

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 17th, 2016 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 61 et seq.): Is 62:1-5 • Ps 96:1-3, 7-10 • 1 Cor 12:4-11 • Jn 2:1-11

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

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Jennifer Evans, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm, Elizabeth Luegger, Noemi Dethlefsen •

Hospitality: Alicia Ching, Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Family

### **What does it take to understand the uniqueness of God's call in our lives?**

Annunciations are common in the Bible: **Gabriel** announces to Mary that she will give birth to Jesus, the son of God. An angel announces to her husband **Joseph** who the child is. Then later we have the annunciation during the **transfiguration**: "*this is my beloved son*". And when John **baptized** Jesus, there was a voice announcing who Jesus was. Biblical annunciations are literary devices, we do not have to take them literally. They are created by the authors to emphasize the meaning of the events. These stories help us understand the beliefs and theologies of our biblical writers.

Without annunciations we can assume that biblical personalities lived lives similar to ours. They would often ask why God placed them in particular situations. To make sense of a life, it usually takes a whole life. What is true for us, is also true for Jesus. It would seem that the historical Jesus originally conceived of himself simply as a disciple of John the Baptist. Yet John was arrested and became a martyr, so Jesus could no longer be John's disciple. He took over John's ministry, and became greater than his mentor.

The bible says that no one around Jesus and John would have realized the superiority of Jesus to John when the baptism took place. The view that Jesus was greater than John only came much later: John was "only" the messenger, the precursor announcing Jesus. This superiority of Jesus to John was eventually solidified by Jesus' death and resurrection. **Luke** obviously inserted late first-century theology into a passage which speaks about events that took place 40 or 50 years before he wrote his gospel.

The passage from **Isaiah** (Is 40:1-5, 9-11) is a classic example: Isaiah begins to understand the uniqueness of his call only around the end of his ministry. Though he is certain that he is a prophet, it takes him a lifetime to realize how different he is from other prophets. He does not attack his contemporaries like most of his prophetic predecessors. Eventually he understands that even non-Jews will benefit from his ministry. It took a long time for Isaiah to discover the uniqueness of his call to be a prophet.

Is it possible that it also took time for the historical Jesus to discover his own uniqueness? I am convinced that this is the case! As **we** only "gradually" discover who we are, so did Jesus. Strange things happen when we begin to understand annunciations as literary devices. If we do so, we might actually be able to identify ourselves with certain individuals we had never dared to do before. If we see annunciations as a literary device, we might identify even with Jesus of Nazareth. Then a voice tells us: "*You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased*".

cf: [www.fosionline.com](http://www.fosionline.com) (Roger Vermalen Karban)

**Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ**

**Youth in Action meeting with Fr Schonecke TODAY**  
**after Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**



**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 Jan. 10th: 84

Collection: Friends: €112.93

### All Saints is looking for one or more persons to be our new:

**Bulletin editor:** Has overall responsibility for the coordination of inputs and completeness of the weekly bulletin with a deadline of Friday night each week. The editor will circulate the draft of the bulletin to a select group who will supply information to be included and edit the draft as necessary. The editor will publish the completed bulletin each Friday and supply a copy that will be used for duplication on Saturday. Suzanna Reichardt provides help by copying the bulletin every week. The editor works with and, if necessary, supervises the activities of our webmaster. We estimate that the editor will spend one to two hours per week managing the production of the bulletin.

**Webmaster:** Responsible for designing and managing content to maintain a progressive, relevant website for All Saints Catholic Community and its ministries. You can view our website at: <http://www.all-saints-berlin.de>. The webmaster will create, request or be provided content on a continuous basis and have the responsibility for the update / upload of the material to the site. Content includes text, photos and the possibility of interactive media. We estimate that on a weekly basis our webmaster will need to spend two to four hours. If you are a young adult and think your computer skills are a match, then let us know of your interest. The time spent as webmaster can be counted toward community service hours.

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these positions please contact Tamás Meggyes (tamas.meggyes@gmail.com), Heide Doblhofer (allsaintsberlin@t-online.de), Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com) or Konrad Giersdorf (giersdorf@hotmail.de). Tamás will be more than happy to provide all information and templates necessary and guide you.

### All Saints Council update:

*The new council met on 10 January and elected Konrad Giersdorf, Vanessa Hansen and Tait Doeringer to represent us at the English Speaking Mission. Tait will be our teen representative to the mission.*

### Guided Scripture Study:

#### "Six Weeks with the Bible"



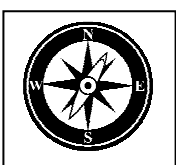
Study will take place after Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) and continues until May 2016. The second series of six sessions, "Getting to Know Jesus," will focus on the Gospel of Mark and will start in January. **John Bibby** is the facilitator. Grab a coffee and join us in the classroom. Contact: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de).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

**January 24 - February 14, 21 - April 3, 17**

### January 24th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Jun de Ocampo SVD

Lector: Tamás Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Luc & Carl Dethlefsen, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Beata McGreal • 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>)