

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

August 21st, 2016 – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 207 et seqq.): Isa 66:18-21 • Ps 117:1-2 • Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 • Lk 13:22-30

Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke

Years ago there was a horrible accident at one of our local amusement parks. A woman was thrown from a roller coaster type ride and killed. The investigation following the accident showed her death was totally preventable. She simply hadn't been "locked in." The young man in charge of that function was too embarrassed to tell her that because she was overweight he couldn't click the latch on the belt which would have held her on the ride.

Many of us can identify with that worker. We'd also like to live as hassle-free a life as possible, avoiding situations which would create tension between ourselves and others. On one hand, he certainly avoided the tension which could have resulted from telling her she was too obese to be on that ride. But on the other hand, his reluctance to speak out cost her life.

I presume from today's three readings that God's prophets frequently find themselves in parallel situations. They're chosen by Yahweh or the risen Jesus to be the conscience of the people; they're to proclaim God's word. Yet, as we hear in our Jeremiah passage, there are good reasons why they're often tempted to keep their mouths shut. "Jeremiah ought to be put to death," the princes say. One way to make certain the prophet doesn't deliver God's word is to kill the prophet. Works every time.

Though Jeremiah is eventually delivered from the princes' hands, I presume every time he opened his mouth again to tell the people what Yahweh wanted of them, he remembered this near miss. The next time he might not be so lucky. No wonder in chapter 20 he wishes he'd never been born.

This "prophecy thing" is very important for Christians. The earliest Christian author, Paul, presumes each of our communities is blessed with at least one person who has the Spirit's gift of prophecy. He's convinced other Christs can't function correctly unless their members understand what the risen Jesus wishes them to do. That seems to be one of the reasons Luke's Jesus wants his followers to know, "I have come to set the earth on fire. Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Those who dare imitate him must be aware of the divisions in society such an imitation will bring about.

Perhaps that's why the unknown author of the Letter to the Hebrews insists we constantly "keep our eyes fixed on him (Jesus)." Only by focusing on him will we be able "to persevere in running the race that lies before us."

Before any of Jesus' disciples suspected he was divine, they were certain he was a prophet. Though he never demanded they imitate his divinity, they knew from the beginning he expected them to integrate some of his burning prophetic charism into their own lives.

Normally we expect our sacred authors to tear into their readers for not listening to the prophets and carrying out their words. But today the author of Hebrews and Luke's gospel look at prophecy from the other side. Both tear into us for not being brave enough to proclaim even the small bit of God's word with which the Spirit has gifted us. Though the vast majority of us aren't "full-time" prophets, as other Christs we frequently run into situations in which we say nothing where something should be said. We shouldn't pretend to be overly pious, but especially among family and friends neither, for instance, should we hesitate to confront racial or prejudicial remarks. Certainly wouldn't want anyone close to us to be flung off the ride.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!*

Attendance on August 14th: 82

Collection: All Saints: €140.31

Registration is open for First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Registration for First Holy Communion classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the planned date for FHC Mass is May 21, 2017.

Our next Confirmation class will be taking registrations. Exact dates to be announced later.

For either, or both, classes please fill out the registration form from 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 the bulletin and our website for more details.

Volunteers needed for:

- **Lectors**
- **Altar Servers**
- **Choir**
- **Hospitality**

Consider becoming more involved in the All Saints community? All of our Ministries rely on volunteers so your helping hands are welcomed! Ask in the church office and someone will connect you with the head of the ministry that you are have an interest in. Thanks.

Christ the King Pilgrimage

The Archdiocese of Berlin is sponsoring a pilgrimage on Saturday, October 1, 2016 to Swiebodzin, Poland and the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy and its 33-meter high Christ the King statue. Registrar online before 16 September at: erzbistumberlin.de/bistumswallfahrt.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- August 26st – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h. **Eucharistic Adoration** follows at 19:00 h.
- September 4th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- September 4th – **"Welcome Hospitality" for all newcomers to All Saints** after Mass. See note below.
- September 10 & 11th – **Confirmation Class** retreat contact Lynn Brinda for details.
- September 11th – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass at 11:30 h in the conference room.
- September 17th – **Fall Family Bazaar** 09:00 – 16:00 h. Contact Heide Doblhofer for details.
- September 18th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- September 24th – **Altar Server training** in the church from 15:00 – 17:00. Pizza party afterwards
- September 25th – **Autumn BBQ & Potluck** after Mass in the Fellowship Hall detail to follow.
- October 1st – Rehearsal for the **Confirmation Class Mass** 18:00 – 19:30 h
- October 8th – **Confirmation Class Mass** 18:00 – 19:30 h

"Welcome Hospitality"

We would like to welcome all new comers to Berlin and 'old' timers back from the summer holidays with a special hospitality after Mass on September 4th. Please join us for cake, coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Support All Saints through our fundraising site at www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin at no extra cost to yourself. You can shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website. The funds collected this way will go toward supporting our community life, such as our children's and hospitality ministries.

August 28th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: NN •
Designated collection: Universal Church

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