

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 / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

January 1st, 2017 – Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Readings (Missal p 54 et seqq.): Num 6:22-27 • Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 • Gal 4:4-7 • Lk 2:16-21

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen •

Designated collection: World Peace Day

Christmas Day 2016

We celebrate a very special Christmas in Berlin this year: the terror attack on the Christmas market confronted us here in Berlin with something that is everyday life elsewhere in the world. Extremists kill innocent people, bring death to whole cities, destroy certainties about how human beings can live together. And they make love of neighbor, they make charity look like helpless weakness – weakness that can be exploited. The message of Christmas: “Peace be on earth” – in the eyes of extremists this makes no sense. They want the contrary of peace – they want terror – and be it in the name of religion.

So, what to preach on this Christmas morning? About the night that appears in “holy night” – we are all living experiences of “night, darkness” when we see our world. I read a very touching text written by the protestant bishop of Berlin. He quotes Jürgen Moltmann, a well know protestant theologian. Moltmann spoke about the “things ahead of us”. And he uses two terms for the things ahead of us: “*future*” and “*advent*”.

Future – this is what we can calculate, our predictions, prognoses, extrapolated experiences. We know how many people there will be on this planet in 30 years, we know how many skilled workers a country needs to survive, we know the consequences of the international migrations of today. This we know – and we may fear it, we may become depressed because of this future that threatens us.

But when it comes to things to come, Moltmann also speaks of “Advent”. Advent is the time ahead we cannot plan, the time ahead that is given to us as a gift. A gift that may bring changes, surprises, a gift that may bring dead branches of a tree to life. Christmas always is preceded by Advent. Advent is this attitude of expecting to be surprised.

Isn't it a surprise that in the manger shepherds and kings meet. Social underdogs like the shepherds meet the magi with their gifts. What unites them? What is common to them? It is the fact that they are amazed about this child. From this new born a power emanates that the shepherds and the magi call “divine” although this new born child is lying there defenseless. From this new born child shines forth the right of every human being to live a life in dignity. From this new born child shines forth the dignity of every human being no matter where he or she is born, if he or she is rich or poor, black or white... God becomes one of us so that we be able to see what hope every human life carries.

So, this is the message of Christmas for me: Humanity is promised to all. Practiced humanity, Menschlichkeit, Mitmenschlichkeit.... This “future” is not yet at hand – we know this when we watch TV, read the newspapers or listen to victims of war and violence and terrorism.... But this “future” is not impossible if together we fight for it, if together we await it actively, if together we work for it with everything we can, if together we prepare this future.

Christmas is not a sort of cultural program of our Christian occident. Christmas is not a feast where we forget the world around us. A feast where we see the world in an idyllic way. No, we need both: we need to know the future with all the available facts and knowledge and science, but we also need this trust in the Advent of God, trust in the things to come that are a gift of God.

Christmas confronts our own personal and social calculations about our future with God's promises. This message is not “*post-truth*” (*post-faktisch* as we say in German) – no, it is rather *pre-truth*. This message speaks of trust in the things to come. If we are open to see the image of God in every human being, then we shall be able to find ways to peace we had never dreamed of before.

(Cf <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/die-weihnachtsbotschaft-und-der-terror-friede-auf-erden-gilt-mehr-denn-je/19169164.html>)

Fr. Wolfgang Felber

Have a blessed Happy New Year 2017!

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 Dec. 24, Christmas Pageant: 202

Collection: Children & Youth Ministries: €592.70

Attendance on Dec. 24, Midnight Mass: 70

Collection: Friends: €223.24 Adveniat: €35.93

Attendance on Dec 25th: Christmas Mass: 58

Collection: Friends: €171.79

THREE WISE MEN



Three Kings Day Celebration

Did you know: January the 6th is a special day in Mexico. Known as 'El Dia de Reyes' (Three Kings Day), this holiday represents the height of the Christmas season. The date marks the culmination of the twelve days of Christmas and commemorates the three wise men who traveled from afar, bearing gifts for the infant baby Jesus.

We will have our special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass on **Sunday, January 8th**.

Will you be the lucky one to find the special item in the Rosca de Reyes? **If so, you get to be the King or Queen of the day!**

LIFT – Living in Faith Together

On Saturday, February 18th from 1800 – 2000 we will have a special LIFT around the theme of Africa Rising.

We will explore life and culture in several countries of modern Africa and perhaps even get a sample of some local food specialties.

More details coming soon so watch the bulletin or visit our web site.

If you would like to attend please let Buck Chisolm (b.chisolm@gmx.de) know so we can plan our refreshments.

Thank you for your generous tithes on December 24th and 25th. We are a self-financed community so every cent counts! The tithes help finance our rent and every day running AND Community Life: Children's & Youth Ministries, Hospitality, etc...! Thank you for your support.

Holy Father's prayer intentions for January 2017

Christian Unity: That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.



Thank you to all families who participated in our **Christmas Pageant** this year. Special thanks to Vanessa Hansen and Lynn Brinda for organizing and directing the children. Thanks also go to Jenny Gebhardt, Donna Brown and the Luggier sisters for sharing their musical talents that made the pageant so memorable.

Mark your calendars:

- January 6th - **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- January 8th – All Saints Council meets at 1115 in the conference room
- January 15th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- January 15th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.



On Friday, January 6th we will take down the Christmas tree and decorations. Will you help us?? If so, please be at the church at 1700 and depending on how many helping hands show up we should be done by 1900.

January 8th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Felber

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen • Designated collection: For African Catechists

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