

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.

March 20th, 2016 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Readings (Missal p 98 et seq.): Isa 50:4-7 • Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 • Phil 2:6-11 • Lk 22:14-23:56

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is 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

A striking absence

St. Ignatius of Loyola recommended that when reading or meditating on a biblical text we should imagine that we are there right on the spot watching what is happening. So let's put ourselves into the scene we have heard in the Gospel. What do we see? On one side the group of Pharisees and scribes shouting for blood, on the other Jesus with his apostles, in the middle the woman caught in the act of adultery.

Does anything strike you? In this public court all are men. The attorneys, the accusers, are men. All the witnesses are men. The judges would be men if they had not dragged the woman before Jesus, also a man, but a different man. Suppose they were all women - it would be very different. They would have immediately noticed that there is someone missing: the man who sinned with her. The second offender got away with it simply because he was a man.

Looking at this picture I cannot help noticing the similarities with today's world. In so many cultures women still have little or no rights. They cannot inherit, cannot do anything without the permission of their husbands and their witness counts less than that of men. In our western societies there has been enormous progress in giving women the same rights and opportunities as men. Yet, in Germany, women still earn on average 22% less than men for the same work. That in our country, proud to be governed by the rule of law, an estimated 10.000 to 30.000 trafficked women are forced into prostitution ... this cries to high heaven. So we, too, still have a long way to go.

In the Church for centuries women were absent in the sanctuary and in any leadership positions. We are happy to see girls as altar servants and women readers. In our community about half of those who carry responsibilities are women. But we, too, have an even longer way to go. If there is one place where women play a vital role it is the family. Yet, at the synod on the family last year there were only 30 women among the 315 participants. So there is room for improvement. The issue is not so much the thorny question of women ordination, but rather the question what role the laity and particularly women play in the decision-making processes in the Church.

Let us return to the scene of the Gospel. Apart from the striking absence of women, we notice quickly that this public court was set up not to do justice, but as a trap to catch Jesus in a dilemma. If he said: "Stone the woman!" he would contradict his message of God's mercy and lose credibility. If he said: "Don't!" he could be accused of going against the Law of Moses, which for Israel was a kind of constitution.

Jesus tears the whole setup of injustice and hypocrisy to pieces and reveals the truth with one single sentence: "Let those among you without any sin throw the first stone." There is nobody. Maybe what he wrote in the sand helped to convince them that Jesus knew the shameful secrets of their lives.

The delicate way in which Jesus exposed the sins of the accusers is also striking. The Pharisees had put the woman "in full view" of the crowd. Not so Jesus. He does not humiliate or condemn anyone, neither the accusers nor the woman. Just a gentle: "Do not sin anyone." Start a new life!

If we understand the gentleness, the delicacy, the love Jesus display towards sinners, why are we so afraid or ashamed to approach him with our own burden of failures and sins?

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

*** Children's Liturgy TODAY during Mass / Confirmation Class 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 March 13th: 102

Collection Friends: €176.55 MISEREOR: €54.85

Starting **Friday, April 15th** (7 pm), All Saints will be screening Bishop Robert Barron's 10-part "**Catholicism**" series on a nearly weekly basis after Friday evening Mass.

This series is aimed at adults. The films take viewers "around the world and deep into the Faith". Art, architecture, church history, scripture, tradition and spirituality all feature in this vivid presentation of our faith and heritage. The 1-hour films will be followed by fellowship and snacks. Participation is free, but snacks are a welcome donation. Please see posters and flyers for all dates.



Don't forget . . . **Daylight Savings**

Time begins on 27 March 2016. Set your clock ahead one hour on Easter Sunday!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our annual **St. Patrick's Day** dinner. We really appreciate your efforts!

Kids! Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt after Mass on Easter Sunday.

LIFT Event: Islam meets Catholicism All Saints will be hosting the Iranian community for an evening of intercultural & interfaith dialogue on **Monday, April 4th from 6 pm to 8.30 pm**. There will be a panel discussion with Iman Dr. Mohammadi, our special guest, and several Celebrants of the All Saints/English-Speaking Catholic Mission. We will share our Catholic traditions with our guests, followed by a Q&A and a tour of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Join us for this special event

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- March 24th – **Holy Thursday**: Eucharist with washing of the feet (20:00 h) in St Bernhard
- March 25th - **Good Friday** service (15:00 h), Way of the Cross beforehand at 14:00 h!
- March 26th – **Easter Vigil**: Eucharist (20:00 h) in St Elisabeth, Kolonnenstraße 38, 10829 Berlin.
- March 27th – **Easter Sunday** - Easter Egg hunt after Mass
- April 3rd – **Confirmation Class** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h.
- April 3rd – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- April 3rd – **Scripture study** – "Six Weeks with the Bible" meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the conference room.
- April 4th – LIFT – More details on the left!
- April 8th – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- April 16th - **Confirmation Class** – Retreat Day
- May 1st - **First Holy Communion**: All Saints **Important: Mass begins at 9:45 a.m.**
- October 19th – 30th – **Wallfahrt ins Heilige Land** - Konrad Giersdorf has details of a 12 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. If you are interested, please contact Konrad (giersdorf@hotmail.de) who can send you details. Limited to 20 participants, so act quickly if you are interested.

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

March 27th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Ruby Schmidt • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen, Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Friends

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>)