

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.

May 1st, 2016 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings (Missal p 160 et seq.): Acts 15:21-2, 22-29 • Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 • Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 • Jn 14:23-29

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

Lector: Lilly Fitzpatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Heide Doblhofer •
Greeter & Altar Servers: Confirmation Class • Designated collection: Pro Vita

The message individuals like Paul transmit always comes from a certain specific community

Do you remember all the names of the Christian communities in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles? The message Paul and the others in his group transmit always comes from a certain specific community. Many of us have yet to recognize the importance of these local communities in the early church. Certainly, there are individuals who stand out. But the local communities that helped form and sustain those individuals often fade into the background and are almost forgotten.

There is no way to ignore the community that gave birth to the missionary journeys of Paul and Barnabas. Wherever they went, they always introduced themselves as representatives of the church at Antioch. That community, the church at Antioch, sent them out and paid their bills. And it was to that community that Paul and Barnabas eventually returned. The news they brought back to Antioch seems to have pleased everyone.

We hear in the reading that through their evangelization "God ...had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." We know from other chapters in the Acts that the Antioch community was one of the first Christian churches to take the step of baptizing non-Jews. And this was an ultra-liberal step – unexpected, controversial and not fully accepted. We know that this progressive Antioch community prompted Barnabas to travel to Tarsus and to encourage the newly converted Saul to return with him to Antioch. Saul was a "Hellenist" Jew. That means he had grown up in a non-Jewish culture, he spoke Greek and he knew how to relate to Gentiles. Saul was perfect for carrying on a ministry among the non-Jews. Of course not every Christian community agreed with the practice in Antioch to baptize Gentiles without first converting them to Judaism. We shall see this in later passages of the Acts. Paul would have to fight that battle literally until the day he died.

The early church certainly had more variety "community to community" than we have today. Certainly each community dedicated itself to carrying out Jesus' gospel command to "have love for one another." But each community developed and showed that love in different ways. It is like with couples: each couple must create its own path, its own way of loving one another. That is also the reason why no two Christian communities are exactly alike. Because each community exists in order to show love to one another, each will do so in a different way. That's also why we have four gospels. Since each gospel springs from a different community, it is impossible to have just one single gospel.

The author of Revelation often speaks about "a new heaven and a new earth". If God is really dwelling among us and helping us show love to those around us, we shall always be new and creative.

I insisted on the importance of different communities, they enrich each other – and I insist on unity in diversity. Today almost every diocese is closing and combining parishes. The Berlin diocese has the process "New spaces for our faith". And there we have a real challenge.

Church by church, we are getting rid of each parish's unique theology, the special way in which its members have loved one another. This process is disturbing. But it might be one way the risen Jesus proposes us. We need to reflect on how our own community demonstrates that it is one of a kind love, caring for one another. A love that shows that we are Christians, "and they'll know that we are Christians by our love", as the song says.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ



WELCOME! To our *First Communion Mass*. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall after the service!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on April 24th: 115

Collection: Friends of All Saints: €271.91

About Mass at All Saints!

"The *All Saints Catholic Community* takes great pride that our congregation comes from all over the world. This brings to us a multitude of views and also introduces us to liturgical practices from different traditions with distinct customs.

One such custom may raise the question: "*Should I stand, kneel or even sit during the Eucharistic prayer (the consecration of bread and wine) during the service at All Saints?*"

The answer is: "Do whatever you are **most comfortable** with, determined by what you have done in the tradition or parish in which you grew up."

We hope this helps you to participate in our celebration the way you are used to.

Thank you, yes, YOU - for making the *All Saints Catholic Community* special! We couldn't do it without your contributions, whether big or small, all make a difference. From greeters, ushers to gift bearers; from lectors, choir singers to altar servers; from brownie bakers, hospitality assistants to clean-up crew; from catechists, event organizers to parent volunteers; from flowers, candle holders to coffee machine donors - YOU are the All Saints Catholic Community and we are grateful to have you here.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- May 6th – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- May 6th – Join us for our 4th film in our "**Explore the Faith**" series at 19:00.
- May 13th – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- May 13th – Join us for our 5th film in our "**Explore the Faith**" series at 19:00.
- May 14th – **Confirmation Class** 15:00 – 17:00 h
- May 15th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- May 15th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom / chapel.
- May 22nd – **Special Confirmation (Class) Mass** 10:00 – 11:00 h - Introduction of Candidates to the community at Mass, they will take active rolls during mass (readings, serving, bidding prayers)
- May 28th – **Spring BBQ** – Sponsored by the Confirmation Class after the 15:00 – 17:00 h meeting.
- May 29th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- June 5th – **Confirmation Class** 11:15 – 13:00 h
- June 5th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom / chapel
- June 12th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass

May 8th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Rachel Rueckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Beate Hausmann, Jennifer Evans
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: N.N • Hospitality: Lupita Wilhelm, Vanessa Hansen • Designated collection: Friends of 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: **GENODE1PAX**

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>)