

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

January 1, 2012, Mary, Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Christmas – a feast of relationships

Christmas is a feast of relationships. God himself comes down from heaven and is at the same level with humanity. A new basis for the relationship between God and humanity has been created. God tried to have a relationship with us – but he does not really succeed: "He came into his own world, but his own people did not welcome him." (John 1,11).

If you wish to have a relationship, this does not mean that the relationship will succeed. We all know this – and maybe all the more at Christmas time: The happy family feast ends up in a family quarrel. So wishing a relationship does not create a relationship. The two sides need to approach each other.

To start a relationship you need to be prepared to run a risk. And the two need to meet on equal grounds. Thus God has become a human person. Once you are in a relationship, you are bound to the other; you have surrendered to the other. Christmas might help us to make a step further: not only longing for a relationship, but starting a real relationship.

Presents can help. But more important is to take time for the other, to approach each other, to start something, to get involved with someone. The holidays we have might be a good chance for this: we do have time which we can dedicate to one another.

This is the human level. But at Christmas we should also be aware that God took the initiative and approached us in order to have a relationship with us. He has been waiting for our answer ever since. We need to cultivate this relationship – otherwise it might get stuck in vague religious feelings. God is approaching us, so that we can have a relationship with him.

I wish you happy experiences with human relationships. I wish you the courage to deepen them so that they can carry you when times get rough. And I also wish you to be able to accept God's offer of a relationship with him. That you be able to deepen your relationship with God and that you experience the joy and happiness that comes from a deep relationship with God.

Cf: http://www.redemptoristen.com/uploads/tx_predigtforumarchiv/bwt_pred.rtf

Happy New Year!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Father Herbert Gillessen

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Renée and Celso Menjares •
Altar Servers: Tait and Aidan Doeringer • Greeters: Hasmin Quiming, Konrad Giersdorf • Hospitality: N.N.
Collection on Januar 1st is designated for the Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk

December 24/25 attendance: 178/112/56 (346) Collection: Adveniat € 81.10, Friends € 652.71

- Thank you to all the children and youth who participated in the **Children's Mass & Christmas Pageant** on the 24th. Altar Servers, Greeters, singers and actors....we couldn't have done it without you! A special thank you to Tait, Aidan, Hanna-Mei, Dennis, Brian, Niels, Julia, Josephine, Madeleine, Samantha, Philip, Emma, John, Maureen, Adrian, Benjamin, Karina, Dylan, Ruby, Isabella, Konrad C, Sarah, Hannah, Victoria, Olivia, Joshua, Nisha, Susana, Christine, Nicholas, James and Mary!
- The 34th **Taizé Meeting** has attracted 30,000 young people for meditation and ecumenical prayer to Berlin. We thank those members of All Saints who have offered accommodation to the participants. The meeting ends today. More information: www.taize.fr/en_rubrique45.html.
- The 2012 **lector schedule** for January through March is available in the Office.
- 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 printed below. We are completely **dependent** upon your donations. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

Friends of All Saints Verein: Bank Account No.: 6001669018, BLZ 370 601 93, Pax-Bank eG

January 8th 10 am Mass. Our Celebrant will be Father Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Celso and Levina Menjares, Beate Hausmann •
Altar Servers: Philip and Samantha Ruckeis • Greeters: Hasmin Quiming, Konrad Giersdorf •
Hospitality: Beata McGreal

Collection on January 8th is designated for All Saints

Celebrants		Father Wolfgang Felber SJ Fathers of the Jesuit Community	
All Saints Coordinators	Altar Servers	Katharine Doeringer	03328/335725
	Bulletin, Website	Tamás Meggyes, Vanessa Hansen	811 06 33; 0157 78 95 9845
	Eucharistic Ministers	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72
	Greeters, Family Group	Konrad Giersdorf	797 83 709
	Hospitality	Levina Menjares, Lupita Wilhelm	466 09 788, 305 82 45
	Lectors	Mike Hoth	354 06 724
	Music Director	Johannes Wrembek	341 31 90
	Office, Treasurer	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72
	Rosary	Eleonora Loebach	500 14 506

ALL SAINTS COUNCIL: Konrad Giersdorf (Co-Chair) * Vanessa Hansen (Co-Chair) * Rudolf Hausmann * Nora Loebach * Tamás Meggyes * Marianne Sihotang

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS ASSOCIATION: Howard Eyth * Mike Hoth * Lupita Wilhelm * Heide Doblhofer * Eddie McGreal

RECTOR ECCLESIAE: Fr Herbert Gillessen, English-Speaking Roman Catholic Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, 10709 Berlin, Tel: 8132026

Boy Scout Troop 46: All Saints is the proud Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost." *True to Scouting Values for Over 55 years* (www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com)

Access to All Saints:

Subway: U 3, Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or S 1, Zehlendorf, then bus.

Bus: Bus 285: stop Am Waldfriedhof (last stop, 2-min. walk); Bus M11: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or Bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk),

Car: Via Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>). Currently, **no access** from the A115 **Avus highway**.

Altar Flowers are donated by ROTHE Gartenbau GmbH, Clayallee 282, Berlin Zehlendorf