

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

May 14th, 2017 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings (Missal p 155 et seqq.): Acts 6:1-7 • Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 • 1 Pet 2:4-9 • Jn 14:1-12

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

Lectors: Tamas Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Will Sheehan, Samantha Scott • Hospitality: Trinh Scott •

Designated collection: All Saints

Life in abundance

Two sentences of today's gospel really got my attention: "Jesus told the people this story - but they did not understand what he was talking about" and "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest", have life "abundantly".

Are we familiar with the image of the shepherd and of the sheep? Those who accompanied Jesus didn't understand him, do we understand what Jesus wanted to say? It's all about "life", about food, about security – then, in the time of Jesus, the ideal image for life, food, security were the sheep and the shepherd: the sheep looking for food and for shelter, the shepherd protecting them from thieves and from wild animals.

We certainly do have similar experiences, but in the 21st century we have other images, probably more complex and more varied. For us today, we may say that we as human beings are dependent from others when it comes to our lives. This interdependence is nothing new, but we speak of it in a different way than Jesus. Jesus promises us "life in abundance" – this is more than just more food, more security.

When I studied "political economics", I learnt about the "pig principle": "more is better than less" – more goods, more money, more security, more food, people always want more... - maybe this is what makes our economies run. But, this is not what Jesus wants to offer, the life in abundance Jesus offers has to do with human relations, with our relation to him and with our relation to others.

We depend upon others – and the bible text illustrates this when it speaks of the sheep, of the shepherd, of thieves and of people destroying what belongs to others. We depend upon others – so we have a responsibility for one another. We are responsible for the lives of others, for their dignity, for their welfare. Indeed, our Christian faith is political – because the main topic of politics is life, or at least should be "life in dignity" for all.

As Christians, we can never take our distance from politics – and the Church as such is also always political. The text in the gospel of John is political. It deals with our responsibility for each other. But then there is also a religious dimension in this text.

The religious leaders want to influence the life of others. They want to give to others the rules and directions and laws, and they judge others. And here Jesus opposes them fundamentally. Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me". Jesus is the one who offers the way to the Father, not the religious leaders.

I would like to invite you to reflect about some questions the text puts to us as individuals and as a community. What responsibility do I, do we have for the lives of others, and how do I see my role: am I more like an open door or do I send others away? Am I a door for others towards life, a door to God – or am I like a thief: only taking, never giving? My longing for life, for life here in this world and for life beyond this world, what has this longing got to do with Jesus, with my faith?

A part of the answer is what we do together in this Eucharist: share bread and wine, share Christ's body and blood in this meal so as to become one body. Another part of the answer could be the hospitality reception after this Eucharist, could be the meal you will have at home – share what gives us life: bread and wine like in the Eucharist, any meal we take together. Unity in the community, in the family is certainly also a sign for this life we all long for, this life in abundance Jesus promises to all of us. Let us not forget this aspect of belonging to Jesus and his friends, of being sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus when we have lunch together today.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ



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 May 7th: 110

Collection: All Saints €284.74 Pro Vita €31.00



Spring BBQ Potluck May 28th after Mass

Please join us for our annual All Saints Community Spring BBQ Potluck on Sunday, May 28th starting after Mass.

Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Please sign-up to help with in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.



Altar Server Volunteers

Interested in becoming an Altar Server? We are looking for new Cross Bearers. Training is on May 27th from 15:00 – 17:00 h.

Fill out a Green volunteer form (found in the info rack outside the office) and drop it in our mailbox or give it to someone in the office.



Do you feel lucky?

During our annual spring BBQ we will be having a raffle!

First Prize is a **Lenovo YOGA Tab 3 - 10.1 in. tablet**. Proceeds will be used for the purchase of new altar linen. Buy your ticket(s) after Mass. The drawing is on May 28th at about 11:30 during the Spring BBQ.

Would you like to become more involved in our community activities??

If you have considered becoming more involved in our community now would be a great time to speak up.

From helping to host hospitality to teaching our young people; helping hands are always welcome!

Ask Konrad, Vanessa, Jenny or Buck and they will connect you with the head of the ministry that you are have an interest in. Thanks.

Mark your calendars:

- May 14th – **All Saints Council** meets in the conference room at 11:30 h.
- May 17th - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 18:30 h at the Chisolm residence.
- May 19th - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Pedussel residence.
- May 21st - **First Holy Communion Mass** – All Saints: **begins at 9:45 h**
- May 21st - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 17:00 h at the Wilson residence.
- May 21st - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 13:00 h at the Okwechime-Reich residence.
- May 27th - **Altar Server Training** – in the main church from 15:00 to 17:00 h. Watch for the Doodle to sign-up for new or refresher training.
- May 28th - **Spring BBQ** after Mass.
- June 2nd - **Girls Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Sulzberger residence.
- June 18th - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 17:00 h at the Ching residence.
- June 30th - **Boys Confirmation Class** meets at 18:00 h at the Schulze-Makuch residence.
- October 19th – 30th – **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** - Konrad Giersdorf has details. Contact him at: giersdorf@hotmail.de

Support All Saints through our fundraising site at www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin at no extra cost to yourself.

You can shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website. The funds collected this way will go toward supporting our community life, such as our children's and hospitality ministries.

6th Sunday of Easter, May 21st, 2017, 9:45 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Lectors: Tom Fitzpatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: First Communion Families • 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