

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](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://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.

## **March 13th, 2016 Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Readings (Missal p 89 et seq.):** Isa 43:16-21 • Ps 126:1-6 • Phil 3:8-14 • Jn 8:1-11

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

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Jennifer Evans, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha & Madeleine Rueckeis, Conrad Chisolm

• Hospitality: Alicia Ching • Designated collection: Catholic Daycare

### **Homily for the 4th Sunday in Lent, March 6, 2016, Year C**

The parable of the Prodigal Son is only found in Luke 15. It belongs to the three parables that Jesus used to answer the grumbings of Pharisees and the religious leaders that he was associating with sinners and collectors. The first of this triad of parables is the parable of the lost sheep and the second is parable of the lost coin. These two parables are quite short and similar to one another. They could be seen as an introduction to the third parable - "the parable of the prodigal son". The structure of these parables revolves around three common elements: something is lost, it is sought and found. The end of it is that the seeker and his friends rejoice and celebrate. This act of rejoicing and celebrating is compared to the joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. The central message here is that: a lost sinner who lives a very sinful life can and will be accepted by God through repentance. There is no limit to God's mercy.

In the structure of this story of the prodigal son we could see how depraved the prodigal son is. He asked his father for his inheritance early, essentially implying that he wishes his father was dead. Such a request would dishonor the father, and would sever the son from the family, as well as from the community at large. Sin is simply a separation. This is why he took his share and left to a far country. He separated himself from his father, his family and community. At the end he realizes the foolishness of his decisions and the gravity of the sin against his father and Heaven. He decided to return to his father to confess his sin and repent. He humbled himself enough to be his father's servant. The level of transformation that he had undergone is shown in his change of words. At the beginning he said to his father "Father...give me". When he came back he said to his father "Father... make me". This is a sign of total submission to the will of his father, who has the best plan for his children. His father was filled with joy at the return of his son and started to celebrate. This joy and celebration were resented by the older son who refused to rejoice and celebrate with his father at the return of his brother. This could be compared to the resentment of the Pharisees, who resent Jesus' rejoicing over the lost/sinners who come to Him.

In examining the attitude of the self-righteous brother it is important to closely look at the relationship between the two brothers. Notice the words, "this son of yours". The older brother did not see himself in relationship with the younger, but saw them both in the terms of his perception of their relationship to the father in these words "this son of yours" This makes one ponder the question, "Which brother is really lost?" This is typical of the Pharisees who explicitly claim that they are "not like" sinners. This alienation from "sinners" was frequently a point of contention between Jesus and the Pharisees.

This older brother in the parable may be compared to those who imagine themselves to be close to God because of their external conformity to the law yet neither loves his fellow man nor values the love of the father for his fellow man. Such people are not only far from God, but are also far from others.

The prodigal son represents, alternatively, a person lost in sin, and a person receiving grace through repentance. The father represents God, giving his son the freedom to choose to sin, but seeking his return and welcoming him as a son when repentance is demonstrated. Let us at this period of lent continue to seek a living and dynamic relationship with God through repentance and to our fellow man through concrete works of mercy and reconciliation.

**Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa, Ph.D**

## Children's Liturgy TODAY during 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 March 6th: 105

Collection Friends: €275.00 Catholic Daycare: €15.92

### CONFIRMATION

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, March 20th after Mass from 11:15 a.m. For more information, please contact the coordinator, Lynn Brinda, at: [brindayc@aol.com](mailto:brindayc@aol.com).



Come and join us for our annual All Saint's St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 19<sup>th</sup>

Celebrations begin at 18:00 h and goes until the last leprechaun goes home!!

Volunteers needed to help set-up and clean the hall so please see Konrad Giersdorf and sign-up after Mass in the Fellowship Hall.

### "Six Weeks with the Bible"

Scripture study takes place after Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h). Our second series of six sessions, "**Getting to Know Jesus**," focuses on the Gospel of Mark. **John Bibby** is the facilitator. Grab some coffee and join us in the classroom. Contact: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de). The remaining dates are: April 3 & April 17

Suggestions or comments about the bulletin? Drop Buck a note at: [B.Chisolm@gmx.de](mailto:B.Chisolm@gmx.de)



### Make a Note . . . Friday Mass

Father Sylvester will celebrate weekday Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at All Saints on Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 h.

### Mark your calendars:

- March 24<sup>th</sup> – **Holy Thursday**: Eucharist with washing of the feet (20:00 h) in St Bernhard
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - **Good Friday** service (15:00 h), Way of the Cross beforehand at 14:00 h!
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – **Easter Vigil**: Eucharist (20:00 h) in St Elisabeth St Elisabeth, Kolonnenstraße 38, 10829 Berlin.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg hunt after Mass
- May 1<sup>st</sup> - **First Holy Communion**: All Saints
- October 19-30 - A trip to the Holy Land is being planned. Interested? Contact Konrad Giersdorf [giersdorf@hotmail.de](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.de) for details.

### HS Youth Group meets next on 20 March!

The new high school youth group meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Mass beginning at 11:15 until 12:00. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry talk to Nathan McConvey.

### Many thanks to all our volunteers to host hospitality. We are completely covered through the end of April!

If you have been thinking about becoming one of our hospitality hosts please talk with Marianne ([m\\_sihotang2002@yahoo.com](mailto:m_sihotang2002@yahoo.com)) or Lupita ([lupita.wilhelm@web.de](mailto:lupita.wilhelm@web.de))

**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: GENODE1PAX**

### March 20th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Jackie Anders • Designated collection: Collection for the Holy Land



### 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>)