8AM

Confirmation Dates:

10/18/26 - Parent/student meeting @ 9am
TBD - 8th Gr. Retreat
02/08/27 - Rehearsal @ 6pm
02/13/27 - Confirmation Mass @ 11am



The Seven Sorrows BVM School APPLE TREE is ready to harvest!

"Apples" can be found on the trees in the Narthex. Simply "pick" an apple and purchase the items requested by our Teachers.

Please drop off your Apple donation to the School office by September 11th. If a gift card is purchased through our SCRIP program, we will make sure the school office gets your Apple donation.

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



"You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18)

God does not call the perfect or extraordinary. Like Peter, ordinary men and women are invited to play extraordinary roles in His plan through priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony. Whatever your gifts or weaknesses, God can use you to build His Church and bring His love to the world.

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

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From heating and cooling to plumbing and water systems, we ensure your peace of mind and satisfaction at every step.