

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

February 19th, 2017 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 69 et seqq.): Lev 19:1-2, 17-18 • Ps 103:1-4, 8-10, 12-13 • 1 Cor 3:16-23 • Mt 5:38-48

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

You are friends of Jesus because you put people in the center of your activities

It is scouts Sunday – so I would like to center my homily around the fact that as scouts you have to make choices: the choice to become a scout, the choice to act like a scout. Christian faith is a relation to Jesus, to the person of Jesus, not to a building, a temple, a statue, laws – no: a relation to a human person. And real people are always subject to change. Both in Jesus and Yahweh, we are called to follow someone who puts people at the center of their existence. And as you know, in a friendship we try to be near to someone, try to keep the friendship alive, we try to be trustworthy in this relation to a friend. And if we want to be loyal to someone, this is our free choice.

Freedom – most of our actions have nothing to do with freedom: they are habits, or we do things because we fear the negative consequences if we do the opposite, or we do something because it corresponds to the image we have of ourselves or it corresponds to the image we want to give others of ourselves. We rarely do anything which is totally free.

The author of Sirach already reminded his readers that their Jewish faith revolves around making free choices. “God has set before us,” he writes, “fire and water ...life and death, good and evil, whatever we choose shall be given us.” We have at least some control over our lives.

Concerning this topic, Paul reminds this Christian community that it is not the easiest thing in the world to find out what God really wants us to do. Obviously not everyone who claims to know God's mind actually knows it – neither religious nor political leaders. According to the Apostle, the “rulers of this age” often have no clue, have no idea of God's will. Unlike the risen Jesus, these leaders are often leading us away from God's “mysterious, hidden wisdom.” That's why it is essential for us as friends of Jesus to be open to his Spirit.

Matthew is dealing with a community of Jewish origin, they believed that they understood God's mind long before they came in contact with Jesus. But that encounter with Jesus turned everything upside down. For the former Jews, the relation to the law of Moses was of utmost importance. That seems to be behind Jesus' assurance, “I have come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets.” There was nothing wrong with what the community members did before they encountered Jesus, before they became friends of Jesus; Jesus is simply taking them to a new level. Jesus is concerned not with the afterlife, but with the here and now of entering “the kingdom of heaven”, With experiencing God working effectively in their daily, maybe boring and unexciting lives. To achieve this, they have to freely choose to go beyond the 613 Laws of Moses.

Modern moral theologians often remind us that God will eventually judge us only on the things we freely chose to do. Whatever we did out of force or fear – like going to Mass on Sunday because our parents gave us no other choice – will play no role in our eternal future. The historical Jesus, and the risen Jesus certainly wants us to make free choices. Choices which will not only get us into heaven one day, but will even now enable us to experience the heaven that is already around us. We just have to open our eyes and ears.

It is scouts' Sunday – when I read your Scout Law, I see so many things a scout should do: among other things, a scout should be helpful, friendly, courteous and kind. I am convinced that Jesus would count you among his friends, because as scouts you also put people at the center of your activities like Jesus did.

You, the scouts and guides here in this Church, you may be young, but you are never too young to make a positive impact in the world. Remember to keep your spirit directed to the good and to always be courteous and friendly to others. In doing this out of your free will, you will find plenty of opportunities, as boy scouts and girl scouts, to make this world a better place.

cf: www.dignityusa.org/bots

Fr Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass TODAY



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! *Visiting for the first time? At the end of Mass, please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from, so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!*

Attendance on Feb 12th: 124

Collection: All Saints: €324.51

Mark your calendars:

- 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.
- March 5th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 5th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- March 18th – **St. Patrick's Day potluck** dinner 1800.
- March 19th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 19th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- March 26th - **Sunday Evening Mass** – a special Mass is planned to bring together the youth of the ESM to celebrate the kick-off of the confirmation prep program.



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.



Gather In My Name ("GIMN") Event for LENT at St. Elisabeth's on Saturday, March 4th

On Saturday, March 4th from 6:30 - 8 pm, we will have the third in a series of intergenerational events within the English-speaking Mission, this time focusing on Lent.

- Learning about the meaning of Lent
- Hot cross buns
- Crafting activities focused on prayer, fasting and almsgiving

Please register your family with the number of people in your party to allow us to better plan catering and crafting supplies. Send an email to Jenny 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.



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

February 26th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Tamas Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Beata McGreal • Designated collection: Catholic schools

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