

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 26th, 2017 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 71 et seqq.): Isa 49:14-15 • Ps 62:2-3, 6-9 • 1 Cor 4:1-5 • Mt 6:24-34

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

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2017: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

The author of Leviticus must have deeply disturbed his readers when he not only reminds them that Yahweh is holy, but, through Moses, also tells them to imitate that holiness. They are to accomplish this not by dressing different from everyone else, but by living lives that differ from people around them, lives based on a unique value system. Against common wisdom and practice, they're to "take no revenge, cherish no grudges," and, unbelievably, "love their neighbors as themselves."

Matthew's Jesus simply points out a few implications of such holiness in today's gospel. His followers are not only expected to "turn the other cheek" when someone strikes them, they're even required to "offer no resistance to one who is evil." Jesus consistently wants them to show "kindness" to everyone.

Biblical kindness refers to what an individual does for someone which goes beyond what he or she has a right to expect. It's a way of exercising freedom in situations in which one's freedom has been taken away. For instance, though someone might have a right to "go to law with you over your tunic," handing over your cloak to that person is a totally free act. In the same way, going two miles instead of one mile for someone forcing you to do so, is also a free action. There's "no charge" for that second mile.

As a good Jew, Matthew's Jesus is convinced that one way we demonstrate our holiness is by freely doing things which we have no responsibility or obligation to do. A significant part of our otherness is that we're free even in situations in which others have surrendered their freedom. Just as our "perfect" God freely deals with people, so do we. Those who want to be like God are expected to act like God.

It's significant to recall that even though mainstream Jews had huge difficulties with the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 CE, Christian Jews didn't seem to take its demise on the same level. We have to thank Paul for their reaction.

Though the Apostle Paul was martyred about 10 years before the Roman army leveled Jerusalem, the theology he develops in today's 1 Corinthians passage certainly provided them with a unique perspective from which to view that national and religious disaster. No longer was the Jerusalem temple the only place where Jesus' Jewish disciples could encounter God. "Do you not know," Paul asks his Corinthian readers, "that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Then he reminds them of the obvious: "The temple of God, which you are, is holy." If acting like everyone else is the norm of wisdom, it's no wonder, Paul argues, that people judge other Christians to be fools.

We know from movies like *Jeremiah Johnson* that many Native American tribes gave their mentally ill members a free pass, interpreting their unconventional actions as signs they were close to their gods, who they logically reasoned would act differently from themselves.

I wonder how many of our friends and relatives are just as generous in judging our holy actions?



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 19th: 108

Collection: All Saints: €228.27

Mark your calendars:

- March 1st – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 18:30 h at the Chisolm residence.
- March 3rd - **World Day of Prayer** – join us for a woman's ecumenical service at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 3rd at the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Community in their Community Hall on the first floor (next to the U-Bahn-station Onkel-Toms-Hütte on Onkel-Tom-Strasse.)
- March 4th – **Gather in My Name (GIMN) at St. Elisabeth's.**
- March 5th – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 12:00 h at the Rückeis residence.
- 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 h.
- 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.



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

On Saturday, March 4th from 18:30 – 20:00 h, 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

St. Elisabeth's community center is located at Kolonnenstr. 38 in Schöneberg.

Parking is a challenge in this area, so coming with public transport is recommended (it is on the S1 train line, Julius-Leber-Brücke station). Bus 104 also stops right by the church.

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.

Confirmation Groups: the current groups are now full, but a **new group with youth aged 15-18 yrs.** is now forming. Please contact Jenny (jgebhar@yahoo.de).



Join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on March 1st, 2017

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 for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on Saturday, March 18th starting at 6.00 pm 'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating St. Patrick's Day!

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

Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Catholic Children's day care centers

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: GENODE33