

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

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: [allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://www.all-saints-berlin.de)

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

### **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Thirtieth-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal p 228 et seq.): Wis 11:22 - 12:2 • Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 • 2 Thess 1:11 - 2:2 • Lk 19:1-10**

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

Lector: Christine Tombarge • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Shadrach Nyaaba • Hospitality: Karen Castellon •

Designated collection: All Saints

### **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Last week's readings zeroed in on the relationship expected of all people of faith with God. A life based on faith demands we relate with God, not try to control him/her. Today's gospel passage outlines the first step in building and maintaining such a relationship: honesty.

No two people could be further apart on a 1st century CE Palestinian religious scale than a Pharisee and a tax collector. The former was akin to a "super-Jew," spending his life studying, teaching and keeping the 613 Laws of Moses. Everything he did revolved around those Sinai regulations. Scanning his temple competition, he could logically say, "I'm not like the rest of humanity – greedy, dishonest, adulterous – or even like this tax collector."

The latter, on the other hand, really didn't give much thought to those Mosaic precepts. As a collector of taxes, he centered his life on a different value system. He would have daily done things forbidden to main stream Jews. The money he so faithfully amassed went not to his fellow Jews, but to his country's enemies: The Romans. A traitor to his people, he helped keep their oppressors in power. And he usually acquired those taxes by "immoral" means: extortion, blackmail and strong arm tactics. He not only was hated by everyone, but because of his profession, he constantly was at odds with the very regulations the Pharisee esteemed. Though tax collectors weren't forbidden under pain of death, like Samaritans, to enter the temple precincts, his presence in that sacred space would have surprised other worshipers. "What's someone like that doing in a place like this? There goes the neighborhood!"

Yet Jesus praises this religious scoundrel at the same time he brushes aside the religious perfectionist. Out of the two, the tax collector alone leaves "justified:" doing what Yahweh wants him to do, simply being honest about himself. His only prayer is, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Unlike the Pharisee he doesn't compare himself with anyone else. He just zeros in on his own moral condition.

If all valid relationships revolve around giving ourselves to others, they can only work when we begin the process by being honest about who it is who's actually doing the giving. Yet we "fake it" so often during our encounters with others, that we also fall into that same trap when we're really trying to build relationships with significant others. Luke's Jesus reminds us that faking it with God in a no-no. God simply expects us to tell him/her who we really are. That's a given.

Sirach, in our first reading, encourages us not to worry: God treats everyone with total impartiality. Yahweh is a God of justice: A God of relationships. He gives everyone an even break. If our relationship isn't working, it can only be because we're holding back from giving our true selves to God, often because of something embarrassing in that true self.

The unknown author of II Timothy has no problem conveying his insights into Paul's personality, even when they suggest some of the Apostle's weaknesses. Though he's writing about a larger than life figure, he doesn't hesitate to get down to the nitty gritty. Paul certainly wasn't the kind of individual who appealed to everyone. "At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me." Some of us would also pause before stepping forward to defend such a radical person of faith. Paul wasn't perfect.

Perhaps that's why he, like us, constantly falls back on his relationship with the risen Jesus: the one person who presumes we're not perfect, and is grateful whenever we admit it.

# 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 23<sup>th</sup>: 75**

**Collection: All Saints: €142.72, World Missions €20.00**



## **Introduction into the Catholic Faith in English (RCIA)**

The Archdiocese of Berlin is offering an Introduction into the Catholic Faith in English, beginning November 8<sup>th</sup>, over nine Tuesdays from 19:00 to 21:15 at the Jesuit Forum, Witzlebenstraße 30a, 14057 Berlin. Registration under 030 32000114, [kgi@erzbistumberlin.de](mailto:kgi@erzbistumberlin.de) or 030 60975944, [info@ipz-berlin.de](mailto:info@ipz-berlin.de).

## **Fr. Lichtenberg Mass**

The English-speaking Mission will be having a special Mass on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am "in the lower church" / crypt at St. Hedwig's Cathedral to commemorate the life of Fr. Lichtenberg, a Roman Catholic priest who spoke against the Nazi regime and died in Hof while en route to Dachau in 1943.

All Saints has been invited to do the reading and to read one Prayer of the Faithful during Mass. If you would like to represent All Saints, please contact [vhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:vhansen980@hotmail.com). This is open to all youth and adults.

## **Eucharistic Minister Training**

Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry!

**Eucharistic Minister Training** on January 14<sup>th</sup> and/or 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 from 09:30 – 18:00 h and continued over three weekends at the Conference Center of the Kath. Academy, Hannoversche Str. 5B, 10115 Berlin-Mitte.

**Applicants must be approved by Fr. Sylvester. All registrations must be completed before 30 November 2016.**

Good command of the German language is necessary. Contact Fr. Sylvester ([fadasylvester@yahoo.com](mailto:fadasylvester@yahoo.com)) for additional details.

## **Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!**

### **Mark your calendars:**

- November 4<sup>th</sup> – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 18:00 h. Eucharistic Adoration follows at 19:00 h. If you can assist with the preparation of the chapel, organize music or help in any other capacity please let Jenny Gebhardt or Heide Doblhofer know. Also tell your friends about our Friday Mass
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – **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 5<sup>th</sup> – **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.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 25<sup>th</sup> – **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 26<sup>th</sup> – **Thanksgiving Dinner** – in the Fellowship Hall from 17:00 h onward. Please volunteer with Konrad Giersdorf to help with the set-up and take down of the hall or to be a helper in the kitchen during dinner.

## **November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber**

Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Shadrach Nyaaba • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: 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