

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

December 4th, 2016 – Second Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal p 34 et seqq.): Isa 11:1-10 • Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 • Rom 15:4-9 • Mt 3:1-12

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

Lector: Rachel Rueckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Madeleine & Samantha Rueckeis • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •
Designated collection: Orphans

The opportunity of Advent

We have again reached the threshold of a new liturgical year. The new liturgical year begins with the time of Advent, the preparation for Christmas. It's a time of transition – from something old towards something new. Transitions are always uncertain and demanding times – we just have to look at Washington D.C. and the transition that takes place there. Times where the old things are no longer valid and where the new things are not yet known. Transitions are giving you a feeling of uncertainty, of ambiguity, of hesitation.

But we are not forced to remain passive; we can make use of times of transition so that they help us on our way, so that they bear fruit for our lives and for the lives of others. Advent is one of these times – it prepares a breakthrough from darkness to light, from emptiness to life. Those coming weeks are marked by liturgies with very beautiful biblical texts. They invite us to believe in God who is the lover of life, they invite us to celebrate God's promise of life for us.

The **first reading** we just heard from the prophet Isaiah speaks of our longing for life, for "shalom", for this harmony between the creation and its creator. How do we prepare ourselves for Christmas? In former centuries, people knew how to fill these times of preparation with fasting, praying and good deeds. We kind of have lost this link between the big feast and the inner preparation it requires. The outer, the commercial preparation took the place of the inner preparation.

And we are in danger of living what the **gospel** describes (Matthew 24, 37-44). We are so busy with our own plans, we are trusting in our own efforts, so that we forget our link to God that penetrates our whole life. We are no longer vigilant for God's presence in our world, in our life. The **gospel** speaks with strong images: the image of being abandoned, of being left behind, of being dumped, and the image of being accepted, of being invited to take part in something big that God offers us. We long to be accepted, to be taken along. And the gospel says that it is **not what we do** that makes us accepted and loved, but that it is our inner attitude that makes us accepted and loved by God: an attitude marked by loving attentiveness, looking for God, feeling God in our life and in the lives of others.

Advent is rich with symbols that can help us to find a new direction for our lives: - the **symbolism of light** in the darkness of winter. This light brings us comfort and warmth, a cozy atmosphere in which we can think and reflect like in front of an open fireplace; Advent is **a time of waiting** or better: **a time of expecting**, a time where we can interrupt our routines so as to be open for the new things that may come; Advent is a time where we can **ask ourselves: what does it mean for my life** that God becomes one of us? This may change my life and its structures; this may change my relation to God, to others, to myself; Advent has the **symbol of the way** – we are invited to make ourselves on the way. To make an effort to leave our comfort zones, to leave the well-trodden ways, to try new ways, new ways towards God, towards the others, towards ourselves.

Advent is an opportunity – a chance to interrupt, to try something new, to risk something. This is the message of Advent for me: we can break our routine, we can break the circles, the often-vicious circles in which we find ourselves, we can find healing of our inner enslavement and dependence – if we open ourselves for what Advent prepares: the fact that God becomes one of us. The ground on which and upon which we live may be hardened and impermeable – Advent might open it, might offer the chance that this infertile ground offers new life again – for us and for those we love.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Friends of All Saints Verein Annual membership meeting TODAY

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 27th: 115

Collection: All Saints: €320.66

Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) today at 1500.

It is time again for our annual visit to the Senior Citizen's Residence located at Altmarkstr. 27, 12169, Berlin.

Practice starts at 1500 and caroling at 1600.



Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass

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.

Sign-up after Mass in the Fellowship Hall or send an e-mail to: vhansen980@hotmail.com or b.chisolm@gmx.de

Dress rehearsal and costume fitting from 1300 – 1700 on 23 December 2016.

Participants need to be at All Saints at 1330 on 24 December 2016. Mass begins at 1500 and will end at approximately 1625.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 9th – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- December 11th – **All Saints Council** at 1115 in the conference room.
- December 18th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- December 18th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.
- December 23rd – **Dress rehearsal and costume fitting for Christmas pageant** at 1300.
- December 24th - **Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass** beginning at 1500. The collection during this Mass will be designated for the support of our Children, Youth and Hospitality ministries.

Note: Because we have three faith communities celebrating Christmas on this day we must clear the church by 1625. 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

Friday Mass on December 9th, 2016

Please join us for a special Advent Friday Mass on December 9th at 6 pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

All Saints will be hosting Herz Jesu/St. Otto - our local German Catholic communities - for the annual 'Living Advent Calendar.'

There will be fellowship after Mass.

December 11th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Tamas Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Noemi Dethlefsen, Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: Jennifer Attah • 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