

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.

July 1, 2012, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-13; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15;
Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43**

Celebrant: Pfr Herbert Gillessen

The place of John the Baptist in our faith

John the Baptist was both a blessing and a problem for the earliest Christians. We, after so many centuries of Christian faith, are accustomed to seeing John as the precursor of Jesus. And we can't image why anyone had mixed feelings about this heroic prophet called John the Baptist (or John the Baptizer). For us, he came to prepare the way for Jesus, to make the ministry of Jesus easier to accomplish. John decreases, so Jesus can increase. This is our picture of him.

Students of Scripture blame irritating and annoying disciples of John for the de-emphasis of the importance of the baptism of Jesus. On the one hand, because Jesus had been one of John's disciples, Christians were forced to find a place for John in their faith traditions. On the other hand, they couldn't give John too prominent a place, or else they'd jeopardize the place they'd given Jesus.

If we want to get a glimpse of what the historical John must have experienced, we need to concentrate on the first reading in Isaiah (Is 49:1-6). John certainly did not know the place the followers of his disciple Jesus would eventually assign to him. John most probably faced death with the words of Isaiah, his prophetic predecessor, running through his head: "*I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly spent my strength.*" We think he knew that he had accomplished his task of preparing the way for Jesus. But I am sure that the actual last moments of John would have been strengthened only in the conviction that "*My reward is with Yahweh, my recompense is with my God.*"
Cf: <http://evangelist.org>

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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)

Currently, there is no access from the A115 Avus highway.

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