

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

### **March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Second Sunday of Lent**

**Readings (Missal p 79 et seqq.): Gen 12:1-4 • Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 • 2 Tim 1:8-10 • Mt 17:1-9**

**Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr Kakkattupilil Matthew**

Lector: Glenda Massey • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Timothy Pudussel • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen, Odyssey of the Mind •

Designated collection: All Saints

### **Homily of the first Sunday in Lent**

Lenten season is the forty-day period before Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. This is to give special preference to the Triduum (mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday and Easter Vigil). The Easter Vigil this year will be a special celebration for us in the English-Speaking Mission because we shall baptize our seven catechumens who have been preparing assiduously to receive the Sacrament of baptism. Two among them attend Mass and other programs regularly in our community, All Saints. May we continue to pray for them.

One of the practices in Lent is Fasting. Both the Bible and the unbroken tradition of Christian living testify that fasting is a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it. Fasting is not a recent invention. St Basil says it is as old as humanity itself. He says the law of fasting was prescribed in Paradise. It was the first commandment that Adam received: "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat". Through the words, "you shall not eat" St. Basil says the law of fasting and abstinence is laid down.

The story of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden was presented to us in the first reading. We see how dramatic and catastrophic the encounter with the devil in the Garden was.

The name devil, "diabolos", reveals him and his ways and what he stands for: Muddling up everything, causing disorder and havoc, twister and master of fake-news or architect of alternative facts. The simple antidote against his wiles was obedience to the instruction: "Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat". The disobedience of this simple instruction led to the fall of man. It is fascinating to see how paradigmatic the account of the fall in Genesis is to every actual sin that we human beings commit. The effect is that we lose the relationship we have with God, a relationship that is based on trust and simple obedience.

Fasting especially during Lent is a very effective instrument to restore our relationship with God and our obedience to his commandments.

The gospel reading presents us with the temptations of Jesus. The location of this temptation is the desert. Already the ancient people of Israel made the experience that the road to the Promised Land led through the desert, a frightening experience. But trust and obedience were demanded of them. It was surely not by chance that the Spirit led Jesus into the desert before he should begin his public ministry.

Pope Benedict XVI pointed out something common to all three temptations of Christ in the desert. At the heart of all the temptations he said is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives. In place of God, bread, power, pride, insatiable desire for possessions take the position of more serious matters. Archbishop Koch explains: "Man the Maker" is the common creed of our culture" That means man becomes the maker and the architect of happiness and good. Often he says we want to achieve by ourselves what only the Almighty can do. Instead of committing ourselves to the task of cooperating with his Spirit in this world, we endeavor to put ourselves in his place.

Through fasting and abstinence, we seek to reconcile again with God. Fasting is not limited to food. Rather, it is about giving God the primary place that he deserves in our lives. It is about submitting to his will and obeying his commands. It is also about recognizing that only God is the *sumum bonum* - the ultimate good, as St. Thomas Aquinas will call him.

What are you giving up for Lent? This is a question many of us may have received since Ash Wednesday. Pope Francis reacts to this question thus: "If you want to change your body, perhaps alcohol and candy is the way to go. But if you want to change your heart, a harder fast is needed. This narrow road is gritty, but it isn't sterile. It will make room in ourselves to experience a love that can make us whole and set us free." This Love is beyond all material pleasures.

**Fr Sylvester Ajunwa**

Copies of Archbishop Koch's and Pope Francis Lenten Letters are available outside the church office. Archbishops Koch's message is also posted on our homepage.

## 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 Mar 5th: 152

Collection: All Saints: €323.37



It's almost time for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating **St. Patrick's Day!**

Celebrations begin at 18:00 h and continue until the last leprechaun has gone home!

Please bring a main or side dish, a salad or a desert to share with the others.

Volunteers needed to help set-up and clean the hall so please sign-up with Vanessa Hansen ([vhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:vhansen980@hotmail.com)).



**GIMN Eucharist - Come to the Lord's Table at All Saints on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1800 h**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life".

Come and join us at or next "GIMN" (Gather In My Name) event as adults, youth, and children of the English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission gather to pray, share faith, and learn more about the Eucharist and the ways that we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of it. We will start with a meal. Each household is invited to bring a donation of canned vegetables or rice or noodles (suitable for soup), which we will be donating to a soup kitchen after the event.

Please register your family, indicating the number in your party, by contacting Jenny at [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto: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](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de)).

### Mark your calendars:

- March 12<sup>th</sup> – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 13:00 h at the Brinda residence.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 16:30 h at the Okwechime-Reich residence.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – **Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's**, located at Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 20:00 h.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – **Girls Confirmation Class - All Day Retreat** meets at the Luegger residence.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – **Introduction to the Bible youth workshop** in the Conference Room at 15:30 h.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – **St. Patrick's Day potluck dinner** 18:00 h.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.



Thank you for your offerings each Sunday. We are a self-financed community so every cent

counts. Your tithes finance our rent and daily running costs and our Community Life which includes Children's & Youth Ministries. Hospitality and many others.



**ITS COMING** - Don't forget . . **Daylight Savings Time begins on March 26, 2016.**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber**

Lector: Tom Fitzpatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Timothy Pudussel • 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: GENODE1PAX