

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 12th, 2016 – Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal p 181 et seqq.): 2 Sam 12:7-10, 13 • Ps 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11 • 1 Gal 2:16, 19-21 • Lk 7:36-50**

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

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Thomas Schmidt, Beate Hausmann  
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Beata McGreal • Designated collection: Caritas

Though we have four biblical accounts of Paul's conversion, today's Galatians contains the only one actually written by Paul himself. The other three - sometimes contradictory - accounts in Acts were all composed by Luke.

Like almost all Scripture, this Galatians passage is triggered by problems. The reason the Apostle recalls the event is because some in the Christian community were questioning his work with Gentiles. They didn't object to his converting non-Jews to the faith of Jesus as long as he first converted them to Judaism, something Paul not only thought unnecessary, but also – as we'll see in a couple of weeks – totally against basic faith in the risen Jesus, who isn't a Jew or a Gentile.

What's interesting is that Paul is convinced his call to evangelize Gentiles came as an essential part of his encounter with the risen Jesus years before on the road to Damascus. He isn't downplaying the historical Jesus' Jewishness because, as some of his critics claimed, he'd been a "bad" Jew himself. On the contrary, he's able to boast, "I (once) persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it." He's the most unlikely person to hold the opinions he now holds. At one point in his life he could have been regarded as a "super Jew." "(I) progressed in Judaism," he writes, "beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions;" the very traditions he's now claiming Gentile Christians don't have to keep.

Paul answers his critics' objection that he hasn't received permission from the church's leaders to do what he's doing in two ways. First, he doesn't need their permission. He received his Gentile ministry directly from the risen Jesus. Second, he eventually did check with the Jerusalem leaders, and they had no objections to how he was evangelizing Gentiles.

Though we're not certain what exactly happened on the road to Damascus, whatever Paul's encounter with the risen Jesus consisted in, it not only changed his life, it created a whole new life for him. He began to live something he never lived before. His entire value system was turned upside down.

No wonder Jesus' followers enjoyed narrating stories of Jesus resuscitating people from the dead. In some sense they were narrating stories which described their own experiences.

The gospel resuscitation stories differ from the narrative of Elijah resuscitating the widow of Zarephath's son in our I Kings reading. Probably none of the sacred author's readers identified with the boy the prophet brought back to life. This event was simply proof the word Elijah proclaimed was actually Yahweh's word.

But when Jesus resuscitates Lazarus, Jairus' daughter and the widow of Nain's son, the readers, because of their own experiences of coming to life in Jesus, logically zero in on the resuscitated persons. They, like the chosen three, have also been brought back to life.

Back in the 70s, when Ray Moody and Elizabeth Kübler Ross studied people who had died and been resuscitated, they discovered that the life these people received was somewhat different from the lives they lived before. For instance, they were more interested in relating to others than they had been before their deaths. Paul certainly demonstrated that dimension in his unexpected relating to Gentiles, a people he seems to have just tolerated before his life-giving encounter with the risen Jesus.

But these resuscitated individuals also shared another characteristic: they no longer had any fear of dying. In some sense, they'd already been there and done that.

Perhaps some of our fear of dying comes from our lack of dying as other Christ's right here and now.

# Children's Liturgy of the Word – TODAY during Mass

## 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 on June 5th: 130

Collection: All Saints: €370.68

### Memorial service for Justin Roggow

The members of Boy Scout Troop 46, with the assistance of the John F. Kennedy School, have organized a memorial service to honor the life of Justin Roggow who passed away earlier this month.

Justin attended the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at the JFK School, was an active member of Troop 46 and active in many other parts of our community.

The service is on Tuesday, June 14th at 1400 in the church. The memorial will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall open to all.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the service please contact Vanessa Hansen.

**Volunteers needed: Are you coming to Mass over the summer vacation break and willing to help water our plants?** If you would be willing to help water our plants this summer please tell Jennie, Konrad or Buck who can explain the location of our gardening stuff.

On Sunday, June 19th the **2016 VELOTHON 60/120 km race** will be running. 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 ([velothon-berlin.de](http://velothon-berlin.de)) 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 and Confirmation, is invited to contact Jenny Gebhardt / Fr. Sylvester before the summer break for more information! Email: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de)

### Coming Events - Mark your calendars:

- June 13<sup>th</sup> – **Altar Server training (Part 3) for our 1st Communion children** in the church from 18:00 – 20:00.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – **Memorial service for Justin Roggow** in the church at 14:00 h. Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall at 13:00 h.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – Join us for our 8<sup>th</sup> film in our “**Explore the Faith**” series at 19:00. More information below.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.

### Registration open for preparation for First Holy Communion

Registration for Communion 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.

### Explore the Faith: "Catholicism" Film Series Continues after Friday Mass on June 17th!

Please join us for episode 8 of Bishop Robert Barron's “**Catholicism**” series” after Friday evening Mass. The theme this week is:

#### “A Vast Company of Witnesses The Communion of Saints”

### **Make a Note . . . Friday Mass**

Father Sylvester will celebrate weekday Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at All Saints every Friday beginning at 18:00 h.

### June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog  
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Josephine, Elizabeth and Maggie Luegger • Hospitality: NN •  
Designated collection: Friends of 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: GENODED1PAX