

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 10:00-12:00



June 3rd, 2018 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Readings (Missal no. 851): Exo 24:3-8 • Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 • Heb 9:11-15 • Mk 14:12-16, 22-26 (W)

Welcome to our 10:00 a.m. Mass. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Tom FitzPatrick • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •

• Designated collection: Caritas •

God and humanity can still surprise us (Trinity Sunday)

We as followers of God are constantly discovering who God is. Those who profess a biblical faith are convinced that knowing God isn't a matter of just memorizing catechism questions and answers, but a matter of experiencing God on different levels and at different times in our lives. That's not only what our biblical authors did, they presumed their readers were committed to the same quest.

We should especially keep this quest of getting to know God in mind today when we celebrate the feast of the Trinity. Today's three Scripture passages don't aim directly at a belief that there are three persons in one God. That specific insight into God's personality didn't take its well-known form until Constantine's Council of Nicaea in 325 after Christ, almost three hundred years after Jesus' death and resurrection, and about two hundred years after the last book of Scripture was composed. But our readings help us with some significant insights along the road to the declaration of Nicaea in the 4th century – our Nicene creed.

The author of **Deuteronomy** presumes his Jewish ancestors have heard the "voice of Yahweh," Yahweh speaking to them not only "from the midst of fire," but also, through the "statutes and commandments" which Yahweh lovingly gave them during their early centuries together. The Jews 2,500 years ago were convinced that when they followed those specific regulations they were imitating the personality of the God they worshipped.

Their behavior toward others reflected Yahweh's behavior toward them. More than any other divine encounter, their Exodus from Egypt convinced them that Yahweh was a God who freed people, not a God who enslaved them. And it was as a free people that they continually had experiences with God in their midst.

The earliest followers of **Jesus of Nazareth** experience a parallel freedom. **Paul**, an itinerant preacher in the first century, wrote a letter to the Christian community in Rome where he describes the Spirit God had shared with the disciples, the friends of Jesus. And Paul writes that he is giving to them this same Spirit of God. And most important: this Spirit wasn't someone who brought fear to their lives. "You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves," Paul writes, "instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him 'Abba, Father.'" (Rom 8 14-17). In other words, by imitating Jesus, we more clearly understand and experience God as a loving parent, not as a punishing judge. Some of our "old" definitions of God simply don't fit God's actual personality.

Today's third reading is the ending of **Matthew's** gospel. From this reading, it is also clear that Jesus' followers were anxious to share their new experiences of God with others, especially when it came to the formula they employed in baptisms. Though Paul, writing mostly in the 50s, speaks only about baptizing "in the name of Jesus," the Jesus presented in Matthew's gospel expands that ritual. By the mid-70s of the first century, Christians are obviously baptizing others "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." As time – and faith – goes on, God's Christian followers are experiencing God not just in the risen Jesus, but also in the Spirit which that "new creation", which the risen Jesus shares with them. God simply can't be tied down to just one definition, one thought, or one encounter. Of course, if that's true about God, what about us?

Paul reminded the Roman church that "those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." I presume children share in their parents' personalities. If today's feast revolves around constantly discovering God, then it also has something to say about constantly discovering ourselves – many more surprises to come. In the 21st century, we've probably only scratched the surface of race, gender and sexual orientation. There are a lot of experiences out there that followers of God have yet to reflect on. Let us be attentive to discover time and again not only God's mystery, but also the mystery of humanity – God and humanity can still surprise us.

cf fossilonline.com, 2015 trinity-Sunday



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Attendance: May 27th: 62



Registration is open for preparation for First Holy Communion (FHC) and Confirmation 2018-2019

Registration for Communion and Confirmation classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the beginning of the new school year.

Please fill out the registration form of the English-speaking Mission which can be found outside the church office. Please submit it to the office (directly or via the mail box). Watch our website for more details.



Child Protection Training in English at St. Bernard's on June 16th

A course is being offered at St Bernard's on 16 June (10:30 to 17:00) for members of the ESM who may wish to teach or be a substitute teacher for our Youth Religious Ministry (FHC, CLOW & Confirmation).

Seating is limited to 25 so if you would like to attend please email b.chisolm@gmx.de and we will reserve a seat for you.

Collection: All Saints: €95.30 Renovabis €33.00

Mark your calendar:

- June 9th – **All Saints Youth/Family Event** - Details to be announced.
 - June 16th – **Child Protection Training in English** – at St. Bernard's from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – reservations required and seating is limited. Contact Buck Chisolm if you would like to attend. See announcement in the bulletin or website for more details.
 - June 30th - **English Speaking Mission Day** – at St. Bernard's (Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin) from 6:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin and our website for additional information coming soon.
- ✓ Check for the latest "News" at the **All Saints website** (<http://www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml>) or visit us on Facebook: **All Saints Catholic Community Berlin**



Summer vacation "Goodbye" BBQ - June 10th after Mass

Please join us for our annual Goodbye BBQ before summer vacation begins on Sunday, June 10th after Mass.

Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Please sign-up to help in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.

Lost and found items are located in the hallway on the hangers and also in a box. Please check for any items that may belong to you. Later this year, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

June 10th, 10:00 a.m.: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Tom FitzPatrick • Hospitality: Jackie Anders/Goodbye BBQ • Designated collection: All Saints

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: GENODE33PAX