

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.

January 18, 2015 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3b-10 • Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10 • 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 • John 1:35-42

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

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Celso Menjares •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Conrad Chisolm, Dylan Schmidt •

Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Today's designated collection is for Family Sunday.

Great Joy and deep sadness

„I bring you good news of great joy... a saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord“. The birth of a child is always a great joy. That at the end of a difficult journey for the pregnant mother she holds a healthy baby in her arms, was surely reason enough for Mary and Joseph to be full of gratitude and joy. It let them forget the dirt and discomfort of the stable. The spontaneous joy about their first-born son was multiplied when they were told who this child was: Christ, the Anointed one, the Messiah. For us today it is hardly possible to imagine a pious Jew's deep emotions evoked by the thought of the Messiah. Most of Israel's history was marked by corrupt and godless kings, invasions and occupation by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and finally the Romans. What gave Israel the strength to endure endless humiliation and misery was the hope that God would one day break the chain of disasters and give to his people a just king who would enable them to live at last in peace. And now the incredible news that raised great expectations: the Messiah is there. The angel added one word that gave his message yet another unbelievable dimension. The child is said to be Christ, *the Lord*. Lord, Kyrios is the Name of God. In this child God Himself came in human form. He came not only to set Israel free but He saved humanity through this child.

We have been trying to grasp the meaning of this event for 2000 years. God, whom we always thought as someone far away is now among us not as a passing visitor, but he stays with us. Our fear of an almighty God who comes to pass judgement melts in front of this helpless child. To believe this mystery which surpasses all our imagination is the source of the true joy of Christmas, a joy that does not depend on moods and emotions. "With Jesus Christ comes always joy", writes Pope Francis in his letter *The joy of the Gospel*.

The Christmas story is not only one of joy, it is also overshadowed by deep sadness. Luke expresses it in the symbolic phrase: "There was no room for them in the inn." John's Gospel is more explicit: "His own people did not receive him." The Messiah comes and nobody is interested. God comes to his own children, but they do not want Him and throw Him out of his own house. It is an on-going story. The history of the western world in the last two centuries is the story of God being pushed gradually out of public life. It is called secularization. To speak of him in public or display symbols of faith is no more tolerated. Recently a Berlin district changed 'Christmas Market' to 'Winter Market'. The last traces that remind people of God's presence in their lives are suppressed.

The Christmas story is not so much about what others did or do. It asks me how much room I give to Jesus, the Christ and Lord in my own inn, in my heart. Christmas promises great joy to anyone who receives him in faith and gives him a great welcome in his life.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

All Saints Council meeting after Mass today



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on January 11: 91

Collections: Friends € 116.52

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!

January 25th, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Tamás Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Celso Menjares, Beate Hausmann, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Boy Scouts • Hospitality: Boy Scouts • Designated collection on January 25th is for Bible Sunday.

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

This Lent, why not try something a little different?
A SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY FOR LENT

All Saints would like to offer a **guided scripture study opportunity** for adults wishing to **mark the season of Lent** with a **spiritual enhancement** activity. This is a limited-time offer for Lent! The theme will be „**Living as Christians**“ and will focus on excerpts from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. A self-study packet for the missed session will be sent via email for missed sessions. The program consists of six evening sessions lasting ca. 60-75 minutes each and materials from the „Six Weeks with the Bible“ Catholic Perspectives program.

To coordinate the scheduling of these sessions and to maximize the number of participants, we would like to collect the contact details of members who are interested in participating. Please use one of the “Interest” questionnaires available after Mass to provide this information.

Upcoming Dates

- **CHILDREN'S LITURGY: January 25th, February 15th and February 22nd**
- **SCOUT SUNDAY: January 25th**

SEEKING FAMILY VOLUNTEERS AS GIFT BEARERS

Would **your family** like to volunteer to **bring the gifts** to the Altar during an upcoming Mass? If so, please see Buck Chisolm in the Fellowship hall after church for details or drop him a note at B.Chisolm@gmx.de. Everyone will be given an opportunity to select a Sunday that fits their schedule. We hope to hear from you and we appreciate your service to All Saints.

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. We are completely **dependent upon your donations**. 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

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>)