

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 29th, 2017 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 62 et seqq.): Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13 • Ps 146:6-10 • 1 Cor 1:26-31 • Mt 5:1-12

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

Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Ushers: Will Logsdon, Conrad Chisolm • Altar Servers: Madeleine Rueckeis • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

As Christians, we are called to follow a person, not an institution.

I don't know in what kind of Catholic community you grew up in. Where I grew up, in the most southern part of Bavaria, today's gospel was the gospel about Jesus' call of the first apostles, but it was also the gospel about Jesus' call to his first four priests. And now, with some decades of distance, it is clear to me that nothing could be further from the theology that Matthew is trying to convey in his gospel. When Matthew composed his gospel – in the mid to late 70s of the first century – the priesthood as we know it today simply didn't exist. All gospel "calls" by Jesus are simply calls to be a Christian, to be a friend of Jesus, calls to imitate him, to be aware that we are sons and daughters of God, that we are brothers and sisters. These calls certainly are not addressed to a specific group of people who exercise one particular ministry in the community. On the contrary, these calls are addressed to every reader of the gospels. That's why it is essential to look carefully at each element of today's call in the gospel. Because it is also addressed to us!

First, these initial disciples are called to follow a person, not an institution. They are not called to follow an institution with particular sets of rules or regulations or even some philosophic or theological concepts. And these initial disciples have no idea where this person Jesus is leading them. They are just to "come after" him, wherever and whatever that entails. All they know is that people, not fish, will now be the most important element in their lives. There is no delay, no looking back. They immediately leave their boats, nets, even their father, and "follow him."

Jesus' call marks a new beginning of their lives. Their response to Jesus' call is the concrete "repentance" he demands of all his followers: a total change of their value systems. A total change of their value systems – strong words... What I mean is that they open themselves for God working effectively in their lives – around them and among them. Or in a different expression: they will eventually experience the "kingdom of heaven" in their lives by opening themselves to God's presence and God's working in their lives. One way to experience God is to make people, not things, the focus of our lives. This is what Jesus teaches his friends, his followers. Not a call to priesthood, but a call to openness is what Matthew describes.

To come back to the beginning of this homily: Matthew did not want to show Jesus calling the first priests, he wanted to show Jesus calling his first friends, his first followers, the first Christians. We, like Jesus' first four disciples, are called to make people the focus of our lives, not things or laws or institutions. And this call is still addressed to us – every day, time and again.



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 22nd: 134

Collection: All Saints: €351.58

LIFT – Living in Faith Together



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

This month we will explore the people and culture of the Republic of Ghana and perhaps even get a sample of some local food specialties.

More details coming soon so watch the bulletin or visit: www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml.

Mark your calendars:

- February 5th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 5th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- February 12th – **Scout Sunday** – Boy and Girl Scouts serve at all levels during Mass.
- February 12th – **Girls Confirmation Class Kickoff meeting** after Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel 1115 – 1200.
- February 12th – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- February 18th – **All Saints Youth Event / LIFT** – 1800 to 2100 in the Fellowship Hall.
- February 19th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 19th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- February 19th – **Confirmation Class** meets at 16:00 h at the Ching residence.
- February 22nd – **Confirmation Class** meets at 19:00 h at the Schulze-Makuch residence.



Scout Sunday on February 12th



For over 100 years, Scouting programs have instilled in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Today, these values are just as relevant in helping youth grow to their full potential as they were in 1910. Scouting helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives. While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation for service to others in their community.

On Scout Sunday our scouts will serve as the Altar Servers, Lector, Greeters, Ushers and will provide our after Mass hospitality. To volunteer for any of these positions please contact Vanessa Hansen

(vhansen980@hotmail.com.)

Scouts & Scouters, please be in uniform!



Join our Confirmation Class . . . but you need to hurry!

There are still openings for one girl and one boy in the two current groups.

Sign-up continues through March and new groups will be formed as candidates come forward

Our next Confirmation will be in 2020 so if your child is of age and interested now is the time to act. Contact Jenny Gebhardt at: jgebhar@yahoo.de

Plan for the whole family to join us to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 18th at 6 p.m.



Potluck, music, dancing and good conversation. Make sure you block this date for our March get together

February 5th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Ruby Schmidt • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will & Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: Jackie Anders • 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