

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## *Catholic Community*

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12



## June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – The Most Holy Trinity

Readings (Missal p 170 et seq.): Ex 34:4-6, 8-9 • Dan 3:52-55 • 2 Cor 13:11-13 • Jn 3:16-18

**Welcome to our 10 a.m. Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber**

Lectors: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Samantha & Maddie Rückeis •

Hospitality: Beate McGreal • Designated collection: All Saints

## **PENTECOST**

If you're participating in a Bible Trivia contest, how would you answer the question, "On what day did the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus' disciples?"

The correct answer is, "I don't know." At least two different dates are given in today's liturgical Scriptures alone. In our Acts passage, Luke tells us it was on the Jewish feast of Pentecost – seven weeks after Passover; while John puts the event on Easter Sunday night – several days after Passover. You have no choice but to pay your money and take your pick.

Those who first collected our Christian sacred writings and eventually gathered them into one book couldn't have appreciated our problem. Falling back on their Semitic "both/and" way of thinking, they expected to find such contradictions. More concerned with the implications of our faith than with exact historical happenings, they often chose a date that would convey the meaning of a particular event, ignoring the actual calendar day that event took place. That's certainly why Luke puts the Holy Spirit event on Pentecost.

The Jewish feast of "Weeks" - or Pentecost - commemorates the Israelites entering into a covenant with Yahweh on Mt. Sinai. It's that agreement which formally creates the Chosen People. No longer just a ragtag band of runaway slaves, they're now Yahweh's people.

In a similar way, the arrival of the Holy Spirit transforms Jesus' disciples into the new people of God, committed to carrying on his ministry. This seems to be why Luke makes a big thing out of the many foreign pilgrims understanding the disciples' message in their native tongues. Throughout Acts, with the Spirit's help, these followers are going to spread Jesus' message to the "ends of the earth."

John, on the other hand, picks Easter Sunday night as the time for the Spirit's arrival because of his conviction that the Spirit is an integral part of Jesus' (and our) dying and rising, something we especially demonstrate in our forgiveness of others.

But there are many more scriptural implications of the Spirit than just these two. For the Apostle, it's precisely the risen Jesus' Spirit which provides us with the gifts that mould us into the Body of Christ. "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit," he writes, ". . . who produces all of them in everyone." The key insight is his well-known teaching: "As the body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." If the Spirit doesn't gift each of Jesus' followers in a unique way, the risen Jesus would be "bodiless." No one Christian can completely convey Christ's image. It takes all of us to pull that off, each one employing the gifts the Spirit's given him or her.

Paul's Corinthian experience of the Spirit's gifts creating conflicts in the church dovetails with Luke's Pentecost images of the Spirit: wind, noise and fire. Each one not only causes confusion, but also creates situations we'd prefer to avoid. Yet if we're serious about being the Body of Christ, we have to be willing to accept and deal with such problems, a sign we accept the Spirit's gifts.

Perhaps the most important line in today's three readings is Paul's remark, "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." When we refuse to put up with the wind, noise and fire which accompany the Spirit in our lives, we're also refusing to do the good which comes from being the Body of Christ.

If we have lots of peace and tranquillity in our particular church, we're probably squelching the Spirit.

**Roger Vermalen Karban**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME!** *Visiting for the first time?* At the end of Mass, please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from, so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!

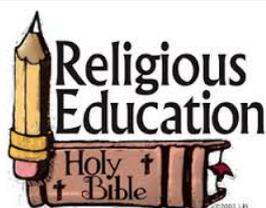
Attendance on June 4<sup>th</sup>: 105

Collection: All Saints €253.87



**2017 VELOTHON 60/120 / 180 km races** will be running on June 18<sup>th</sup> throughout Berlin!

This may make it difficult for you to reach All Saints by your normal route. You can plan your route of travel by visiting their website (<http://www.velothon.com/events/velothon-berlin.aspx#axzz4hjuduDGTo>) and viewing the course.



**Call for volunteer catechists:** any confirmed adult who wishes to minister to our children and youth by teaching the faith,

particularly in preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion, is invited to contact Jenny Gebhardt / Fr. Sylvester before the summer break for more information! Email: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de)

**Please take this copy of the bulletin and use it to spread the word about All Saints Catholic Community**



**Editors wanted for our bulletin** . . . Join our small group that reviews the draft each week. **No original writing just checking the content.**

Sorry no money, but, you will have the satisfaction of helping our bulletin team to get the weekly news out.

Want to help? Contact Buck Chisolm ([b.chisolm@gmx.de](mailto:b.chisolm@gmx.de)) for more details. Thanks.

## Mark your calendars:

- June 11<sup>th</sup> – **All Saints Council** meets at 11:15 h in the conference room.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 17:00 h at the Castellon residence.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 17:00 h at the Ching residence.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Brinda residence.
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Pedussel residence
- June 30<sup>th</sup> - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Schulze-Makuch residence.
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** - Konrad Giersdorf has details. Contact him at: [giersdorf@hotmail.de](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.de)

## **Would you like to become more involved in our community activities?**

Have you been considering becoming more involved in the All Saints community? NOW, would be a great time to speak up.

As things slow down for the summer vacation period now is the perfect time to pitch in and learn how to help with the many aspects that make the church go. Every little bit helps and you will feel great for your contributions to our growing community.

From helping to host hospitality, singing in the choir, to teaching our young people; helping hands are always welcome! Ask Konrad, Vanessa, Heide, Jenny or Buck and they will connect you with the head of the ministry that you are have an interest in.

## **Blood and Body of Christ, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

Lectors: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer  
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellon  
Designated collection: Caritas

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support, so we are completely dependent upon your donations.** Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **WHITE ENVELOPES** stamped **"ALL SAINTS FUND"** and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account written below. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** • \*Friends of All Saints e.V.\*, IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODED1PAX