



# Our Faith, Our Future

*Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



**SEVEN SORROWS**  
*of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

## Offering to God Thanks & Praise

This Body of Christ has a rich history in Middletown. In 1857, our first church – on Ann Street – was built. The parish moved to our current location in 1950 when our church and school were built here. In 1987, our new church was built, and the old church was converted to the gym.

Both our church and school continue to grow as a place of faith formation and evangelization. As the parish grows in numbers, ministries, and programs, so grow the needs of our buildings. Mass attendance over the last 5 years has gone from averaging 750 to 1150 each week. Our school enrollment has increased nearly 75%. We are growing!



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However, currently, the basketball court in the gym is not game-usable, with the court running up against block walls. The space below it, the cafeteria, has become obsolete. We have a leaking roof, a heating system on life support and electrical service from 1950, along with a failing foundation on the west side of the building that allows water into the cafeteria, something we've struggled with for years.

After months of prayer, discernment, and discussion with Seven Sorrows leadership and in partnership with our parishioners, we decided as a parish family that it was finally time to move forward with this renovation project.





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The overall project is focused on renovating the entire 32,000 sq. ft. from top to bottom, bringing it up to code. The update of existing gym and cafeteria spaces will allow for both to be a new community areas for ALL our parish. It will be a social space for everyone.

## **Infrastructure**

The infrastructure upgrade involves tearing out the old basketball court's roof, walls, and air conditioning. The work will rebuild the structure with a new foundation, walls, steel supports, and a roof, along with modernizing the exterior with waterproofing and insulation. The project will also install new, efficient heat pump HVAC systems, ductwork, and LED lighting, and will update the electrical panels and outlets. This will allow for essential technological modernization.

## **Bathrooms**

This involves a full gut and remodel, tearing out the old bathrooms and installing new plumbing fixtures, a new ceiling, fresh paint, Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) flooring, and new accessories like ADA grab bars. The electrical work will add new LED lights with motion sensors and a wall outlet to each room.



## Cafeterias

In the Cafeteria and Banquet rooms the old ceilings will be removed and replaced with specialized insulation for sound and temperature control. The rooms will also receive new LVP flooring, fresh paint on the existing concrete walls, and decorative brick veneer on accent walls. The kitchen will receive updates. Finally, water issues affecting the west banquet wall will be addressed.



## Gymnasium

The gymnasium is undergoing a major renovation centered on building a new, full-length PIAA basketball court. This work includes tearing down the old structure, building new foundation walls and a steel frame, and installing a new roof, insulation, and translucent panels. The court will feature a 6,959 sq. ft. finished maple hardwood floor, new bleachers, basketball hoops, an LED scoreboard, and updated lighting.

## TOTAL COST

The total cost of the project is approximately \$3.7 million which includes a contingency.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Why is Seven Sorrows conducting a capital campaign?***

The parish is launching the *Our Faith, Our Future* Capital Campaign to fund essential, comprehensive renovations for the 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.

### ***Have alternative, less expensive options been explored?***

Leadership explored less expensive alternatives; however, after multiple professional consultations, it became clear that the extensive structural, electrical, and mechanical needs are too significant for temporary "band-aid" fixes. The current deficiencies require a comprehensive renovation to ensure the building is safe, functional, and sustainable for future generations.

### ***What is the source of funds for the project?***

The majority of the necessary funds will be raised internally, primarily from our 1,600 registered households. We will also actively pursue community support and grants appropriate for this type of project. To cover costs during the fundraising period, a loan will be secured from the Diocese of Harrisburg. *Funds raised through the capital campaign will be used solely for this project and will not be subject to assessment for the diocese campaign.*

### ***What is the timeline of the project?***

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires that the parish have 50% of the total project funds—approximately \$1.85 million—secured before construction can officially begin. Therefore, the construction timeline is directly dependent upon the speed and success of our fundraising efforts. The goal is to reach this milestone as quickly as possible so that the essential renovations can commence.

### ***Why is this project important to the parish and not just the school?***

The *Our Faith, Our Future* project is a critical investment in Seven Sorrows' long-term growth and sustainability. By permanently fixing major structural and system deficiencies, the renovation will ensure that the building remains safe and functional for decades. The "school building" doubles as our parish center for many events and organizations such as Knights of Columbus, CCW, social and fundraising events and more. Transforming these spaces into modern, versatile community spaces will expand the parish's capacity for faith formation and ministry, securing a strong foundation for future generations.

### ***Will other types of donations be accepted?***

In addition to giving from current income or bank accounts, you may support the capital campaign in other ways. Some additional gifting considerations are stocks, bonds, mutual funds, Qualified Charitable Contributions from IRAs (if over 70.5 years of age), appreciated real estate and more. If you are interested in giving in one of these ways, please contact Richie Musser at 484-364-0781 or [rmusser@kirbysmith.com](mailto:rmusser@kirbysmith.com).

## CONTINUE THE LEGACY

The *Our Faith, Our Future* Capital Campaign is incredibly important as it addresses essential renovations and updates in the gym and cafeteria, as well as the classrooms and bathrooms in the remaining old part of our school. We invite you to join with our entire parish family as we honor the legacy of those who came before us and lay a strong, sustainable foundation for future generations, ensuring Seven Sorrows remains a beacon of faith for years to come.



## What Can You Do?

### Reflect on Your Campaign Commitment

Your contribution to the campaign will directly fuel the realization of the *Our Faith, Our Future* vision. We understand that making a commitment requires prayerful reflection. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!

### Complete a Commitment Form

We ask that each household complete a commitment form. These forms will give parish leadership a comprehensive understanding of the collective intentions of our parish. Your return of this form will be deeply appreciated and will play a significant role in the campaign's success.

### Sustain Our Efforts Through Prayer

We recognize the paramount importance of keeping our hearts and minds steadfastly focused on God's will throughout this process. Your spiritual support will be an invaluable source of strength and guidance as we work together to achieve our shared goals.

### Stay Connected and Informed

We will continue to provide updates on the campaign via bulletins, announcements as well as online ([www.ssbvm.org](http://www.ssbvm.org)) and in social media. We encourage you to stay connected to learn about the developments and milestones of our campaign.



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