

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Phone (030) 86203636 • Fax (030) 86203638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

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.

September 13, 2015 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 54 et seq.): Is 50:4c-9a • Ps 116:1-6,8-9 • Jam 2:14-18 • Mk 8:27-35

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

Lector: Tamás Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Jennifer Evans •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Aidan & Ava Brinda, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: B.B.Q. •

Designated collection: Media Sunday

Miracles show God but are not proof of God

Why do the four evangelists focus on miracles? When the gospels were composed, the divinity of Jesus was taken for granted and all Christian Scriptures were directed to only believers. They were not intended to convert, but to teach and strengthen believers. In the biblical world of two thousand years ago, working miracles were not necessarily a sign of divinity. Our evangelists include miracles in narratives to demonstrate what kind of a God Jesus is. Many of us grew up with catechisms, but the people who produced the Christian Scriptures had no catechisms. They wanted readers to reflect upon the experiences of the risen Jesus and asked, "How did Jesus change our lives?" to more clearly see the divinity of Jesus.

That's why it shouldn't surprise us that **Mark** (7:31-37) invites us to reflect upon one fact: how did Jesus, as God, both open our ears and give us the ability to speak. The risen Jesus had pronounced "Ephphatha!" Open up! And because people now heard new things, they were also able to speak things that almost no one around them spoke. The letter of Saint James gives us an example of these new insights (**James** 2:1-5). Each Christian felt God's love in a special way through the presence of Jesus among them. That is why they began to hear the cries of the poor they had never heard before. Once they discovered that they were all equal in Jesus, they knew they never again could discriminate against others. James urges his community: "*My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ*". Once our ears are open to new voices, we begin to act in new ways.

The early church had experienced the things Isaiah had announced (**Isaiah** 35:4-7a): "*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.*" They were able to live as they had never lived before. Jesus did not come just to get us into heaven. He also came to help us enjoy a life we couldn't imagine without him, a life to carry us into eternity with him. The miracles in the gospels are used by second and third generation Christians. By telling these miracles, early Christians gave voice to the newness they had achieved in their Christ-filled lives and wrote down the miracles to explain what the risen Jesus had changed in their lives.

It would be interesting to compose new miracles for today, which mirror **our** experiences with Jesus. Let us take some moments to reflect on those new miracles in our 21st century lives that show our experience with Jesus changing our lives. cf. <http://www.dignityusa.org/node/821> **Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ**

Annual Fall BBQ Potluck – Today, after Mass!

Confirmation Update & Youth-In-Action with Fr. Schonecke after Mass.



WELCOME! *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. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on September 6: 122

Collection: Friends: 190.57€, Catholic education: 44.10€

Help Support our youth and children's ministry! Thank you for last week's contribution! The community has a dedicated fund for sacramental preparation, children's liturgies and youth groups. One last **special collection** will be taken up TODAY to replenish this fund. Look for the *colored envelopes*. Thank you for your generosity!



Children's Liturgy
Today, during Mass!

Guided Scripture Study:
"Six Weeks with the Bible"



A **Six Weeks with the Bible (Catholic Perspectives)** program will be offered after Sunday Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) over a total of 12 sessions until May 2016. The first six sessions are entitled **"God Makes a Start"** and will focus on Genesis 1-11. The second series of six sessions is called **"Getting to Know Jesus"** and will focus on the Gospel of Mark. Grab a cup of coffee and then join the group in the classroom. John Bibby is facilitating the group.

Next scheduled sessions are on: **Sep 20th, Oct 4th. Come join one or more sessions – no need to attend all of them!** Contact Jenny via email for materials at: jgebhar@yahoo.de.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE
Today after Mass!

YOUTH IN ACTION – YOUTH GROUP
Today after Mass

Dear Fr. Schonecke will lead a monthly youth group meeting after Mass (11.10 am to 11.45 am) to discuss how young people, as Christians, can put faith into action through community service and to share their experiences. Meeting in the chapel – first grab a burger!

Age groups: Middle School & High School.

NOTE New Dates: Oct 18th, Nov 8th and Dec (TBA).

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN OUR GROUP OF ALTAR SERVERS

If you would like more information, pick up an info sheet after Mass in the community hall. We are planning a training in early October and now is the time to get involved!

You can also contact Buck Chisolm at B.Chisolm@gmx.de

YOUTH MASS with Bishop Heinrich Koch

Youth are invited to meet Berlin's newest bishop!

When: **Friday, September 18th**

Time: 8.30 pm to 10 pm

Where: Saint Michael, Kreuzberg

Interested? Contact Vanessa (vhansen980@hotmail.com)

FAMILY MASS SUNDAY SEPT 27th: Kids, youth & their families are encouraged to get involved as ushers/ greeters, gift bearers, lectors, servers/ cross bearers or to help decorate the church. Contact Jenny (jgebhar@yahoo.de)



September 20th, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Madeleine & Samantha Rückeis • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Caritas

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

www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin

Please **CONTINUE** to support **All Saints Community Life** through our fundraising site at no extra cost. It's easy! Shop at over 1500 online shops through this website & All Saints receives a DONATION for every transaction made!



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>)