

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

February 12th, 2017 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 66 et seq.): Sir 15:15-20 • Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 • 1 Cor 2:6-10 • Mt 5:17-37

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

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John and Glenda Massey •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Scout Sunday • Hospitality: Scout Sunday • Designated collection: Caritas

You are the salt of the earth

The gospel reading today is continuation of the teaching of the Beatitudes. Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light, and a city set on a mountain, to describe the life of discipleship, that is to say the characteristics that should be found in the lives of his followers. I will concentrate on the metaphor of salt in today's gospel.

In ancient times, lack of salt could drastically affect the health of entire populations. Trade in salt was very important, and salt was as valuable as gold, enough to be used as currency in some areas. Our word salary comes from it.

Salt is a biological necessity of human life. Most of our food already has salt added, but if you are in the habit of baking your own bread, or cooking your own food, it's immediately and disastrously obvious if you forget to add salt. Salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. In calling us salt of the earth, He offers us a challenge and consolation not less timely in our day than in Jesus' own. Let's us consider just three qualities of salt that may open our eyes to why He called us the salt of the earth.

The first is simply that salt is salt. It has a unique identity. And if salt is to add any savor to the world, it must retain its own properties. As salt of the earth, it seems that we are called to mix with the world, but never to be assimilated to it. One of the problems of Christianity in modern times is the problem of identity. It is like Jesus telling Christians to be Christians. That sounds like tautology, but it is to say do not lose your unique identity as Christians in the world. This does not mean isolation from the world but a proper and balanced engagement with the world without losing your unique identity as Christians. Retaining our unique identity does not mean to retreat from an engagement with the culture, as if it taints us by our very association with it. Authentic Christian life, or authentic discipleship is not one disengaged from the "concrete milieu" of the times. No! it rather means active engagement, in a way that the Good News which Christianity proclaims permeates into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new.

The second quality is that salt gives taste. This salt power is a hidden power. It seems that Christ proposes the image of salt precisely because of the disproportion between its appearance and its effect. To the sense of sight, salt hardly even registers, it dissolves almost instantly in routine kitchen use. To the sense of taste however, salt makes all the difference. Salt belongs to that family of images with which Jesus reminds us that the true measure of spiritual progress is often hidden from our eyes. The Kingdom of God is like the salt, not the meal; like the leaven, not the loaf; like the mustard seed, not the tree in which the birds make their nests.

The third and final quality of salt is that it causes hunger and thirst. The Church used to draw attention to this feature of salt in the rite of baptism used before Vatican II. There, the priest would pinch salt in the mouth of the baby to be baptized. He would then pray, after this first taste of salt, let his [or her] hunger for heavenly nourishment not be prolonged but soon be satisfied. This "heavenly nourishment" was an allusion, of course, to the Eucharist, to the true food and true drink that Christ wants to give us all.

This should give us pause. Am I salt of the earth in this sense too? Does my life and witness make others hunger and thirst for God? We exhibit the preservative quality of salt when we stand by the truth and refuse to compromise our faith in moral questions, when we refuse to submit to the dictatorship of moral relativism. We are the salt of the earth when we refuse to pursue short sighted and selfish motives at the cost of common good and the truth. We are salt of the earth when we show commitment to social justice. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on. When we do these things as a community of faith then we are indeed acting not only as salt but as light to the world, when our light of faith glows in this form we are then as a city set on a mountain that cannot be hidden.

Fr Sylvester Ajunwa



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 Feb 5th: 108

Collection: All Saints: €319.27

Celebrating GHANA!



On February 18th we will have a special LIFT in cooperation with the Ghanaian Embassy.

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.

Music, song and dancing are planned. Families are invited to attend and asked to bring a side dish to share.

We will collect €2 per person (or €5 for a family) to cover the costs for the refreshments and to make a donation to a designated charity. RSVP by February 15 to vhansen980@hotmail.com.



Join us for **Ash Wednesday Mass** on March 1st at St. Bernard's, located at Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 19:00 h.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the day on which the faithful have their foreheads signed with ashes in the form of a Cross. It is also a day of fast and abstinence.

Mark your calendars:

- 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.
- March 1st – **Ash Wednesday Mass** at Saint Bernard's, Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 19:00 h.
- March 1st – **Confirmation Class** meets at 18:30 h at the Chisolm residence.
- March 4th – **Gather in My Name (GIMN) at St. Elisabeth's**, Kolonnenstr. 38, 10920 Berlin-Schönenberg from 18:30 to 20:00 h. The focus for this get together is on Lent.



It's time for a FIESTA!

Boys and Girls – Join in the Mexican tradition of the breaking of the piñata. Tradition has it that the person who finds the baby Jesus (or trinket) in the Rosca on Three Kings Day must hold a party no later than 6 weeks after Christmas. In this case, All Saints will be having the fiesta after Mass on February 19th in the Fellowship Hall.



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

There are still openings for 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 19th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: John and Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will Sheehan • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen • 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