

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 18th, 2016 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal p 42 et seqq.): Isa 7:10-14 • Ps 24:1-6 • Rom 1:1-7 • Mt 1:18-24

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

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Will Sheehan, Conrad Chisolm •

Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: All Saints

Homily for December 11, 2016 - Third Sunday of Advent

Years ago, one of my high school religion classes gave me a unique Christmas gift: a banner depicting Santa Claus with a question under his picture, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we wait for another?" It's the same question the disciples of John the Baptizer ask Jesus in today's gospel periscope.

Jesus' response springs from our Isaiah passage. When Yahweh comes to save the people, "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing." Matthew's Jesus adds something about lepers being cleansed and the dead raised, but the idea is the same. Though he's the one John's been looking forward to, he's not the Messiah people had been expecting. He's a different Messiah, someone who announces a good news that takes the spotlight off himself and shines it on the people.

Most 1st century CE Israelites presumed when this special anointed individual finally arrived their only problem would be finding a good seat from which to watch the show. He'd take care of everything. That appears to be one of the reasons Matthew adds Jesus' remark that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than even the prophet John.

In this context, the "kingdom of heaven" is Jesus' way of referring to God acting effectively in this world. In other words, those who notice God working in the here and now of their everyday lives are the most important people on the face of the earth. They actually help the blind see and the lame run. They do what's necessary to change our planet's status quo.

Of course, the main characteristic such people must possess is patience. Though we're confident God's going to help us change "things," our hands are still feeble, our knees weak, and our hearts frightened. Perhaps James is right in saying farmers make good Christians. They, of all people, must constantly wait for things to happen. Rarely does any of their work bring instant results. Only someone who has faith in the future will plant seeds.

It's significant that in our gospel passage Jesus speaks about the Baptizer as a prophet. Against popular wisdom, a biblical prophet usually doesn't go around predicting the future. A prophet is the conscience of the people, a person who tells us what God wants us to do in our everyday lives.

But how do we tell real prophets from fake prophets? Religious leaders constantly try to convince their people that they alone speak for God. Among the rules for distinguishing real from fakes, we know a real prophet can never profit from prophesying. Who would pay someone for telling them what they don't want to hear? Real prophets never wear fine clothes or live in royal palaces. On the contrary, like John, they're rarely welcome among the good folk. Often we have to leave our safe religious institutions and go out into "the wilderness" to even encounter them.

I once asked a friend who he thought the prophets were in our day and age. He named the usual suspects: Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, even Ralph Nader. But then he smiled and said, "I have my own personal list, Roger, that I'm not going to share even with you. If that list ever got out, I'd never again be permitted in the pulpit of any Catholic church in the world."

Since Jesus' historical disciples regarded him as a prophet long before they thought of him as God, it makes me wonder just who we should be expecting this Christmas.

Children's Liturgy during Mass TODAY

Christmas pageant rehearsal on Friday, 23 Dec at 1300

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 December 11th: 97

Collection: All Saints: €307.92



Annual Children's Christmas pageant information

Last call for actors, lectors, ushers and altar servers. Be a part of our annual Christmas pageant. Contact Vanessa Hansen if you are interested.

For all those traveling over the Christmas holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2017! Have a safe trip and see you in the New Year!

We still need a Hospitality volunteer for December 25th! Please consider volunteering individually, as a family or with a friend! Please see Vanessa.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 23th – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- 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

- January 15th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- January 15th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.

December 24th, 3 pm: Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Jenny Gebhardt, Beate Hausmann
Altar Servers: Joshua Wunder, Brendan & Tommy Fitzpatrick
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Ushers: Will Logsdon, Aidan Brinda

December 24th, 9:30 pm: Christmas Carols

December 24th, 10 pm Midnight Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

Lector: Zachary Chitwood • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Server: Madeleine & Samantha Rueckes, Conrad Chisolm • Designated collection: Adveniat

December 25th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Christine Tombarge • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: For the Church in Latin America

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