

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

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

October 9th, 2016 – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 222 et seq.): 2 Kings 5:14-17 • Ps 98:1-4 • 2 Tim 2:8-13 • Lk 17:11-19

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

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Doeringer Family •

Designated collection: For the renovation of St. Hedwig's Cathedral

Faith has nothing to do with performance

“Servants don't deserve special thanks for doing what they are supposed to do. And that's how it should be with you. When you've done all you should, then say: We are merely servants, and we have simply done our duty.” Jesus says this to the apostles, to his closest friends. Does he want to tell them: *“You are good for slavish services; you are supposed to sacrifice yourself?”* Does Jesus want to say that there is a better afterlife for them if they have a good performance in this life? I know that time and again this text has been used, has been misused to keep people down in the Church, to claim self-sacrifice and slavish services with the promise of a better afterlife.

This is not what Jesus wants to do. He talks to his friends, to the apostles: they have given up everything – so are they entitled to claim anything from God? This is certainly what the then mainstream of the Jewish religion thought: *“We make a deal with God, we perform well and God grants us a good life. I give something to God and God rewards me.”*

Faith becomes performance. And Jesus makes it clear: *“No, you have no right on which you can insist when dealing with God. You have no claims when it comes to God's gifts to you. Faith is not a performance for which you can claim anything from God.”*

Jesus brings a different image of God: the loving father, the good shepherd – a God of unconditional love. God gives more abundantly than we can imagine – and he gives perhaps more abundantly to those who - in faith - “perform” less than we. This we sometimes do not understand; this is sometimes quite hard to accept for us.

Jesus also shows us a danger in this master-slave-relation. If I perform better than someone else, then I may begin to feel superior to the other person, then I may begin to feel like a master over others. This contradicts the fundamental message of the Bible that all human beings are equal, have the same dignity, the same value as sons and daughters of God, as images of God. If we make ourselves or others slaves of this performance thinking, then we take away the dignity of others, then we try to squeeze God's infinite and unconditional love into human norms and rules.

God does not want *spiritual athleticism* – God invites us to collaborate in his creation, invites us to take responsibility, to hand over to others what we received from God. All this, knowing that for our life we depend upon God and his love.

This reminds me of a sentence by Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits.

The content is: *“Put all your trust in God without ever forgetting co-operation in his creation. This co-operation is precisely what your trust in God requires. But in your activity be profoundly aware that only God is powerful.”*

Or: *“When in action, never rely on your own contribution; when trusting, always realize that you are a collaborator co-operating with God.”*

Or in the original words of Ignatius: *“Trust in God, as if the whole course of events depends on you and not on God, but fully implement your plans as if nothing needs to be done by you, but only by God.”*

Difficult to understand? Try to meditate this sentence a bit – “chew it”, I am sure you can get some profit out of it.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

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 October 2nd: 124

Collection: All Saints: €390.00



Gather In My Name ("GIMN") event on the Saints

On October 14th at 7 p.m. we will have the first in a series of intergenerational events within the English-speaking Mission specifically aimed at families. Children and youth of all ages are especially welcome. The events include crafts, games, skits and food.

The events are FREE, but please register by sending an email to Jenny at jgebhar@yahoo.de to allow for adequate planning.

Confirmation Class 2016 is over!

The confirmation class and its 19 candidates celebrated with a special Mass on October 8th with Bishop Matthiaws Heindric, Fr. Sylvester and Fr. Felber as the celebrants.

We would like to give special recognition to the following who's hard work and dedication made this special event possible:

- Lynn Brinda & Vanessa Hansen - Director and co-director
- Karen Castellon and Teresa Gephardt - retreat
- Jenny Gephardt - retreat and lessons
- Terrie Ademi - Music and photographer
- Jennifer Pedussel, Maggie Repp, the Logsdon Family, Brian Wasilewski and Buck Chisolm for their generous support
- The families of the 2016 First Communion Class for providing refreshments at the reception following the Confirmation Mass.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- October 16th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- October 16th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom. Contact Nathan McConvey for more details.
- October 29th – **Halloween Party** – Fellowship Hall 17:00 – 20:00. Movie, food and fun for kids from 6 to 66.
- November 5th - **Altar Server training** – new and refresher training from 15:00 to 17:00 h in the main church – Please sign-up at our Doodle. Pizza party afterwards ☺
- November 5th - **Fr. Lichtenberg Mass** - The English-speaking Mission will be having a special Mass at St. Hedwig's Cathedral to commemorate the life of Fr. Lichtenberg. Watch for further info in our bulletin or visit our website for details.
- November 6th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 6th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 20th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 20th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 25th – **Christmas Tree arrives**. Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 17:00 h. Volunteers to help with the tree and church decorations should contact Konrad Giersdorf.
- November 26th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** – in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for details in the bulletin and on our website but **mark this date on your calendar today.**

October 16th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: N.N • Hospitality: Families Schmidt & Klitsches • Designated collection: Catholic Schools

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