

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12



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.

December 21, 2014 Fourth Sunday in Advent

2nd Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16 • Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 • Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38

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

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Renée Menjares, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Aidan Brinda and Ava Brinda •

Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Today's designated collection is for All Saints.

Who are you?

This is perhaps the hardest question of all, almost impossible to answer. John the Baptist begins to answer it by saying who he is NOT. Not the Messiah, the Christ, whom the people of Israel expect so eagerly. Not Elijah who was supposed to come back before the Messiah. Neither was he "the prophet like me" that Moses foretold in the famous passage of Deuteronomy 18:15. John, the Evangelists sums it up: John the Baptist "was not the light, he only gave witness to the light."

What do we say, when someone asks us, who we are? Usually we begin by giving our name which does not really say much about us. We may add the country or town we come from, then speak of our profession, our family status, the stations of our life. Yet, none of all this would get anywhere near the reality of who I am, but simply scratch the surface. In the last resort every person is a mystery. Even couples happily married for years often say: I don't really know my partner. I know his/her ideas, reactions, habits, but I don't really know him/her. We remain a mystery to others and ourselves.

Maybe John's remark "he was not the light, only gave witness to the light" could bring us nearer to the truth about ourselves. I am not a light in my own right; I am only a reflection of another light, of God's light. There is something of God's light in me, a tiny spark of the divine. If God is the fullness light, I only reflect one colour of the spectrum, one wavelength of the infinite range. My true identity is not something of my own making. It is a pure gift, a share in God's infinite light.

If we are a reflection of God's light, we will come to know who we are only by turning to the source of light. We see of the moon only the side turned to the sun, the rest remains dark. We have to turn a solar panel to the sun to get electricity. We have to direct the satellite dish towards the satellite to get a signal. We have to turn the attention of our mind and heart towards God to become aware of His light in us. This is what we call prayer: turning our attention to the mystery of God.

This is not easy. Our attention is captured by a thousand things. Whenever we try to pray, the home movie in our heads starts. How can we focus on God? We first have to "prepare the way for the Lord", as John the Baptist tells us: by slowing down, gently pushing aside distractions, becoming gradually empty. Some things may be helpful: e.g. simply repeating with each breath a "mantra", a verse of a psalm or the "Jesus prayer" (Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me), or reading a bible passage very slowly (paying attention to each word) and prayerfully (as if God were speaking to me right now).

Advent, though the busiest time of the year, invites us to start again setting aside some time, perhaps just before going to sleep, to turn to the light within us.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

We have Children's Liturgy today!

We wish you Merry Christmas!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on December 14th: 101

Collections: Friends €212.05

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

December 24th, 3 pm: Children's Mass & Christmas Pageant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

December 24th, 9:30 pm: Christmas carols

December 24th, 10 pm Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Altar server: Conrad Chisolm • Designated collection: Adveniat

December 28th, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Heide Doblhofer, Renée Menjares • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: N.N., N.N. • Hospitality: Donna Diaz • Designated collection on December 28th is for All Saints.

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

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 10th – LIFT Youth Group “FIESTA!” from 6 pm to 8.30 pm at All Saints. We will watch Walt Disney's "The Tres Caballeros," eat Mexican food, hit the pinata and more!

Sunday, January 11th – Children’s Liturgy during Mass with a special 3 King’s celebration!

Sunday, January 25th (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time) – **Children’s Liturgy** during Mass

Many of the **designated collections** are for special purposes of the Archdiocese of Berlin. All Saints supports these initiatives and transfers this money in full. However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support from the Archdiocese. 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 printed below. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Friends of All Saints Verein: Pax-Bank eG
IBAN: DE15 37060193 6001669018 BIC: GENODED1PAX

Our celebrants: Jesuits and White Fathers

All Saints Coordinators	Altar Servers	Katharine Doeringer, Buck Chisolm	03328 335725; 8620 3785
	Bulletin, Website	Tamás Meggyes, Vanessa Hansen	811 0633; 0157 78959845
	Eucharistic Ministers	Heide Doblhofer	832 6272
	Greeters	Buck Chisolm	0152 5630 1776
	Children’s Liturgy	Jenny Gebhardt	843 10073
	Lectors	Johannes Ploog	0160 98289515
	Music Director	Johannes Wrembek	341 3190
	Office, Treasurer	Heide Doblhofer	832 6272

All Saints Council: Konrad Giersdorf (Co-Chair) * Vanessa Hansen (Co-Chair) * Rudolf Hausmann * Nora Bungert * Tamás Meggyes * Marianne Sihotang

Friends of All Saints Verein: Howard Eyth, Mike Hoth, Lupita Wilhelm, Heide Doblhofer, Eddie McGreal

Rector Ecclesiae: Fr. Gillessen, English-Speaking Cath. Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, Berlin, Phone: 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)

Directions 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 110 or 623: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk).
- **Car:** A115 Avus highway, Hüttenweg exit or Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>)