

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 13th, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent**

**Readings (*Missalette* p 39 et seqq.): Zeph 3:14-18a • Is 12:2-6 • Phil 4:4-7 • Lk 3:10-18**

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

Lector: Ruby Schmidt • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Heide Doblhofer, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Benji Ademi, Conrad Chisolm, Shvitria Fernando •

Hospitality: Beata McGreal, Katarzyna Kardziejor • Designated collection: All Saints

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Inauguration of the Jubilee of Mercy**

Again and again these readings make us think of the words by which the angel Gabriel told an astonished young girl of the mystery which was about to enfold her: "Hail, full of grace" (Lk 1:28). The Virgin Mary was called to rejoice above all because of what the Lord accomplished in her. God's grace enfolded her and made her worthy of becoming the Mother of Christ. When Gabriel entered her home, even the most profound and impenetrable of mysteries became for her a cause for joy, faith and abandonment to the message revealed to her. *The fullness of grace can transform the human heart* and enable it to do something so great as to change the course of human history.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception expresses the grandeur of God's love. Not only does He forgive sin, but in Mary he even averts the original sin present in every man and woman who comes into this world. This is *the love of God which precedes, anticipates and saves*. The beginning of the history of sin in the Garden of Eden yields to a plan of saving love. The words of Genesis reflect our own daily experience: we are constantly tempted to disobedience and to go about our lives without regard for God's will. This is the enmity which keeps striking at people's lives, setting them in opposition to God's plan. Yet the history of sin can only be understood in the light of God's love and forgiveness. Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ's love enfolds everything in the Father's mercy. The Immaculate Virgin stands as a privileged witness of this promise and its fulfilment.

This Extraordinary Holy Year is itself a gift of grace. To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. This will be a year in which we *grow ever more convinced of God's mercy*. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not benefit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience *the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things*.

Today, we also want to remember another door, which fifty years ago the Fathers of the *Second Vatican Council* opened to the world. The Council's documents testify to a great advance in faith. The Council was a genuine *encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time*, marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shoals which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel. After these decades, we again take up this missionary drive with the same power and enthusiasm. The Jubilee challenges us and demands that we not neglect *the spirit which emerged from Vatican II*. May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan.

**Excerpts from Pope Francis' Homily, Dec 8, 2015, Vatican Radio**

**Youth in Action Advent Talent Show today after Mass!**



**WELCOME!** *Visiting 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 December 6: 122

Collection: Friends: €253.78 Orphans: €50.00

### [www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin](http://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! **Consider using Bildungsspender for your Christmas shopping!**

The total amount transferred from Bildungsspender to All Saints for this year was **€1156.40!**

### Advent Scripture Study: The Good News of God's Mercy

To mark the season of Advent and the start of the Year of Mercy, we are offering a six-session program on the Gospel of Luke (theme: *The Good News of God's Mercy*) on **Mondays** on a weekly basis from **7:30 – 8:45 pm** at All Saints. **The next session will take place on December 14th.** Contact: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de) or just come!!



**Bulletin editor and Webmaster wanted!** Please contact Tamás after Mass or at 0177/8110633 if you are interested.

Thank you for **sponsoring a refugee child** this Christmas season! We still have children who need sponsors. Please consider sponsoring one. All gifts should be brought to All Saints by **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. See Vanessa after Mass for details.

### December Dates

Dec. 14th: 7:30 pm Advent Scripture Study  
Dec. 24th: 3 pm Children's Mass & Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 24th: 10 pm Midnight Mass/Caroling at 9.30 pm

### CHRISTMAS MASS & PAGEANT Important Dates

DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>: Costume fitting after Mass.



DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rehearsal at All Saints: 2 pm - 4.00 pm.

DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>: CHRISTMAS MASS & PAGEANT begins at 3 pm. Please be at church by 2 pm.

### Guided Scripture Study: "Six Weeks with the Bible"



Study take place after Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) and continues until May 2016. The second series of six sessions, "**Getting to Know Jesus,**" will focus on the Gospel of Mark and will start in January. Grab a coffee and join us in the classroom. Contact: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de).

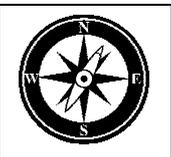
We still need a **Hospitality volunteer for December 27<sup>th</sup>**! Please consider volunteering individually, as a family or with a friend! Please see Vanessa.

**Please sponsor a Christmas gift for one of the refugee children!** Their names and details are on each of the colorful paper ornaments hanging on the Christmas tree. Take one ornament and tape it to the gift but leave the second ornament on the tree with your name next to *Sponsor*. All presents should be brought to All Saints, at the latest, by **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**.

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

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Server: Benji Ademi • Hospitality: Vanessa, Monique • Designated collection: All Saints

**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**



### 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>)