

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 15th, 2016 – Pentecost Sunday

Readings (Missal p 170 et seq.): Acts 2:1-11 • Ps 104:1, 24, 29-34 • 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 • Jn 20:19-23

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

Lector: Christine Tombarge • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Heide Doblhofer, Thomas Schmidt

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Aidan & Hanna Mei Doeringer • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen •

Designated collection: RENOVABIS

It is imperative that we pray in order to change ourselves

Do you suppose that Stephen cared much who was collecting coats when he was murdered? Or when he later found out that the story of his death in the Acts would also provide the introduction to the now famous St. Paul? We know the full story—**now**. But Stephen could not have known, and perhaps could not have cared less. Stephen, like all of us, is caught in only a single moment of time. Stephen could not have known that the coat check man at his murder was soon to become famous. Single moments of time have a way of doing that; single moments often hide as much as they reveal.

But every human being is caught in the present - even our brother Jesus; he is human, just like us in all things save sin. And there is a sobering revelation in his story from today's gospel too. Jesus prayed for unity - and we really do not see that his prayer was being answered. The next time we are tempted to despair when we think our prayers are not being answered, let us think of Jesus in today's gospel. Jesus faces the same fate as we do - because of time.

This section of John's gospel is known as the "*High Priestly Prayer*." It is perhaps the bluntest and most emotional petition Jesus addresses to his Father. Some might say this prayer is all he really ever asked for himself: that his followers might be one, that they might be a single communion, that they might be a loving community.

Jesus prayed that they might become open and unafraid of differences; that they might not just tolerate a rich tapestry of diversity, but that they embrace fearlessly the entire spectrum of the rainbow. In short Jesus prayed that they might be an honest reflection of reality: all are God's children.

Stephen, the first martyr for the sake of Jesus, his first witness has to wait in time like us all. And so does Jesus: he has to wait in time like us all. Clearly the prayer of Jesus has not yet been answered. And it is now our challenge as his living body to make it true. But only time will tell!

Let this day's liturgy be a reminder that prayer does not solve all problems. It has not done so for centuries. Prayer alone will not make us a more accepting and open church; prayer alone will not reconfigure an Archdiocese like Berlin; prayer alone will not stop the destruction and inhumanity of war. It never has; it probably never will!

So why bother?

If prayer does not change God's mind, change God's plans, change God's reign, what's the point? Søren Kierkegaard said best: "*Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays.*"

It is imperative that we pray in order to change ourselves. God's eyes and limbs are now ours. And countless people, like Stephen, continue to be murdered — literally and figuratively — while too many of us collect coats and hats at the door — like Paul in our Acts passage.

So, let our final prayer be like the prayer at the end of the Book of Revelation. For what else could we possibly want? Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Be with us—in us—again. Today and Always, in this time and in all time. Amen!

Fr Wolfgang Felber, SJ cf: www.bc.edu/bc_org/prs/stign/homilies/2004-C/2004-e7c-homily2.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass - TODAY!

High School Youth Group meets at 11:15 after Mass

The All Saints community would like to thank Jenny Gebhardt and the catechists for their dedication to the First Communion program this year. Please join us for a special hospitality after Mass in the fellowship hall.

Attendance on May 8th: 97

Collection: Friends of All Saints: €250.59

All Saints Family Bazaar Saturday, May 21, 9 – 15

Our traditional spring and fall bazaars are major fundraisers for our community.

The space for setting up a table costs 10€ plus a cake.

Space reservation by tel. 8620-3636 or email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de

We need your help in spreading the information in kindergardens, schools ...

Special help is needed on the 21st for setup (from 7:30 on) and cleanup (around 15:00) and for helping in our coffee and cake-stand. To volunteer contact Heide Doblhofer

Registration open for preparation for First Holy Communion

Registration for Communion classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the beginning of the new school year. Please fill out the registration form of the English-speaking Mission which can be found outside the church office. Please submit it to the office (directly or via the mail box). Watch our website for more details.

Please join us for our annual All Saints

Community Spring BBQ Potluck on

Saturday, May 28th starting at 5 pm.

Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- May 19th - **Altar Server Training for 1st Communicants** from 18:00 – 19:30 h
- May 20th - **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- May 20th - Join us for our 5th film in our "Explore the Faith" series at 19:00.
- May 22nd – **Special Confirmation (Class) Mass** 10:00 – 11:00 h - Introduction of Candidates to the community at Mass.
- May 26th – **Corpus Christi Mass** 18:00 at Gendarmenmarkt. Eucharistic procession follows immediately.
- May 28th - **Pilgrimage hike with St Bernhard** 08:45 – 20:00 h. See the announcement below for more details
- May 28th – **Spring BBQ** – Sponsored by the Confirmation Class starting at 5 pm. Details below.
- May 29th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- June 5th – **Meeting of the church ministries** to plan for the coming quarterly events (Conference Room).
- 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
- June 5th – **Eucharistic Adoration** for 1st Communion class with Fr. Sylvester (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
- June 10th – **Confirmation Class** 18:00 – 19:30 h
- June 12th – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the conference room
- June 12th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass

The **English Speaking community of St. Bernhard** is organizing a **pilgrimage hike/youth activity** for Saturday, 28 May. Meet at Bhf Berlin-Südkreuz (appx. 08:45) and take a RE to Bhf Chorin (Schorfheide). From there approximately a 10 km hike through woods and fields, culminating with a visit to the 13th-century former Cistercian abbey at Chorin. More info at: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kloster_Chorin

May 22th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: N.N • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

Designated collection: 100th German Catholic Day

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