The flowers on the main Altar have been designated by JoAnn & Jane in loving memory of Aunt Franny Zinn.

The following points:

- 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.

- 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 “put the Lord God to the test” by being impatient, 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 “CCE”. 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 Bridge 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 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!