

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

November 20th, 2016 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Readings (Missal p 236 et seq.): 2 Sam 5:1-3 • Ps 122:1-5 • Col 1:12-20 • Lk 23:35-43

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

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

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Carl & Luc Dethlefsen • Hospitality: Alicia Ching •

Designated collection: Diaspora Sunday

As far as I can tell, all of us long for peace and tranquility, though few of us are willing to pay the price it costs to actually obtain it.

I frequently repeat spiritual author Jack Shea's insight that the historical Jesus' ministry revolved around answering just three questions – What do you want out of life? Where do you get it? How much does it cost?

It's clear from today's first reading that the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel believe David – king of the 2 tribes comprising the southern kingdom of Judah - can bring about such peace and tranquility. The author of II Samuel succinctly states the situation: "When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, King David made an agreement with them there before Yahweh, and they anointed him king of Israel." This history changing treaty was ratified in 1,000 BCE – the easiest date in biblical history to remember – and lasted until David's grandson Rehoboam's reign in the 930s when the one nation again reverted to being two.

But at least for those 70 years Jews believed they could eliminate war and fighting by having one leader stronger than any other leader, especially leaders of the countries surrounding them. Their king's army could either conquer those other armies, or put enough fear in them that they'd never dare start a war. A once popular 70s poster perfectly summarized their belief. "Lo, though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, because I'm the meanest s.o.b. in the valley." Peace came through power.

The Pauline disciple who wrote Colossians was convinced Jesus of Nazareth could also bring peace and tranquility, not just to Israel and Judah but to the whole world. Yet how this Galilean carpenter planned on doing it differed radically from David's methodology. It turned everything upside down. This itinerant peasant preacher believed peace could only definitively be achieved by reconciliation, not warfare. The Colossians author was convinced that Jesus personally accomplished this "by the blood of his cross." Against all logic, Jesus' peace came not from strength but from weakness – the weakness one demonstrates by loving, not conquering others.

Luke couldn't state this early Christian belief any better. Using Jesus' actual crucifixion as the background, he shows how his kingship was diametrically opposed to any other kind of leadership. Following common wisdom, one of the criminals crucified with him joins the crowd in wanting to know why the Christ – the savior of Israel – isn't saving the three of them by demonstrating he's more powerful than the soldiers who've just nailed them to their crosses.

Yet Luke's Jesus, always more concerned with the needs of others than his own, ignores their demands and instead responds to the plaintive request of the second criminal, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." He simply tells him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." In other words, "Stop worrying! My suffering and death will bring you peace."

The historical Jesus – following Jack Shea's insight – assured his followers they could achieve peace and tranquility simply by imitating him. Not very complicated. But it was the cost of that imitation which created difficulties. To eventually reach a tranquil state, we, like him, would first have to suffer and die by giving ourselves to those around us – especially our enemies.

No wonder after just a few centuries some theologians got us off the suffering and dying hook by coming up with the concept of a "just war." Just one problem: not only didn't the gospel Jesus ever mention that loophole, but after 1600 years of employing it, it has yet to bring anyone lasting peace and tranquility.

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 November 13th: 129

Collection: All Saints: €230.52

Friends of All Saints Verein Annual membership meeting

December 4th at 11:15

All members of the Friends of All Saints Verein are invited to attend the annual membership meeting which will be held following Mass on December 4th in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have not paid your yearly dues, please do so before the meeting. You can verify that your fees are current by checking with Heide Doblhofer in the church office.

Any other questions should be directed to Howard Eyth or Mike Hoth.

Gather In My Name (GIMN) ADVENT event at St. Bernard's

On Saturday, December 3rd from 6:30 – 8 p.m. we will have the second in a series of intergenerational events within the English-speaking Mission. Families with children and youth of all ages are welcome! The evening will include:

- learning about the meaning of Advent
- Advent bingo with prizes
- Advent crafts
- food, singing, prayers

It is very important that you confirm your attendance with the number of people in your party, as this will allow us to better plan catering (Glühwein!!) and crafting supplies and prizes.

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

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 26th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sign your family up to attend so we know how much to prepare and plan to bring a dish (salad, side or desert) to share with the community.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship hall after Mass for volunteers to make themselves known.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- November 25th – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 18:00 h. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- December 3rd - **Gather In My Name (GIMN) ADVENT** event at St. Bernard's at 18:30h
- December 4th –
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
 - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- **Friends of All Saints Verein membership meeting** at 11:15 h.
- December 18th –
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
 - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- December 23rd – **Dress rehearsal for children's pageant** from 15:00 to 17:00 h. Fitting for costumes will be done before the practice performances.
- December 24th - **Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass** beginning at 15:00 h.
 - **Casting Call:** We are looking for Mary and Joseph; shepherds, wise men, sheep, angels and many others! You do not have to attend All Saints to participate.
 - **Times for participants** to arrive at All Saints on 24 December at 13:30 h.
 - **Director needed:** Adults volunteers needed to make this annual tradition a raging success. Inquire in the church office.

Note: Because we have three faith communities celebrating Christmas on this day we must clear the church by 16:25. If you can help with the clearing of the church please let the greeter know when you arrive as he will be able to give you a task to speed us on our way after Mass. Thanks.

November 27th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will Sheehan • Hospitality: Thomas Schmidt, Vanessa Hansen • 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: GENODED1PAX