

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

January 8th, 2017 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings (Missal p 55 et seqq.): Isa 60:1-6 • Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 • Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 • Mt 1-12

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

Homily on the New Year 2017

All across the world the standard way of marking the end of the old and the beginning of the New Year is for people to set off fireworks, tearing apart the night sky with a blaze of light and an explosion of noise. The origin of this tradition is from a primitive pagan Roman culture. The Romans believed that the turning of the year was a vulnerable moment, a changeover that had to be watched carefully lest witches, ghosts and demons slip through the gap between the years and get up to all kinds of mischief. The antidote, they believed, was to make as much noise as possible, to scare away any wandering demon, ghost or witch, who might think of trying to slip through that gap. Strange as it may sound, this tradition has survived to the modern times

Another tradition on New Year are new year resolutions. For weight watchers after series of failed attempts, this may be a time to begin again with a firm resolve to lose weight. Some other people may resolve to get more organized, spend less and save more, enjoy life to the fullest, stay fit and healthy, learn something exciting, spend more time with family, pray more, go to Mass twice or more in a week, do something special with your family every week; etc. One thing about these resolutions is that often they may be difficult to keep till the end of the year.

Another traditional thing on New Year is the traditional greeting of the New Year: Happy New Year! This is a wonderful thing to do but it would be a mistake, of course, to expect perfect happiness in any year in this life. The innate, insatiable drive we all have for perfect happiness can only be satisfied in the next life.

It would also be a mistake also to identify happiness with pleasure. Pleasure and happiness are not synonyms. They are not one and the same thing. In fact, pleasure can be the cause of very great unhappiness.

It would be a mistake also to think that happiness consists in amassing possessions. Unfortunately, we begin by possessing things and end up with things possessing us. It is the desire, the craving for things we do not have that causes so much unhappiness. We are supposed to love people and use things. In our affluent society, we turn that around and love things and use people to get the things we love.

When we look into the cave in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born we may understand what true happiness consists of. Look into the cave. There is none of those things in which we seek happiness. There are no riches, no fame, no power, no conveniences, no pleasure, nothing but an empty, cold cave on the outskirts of town. We see there the new born baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph filled with wonder, amazement and joy on this first day of the New Year not only do we observe the three traditions mentioned above but let us ask for the grace to know Jesus more intimately, love him more ardently and follow him more closely so that this may be a truly Happy New Year! I

The triple blessings mentioned in the first reading of today's liturgy (Num.6:24-26): "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" were entrusted by God, through Moses, to Aaron and his sons, that is, to the priests of the people of Israel. It is a triple blessing filled with light, radiating from the repetition of the name of God, the Lord, and from the image of his face. In fact, in order to be blessed, we have to stand in God's presence, take his Name upon us and remain in the cone of light that issues from his Face, in a space lit up by his gaze, diffusing grace and peace. Let us seek the Face of God continuously this new year and he will continually fill our lives this year with his grace and peace.

Fr Sylvester Ajunwa, PhD



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 Jan 1st: 54

Collection: World Peace Day: €412.60

LIFT – Living in Faith Together



On Saturday, February 18th we will have a special LIFT around the theme of Africa Today. 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.

World Peace Day

Pope Francis message for the celebration of World Peace Day of January 1st can be found here:

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20161208_messaggio-l-giornata-mondiale-pace-2017.html



Become a Hospitality Volunteer

Our loyal group of hospitality volunteers are looking for some “new blood” to support this important ministry.

Consider you, or your family, hosting a hospitality once a quarter! That’s only 2 - 3 hours four times a year.

What is involved? Come about 9 a.m. to make coffee and put out the cakes and refreshments which we have already purchased. After Mass stay and get the Fellowship hall neat/ready for the next group and ensure all our coffee cups/ plates are in the dish washer.

Contact Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com) for more information.



Confirmation Class 2017 - 2018

Our next Confirmation program will kick off starting February 2017, leading to Confirmation in the late spring of 2018.

The format for this year’s program will be based on a small-group model that is relevant to young people’s lives, builds strong relationships and empowers parents to support their child’s spiritual growth more effectively. Interested parents should contact Jenny Gebhardt at the following email address: jgebhar@yahoo.de or Maggie Repp at the Office of the English-speaking Mission (alsda46@aol.com).



to everyone who helped to take down the Christmas decorations on Friday, January 6th.

Please take this copy of the bulletin and use it to spread the word about the All Saints Community

Mark your calendars:

- January 13th - **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- January 15th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- January 15th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.
- January 21st – **All Saints Youth Event** – 1800 to 2100 in the Fellowship Hall. Theme TBD. Look for more details coming in the bulletin and on the website.
- February 18th – **All Saints Youth Event / LIFT** - 1800 – 2200 theme of “Africa Today”

January 15th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellon • Designated collection: Family Sunday

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: GENODE33PAX