

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 19th, 2017 - Third Sunday of Lent

Readings (Missal p 81 et seqq.): Ex 17:3-7 • Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 • 2 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 • Jn 4:5-42

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

Lector: Tom Fitzpatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Jackie Anders • Designated collection: All Saints

Homily of the Second Sunday of Lent

Many of us falsely believe God only works through those individuals who've lived lives worthy of God working through them. We grew up believing in the non-biblical statement of St. Bonaventure: "Potuit, deuit, ergo fecit." God is able to do it, it would be fitting if he did it, therefore he does it.

One of my grade school religion teachers once applied this reasoning to the Blessed Virgin. His reason for believing Mary was the most beautiful woman who ever existed was simple. Following Bonaventure, he asked, "Couldn't God create such a uniquely beautiful person? Doesn't it make sense such a woman would be the mother of His Son? Therefore, Mary was that most beautiful woman."

Such reasoning might make sense to us, but as I mentioned above, it's non-biblical. Going counter to Bonaventure, our sacred authors were convinced, "God could do it, it'd be fitting if he did it, but God almost never does what we expect him or her to do!"

This kind of theology especially kicks in when it comes to biblical "calls." God never calls people to a special ministry because they're the "holiest" persons in the room. They haven't necessarily engaged in an ascetic lifestyle, gone to Mass frequently, never forgot their meal prayers or even said a daily rosary. The God we know from Scripture simply calls certain individuals without any reference to who they were or what they did before that call. Only what they do after the call is important. This is especially true of the very first biblical call – the one narrated in today's Genesis reading – that of Abram.

The sacred author never tells us why Yahweh chooses Abram from the thousands of migrating people around him. Nor is there any mention of the kind of relationship the two had before the call. The significant thing is that the passage ends simply with the statement, "Abram went as Yahweh directed him."

Yet notice what this resident of Ur agrees to do. He's leaving all the security he's ever known – his land, his kinsfolk, his father's house – and sets out for a still-to-be determined country. Though Yahweh promises to one day make his family a "great nation" and his name a "blessing," Abram can't fall back on Yahweh's track record. At this point, there is none. Everything starts from here.

That's the key to biblical calls: the person called is expected to put all her/his security in the one doing the calling. They're expected to follow not an institution or a set of rules and regulations, but a person; to live their lives based on the call of that special individual, no matter where it takes them.

The unknown author II Timothy takes that for granted when he reminds his community that the risen Jesus has also "called us to a holy life." Though we believe the good news he proclaims about eventually destroying death and bringing us life and immortality, we're only going to achieve those things by putting our security in Jesus right here and now.

I presume many of us, because of our past track records, don't even notice the calls God frequently extends to us. If we actually did hear some of them, we'd probably take for granted they're cases of mistaken identity. We forget that just as Jesus was "transfigured" by generously responding to his Father's call, so our response would also transfigure us.

We can't let our preconceived notions of how God should act stop us from seeing how God actually is acting, especially when that concerns our own lives. The only way we're ever going to transfigure the earth is to first acknowledge how God and the risen Jesus have already transfigured us.

High School Youth Group meets at 11:15 after Mass - TODAY!

Copies of Archbishop Koch's and Pope Francis Lenten Letters are available outside the church office. Archbishop 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 12th: 122

Collection: All Saints: €361.47



Save the Date: April 1st from 18:30 to 21:00 is Family Bingo Night! Prizes, food and lots more! Fun for all ages! **Bring Your Friends!**

Join us on April 1st in the community hall as we spend an evening of fun and games playing classic BINGO while enjoying good conversation and food.

We will charge modest fees to play and for our refreshments. We will have some small prizes to award to the winners of our bingo games. More details coming so watch for more details or flyers.



GIMN Eucharist - Come to the Lord's Table at All Saints on April 29th 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.

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).

Mark your calendars:

- March 26th – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 16:00 h at the Wilson residence.
- March 26th – **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 16:00 h location TBD.
- April 1st – **Family Bingo Night** – from 18:30 h in the Community Hall
- April 2nd - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- April 2nd – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- April 2nd – **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 16:00 h at the Dethlefsen residence.
- April 2nd - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- April 2nd – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom.
- April 19th – **Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's**, located at Königin-Luise-Str. 33, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem at 20:00 h.
- May 6th – **New Altar Server Training** – time to be announced.
- May 6th – **Spring Family Bazaar** from 09:00 to 15:00 h.
- May 21st – **First Holy Communion Mass** at 10:00 h.
- May 28th – **Spring BBQ** after Mass



ITS COMING - Daylight Savings Time begins on March 26, 2017.

March 26th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will Sheehan • Hospitality: Thomas & Josephine Schmidt • 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