



The flowers on the main Altar have been designated by JoAnn & Jane in loving memory of Aunt Franny Zinn from “her girls” on the 5th anniversary of her death.

Mass Intentions

Sat.	5:30p.m.	Dolores Adams
Sun.	7:30a.m.	Joan Riser
	10:00a.m.	The People of the Parish
Mon.	7:00p.m.	Shirley Myers
Tues.	8:00a.m.	Gary Adams
Wed.	8:30a.m.	Ann White
Thurs.	8:00a.m.	Frances J. Zinn
Fri.	8:00a.m.	Rose M. Murren
Sat.	5:30p.m.	Stan and Rose Lawrence
Sun.	7:30a.m.	The People of the Parish
	10:00a.m.	Donald L. Jenkins

The Readings for this weekend are:

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*

The Gospel: *Matthew 2:1-12*

We welcome the newest members into the Catholic faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Naomi Jade and Noelle Grace Black, daughters of Joseph and Tessa (Sentz) Black.

Grayson Gregory and Wesley David Sentz, sons of Travis and Patricia (Motter) Sentz. Congratulations to the families!



Dear Parishioners, What a joy it has been to celebrate Christmas together as a Parish family! I want to express my appreciation to all of you for all of your support of the parish, not just recent support but for as long as you have been supporting this wonderful Church. The surveys were very helpful to me. The Parish Council and I have not yet had the opportunity to discuss the responses. The surveys reveal the following points:

- A majority of parishioners appreciate and enjoy the **traditions** and family atmosphere of the Parish. It is indeed a strength of this Parish. Many Parishioners are helpful, active, and committed. This is a great testament to the strength and vitality of this community. Let us praise God our Father for blessing us in this way!
- A majority of Parishioners expressed concerns that the church is losing **younger families** and younger people. It was quite amazing how many Parishioners spontaneously mentioned this. In the surveys, this concern is mentioned more than any other. Through prayer and fasting, we need to begin addressing this problem—rather—this opportunity for growth. Indeed, I intend to discern how best to reach out

to young families and how to bring the Gospel to them more effectively.

- The two most popular times for **daily Mass** are 8am and 7pm. Even though I offered other possibilities on the survey, these two times got the most votes. Currently, our Monday daily Mass is always at 7pm. In the future, I am considering offering another daily Mass at 7pm also. I don't know if it will be a weekly 7pm Mass or perhaps a monthly one. TBD.
- A small but significant number of parishioners asked about the possibility of me offering Mass in the **Extraordinary Form**. Fr. Howard was well trained in this Form of the Liturgy. Currently, I am not trained. However, when I was in college, I double majored in Classical Languages (Latin and Greek) and Philosophy. So I enjoy ancient languages. Although I have never celebrated Mass in the Extraordinary Form, I have celebrated Mass in Latin a few times in the Ordinary Form. Over the next few months, I will need to prayerfully discern how to move forward in this regard. I may end up offering the Latin Mass (either *Novus Ordo* and/or Extraordinary Form) on a special weekday evening. TBD.
- Many Parishioners are concerned about **COVID**. So many have not been able to leave their homes since March. We continue to pray for them. So many are isolated. On the surveys, some Parishioners feel that the measures we have taken here at the Parish are too strict and should be loosened. Other Parishioners believe the measures are not strict enough. Perhaps the reality is that we have a balanced approach? We are called by Christ to not be afraid of disease or even death (see Matthew 10:28). However, we are also called to not “put the Lord God to the test” by being imprudent, thoughtless or careless about the health of ourselves or others (see Luke 4:12). I believe that the measures we have in place currently are the best way for us in our situation: we are not being imprudent but we are not being fearful either. Our approach is balanced. Let us resolve to neither surrender ourselves to *fear* on the one hand or *imprudence* on the other.

May all of us experience a great new year! May God shower blessings upon all of his children now and forever!

Is your child in 8th grade? Are they signed up to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year? If you have not yet signed up for our Confirmation program this year, please log on to: <https://sacredheartbasilica.com/ccd> From the home page click on “Faith Formation” and then “CCD”. All of the Confirmation information and forms are posted there. Please fill out the “Confirmation Candidate Information Fillable Form” as soon as possible and send it to Bridget Wurtz at ajwurtz@earthlink.net or drop it off at the Parish Office. Come Holy Spirit!

Stewardship Through Estate Planning

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. - Romans 14: 7-8

As the New Year begins, consider one of the greatest acts of stewardship an individual can make by establishing an Estate Plan. Everyone should have an Estate Plan comprising of either a Will or a trust. A Will is a legal document that allows you to control how your assets are distributed **after** your lifetime. Without a Will, the Probate Court will decide who acquires your assets upon your death. Typically, the court will divide your assets between your surviving spouse and children, or your blood relatives. The Court will not provide for any charitable intentions you may have.

A Trust allows you to control how your assets are distributed **both during and after** your lifetime. Establishing a Trust requires that you transfer ownership or title of your assets to the name of your Trust. Since the Trust owns the assets, there is nothing for the courts to control when you die. This is beneficial since, unlike a Will, you avoid all the costs, delays and publicity of the probate process. However, depending on its complexity, a Trust can be more expensive to create than a Will.

Most importantly, an Estate Plan allows you to determine how and to whom the gifts God has bestowed on you will be distributed when you can no longer serve as your own steward.

For detailed questions on Wills or Trusts, contact an estate planning attorney. If you are planning on giving to a charity, please consider **Sacred Heart Basilica** as part of your Estate Plan. The Office of Stewardship & Development at the Diocese of Hbg. (call 717-657-4804) can provide sample language that you can share with your advisors when considering a charitable gift to the Parish.

PRAY FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC!