

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

September 3rd, 2017 – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p199 et seqq.): Jer 20:7-9 • Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 • Rom 12:1-2 • Mt 16:21-27

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

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Shadrach Nyaaba, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen, Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: All Saints

You are the rock on which I build my church

Every visitor of the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome is impressed by the sheer size and the beauty of that building. Right around the church on high and in huge letters are written the words of Jesus to Simon: "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..." (Mt 16:18). Peter is given "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" and the power "to bind and to lose". The person who holds the key of the city gate can control who goes in and who goes out. The mission of Peter is to keep the disciples of Jesus, the church, together. Later on, Jesus will tell how to do this: by strengthening his brothers (Lk 22:23) and by feeding his flock (Jo21:15).

It is a tragedy that over the centuries the successors of Peter have not always been agents of unity, but sometimes the cause of division. This year we have commemorated 500 years of the reformation. The popes of the time contributed to the schism in the church through their scandalous moral behaviour by which they discredited the true role of Peter. What triggered the protests of Martin Luther was the sale of indulgences by which the passage of the dead from purgatory to heaven could be bought by money; the way spiritual goods were commercialised was a scandal and a sacrilege, and Luther rightly protested against such abuse. Ironically, the money collected this way was sent to the Pope to help building St. Peter. The church that was meant to be the mother church of Christianity thus became a cause of division; and the interpretation of Jesus' mission to Peter a highly controversial issue.

Orthodox Christians also would say that all bishops have that authority of binding and losing which indeed Jesus gave later to the Christian community (Mt 18:18). But they do not accept any special role of Peter and his successors. Protestant Christians will often explain the words of Jesus to Peter by saying that they were meant only for Peter personally, but not for any successors and thus apply only to the first generation of Christians. This does not seem very convincing as the argument could be applied to any verse of the bible. The promise that the church built on Peter, the rock, would withstand the powers of death, apparently refers to a long-time span. So, Catholics take Christ's word literally and believe that they apply to all who succeeded Peter. And it is indeed amazing that the papacy in spite of scandals and abuses has survived all empires and the many upheavals of history and is today still a highly respected moral authority.

And yet there remains a problem. Whereas in the orthodox and the protestant churches decisions are made in synods and participative processes, in the catholic church over the centuries decision making power has been increasingly concentrated in the person of the Pope and his administration, the Vatican curia. This was probably not what Jesus had in mind. So, in the age of ecumenism we are searching to redefine a better balance between central authority and the local churches.

Already at the turn of the millennium Pope John Paul II invited a theological reflection about the role of the papacy. The present Pope Francis speaks of the need to decentralise the church and give more authority to local churches. In a remarkable speech at the end of the last synod he spoke of the importance of the "synodality" of the Church.

Let us pray that the church may eventually reconcile harmoniously the need of a hierarchical order under the leadership of Peter and the positive experience of the Anglican and protestant churches in synodic structures and so, with the help of God, achieve one day the unity of all Christians that Jesus prayed for.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke

20th Anniversary Hospitality for Fr. Sylvester after Mass today

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Attendance on August 27th: 125

Collection: All Saints: €215.00 World Church €12.22



ANNUAL FALL FAMILY BAZAAR on SEPT 9th!

We will be having the fall bazaar on Saturday, September 9th from 9 am to 3 pm at All Saints. Registration is 10 euros and one cake. Please register with Heide in the office via email, phone call (see top of bulletin for contact info) or in person.

We will also need volunteers to help with setup and cleanup and selling coffee and cake. Youth are welcome to help too. The bazaar is an important source of income for our community so please spread the news with others.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- September 10th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- September 10th – **All Saints Council** meets at 11:15 h in the conference room.
- September 10th – **Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's at 4:45 – 6:45 h.
- September 17th – **Welcome Back to School blessing** for all students and teachers
- September 24th – **Fall BBQ** at 11:15 h in the community hall and garden. Please sign up to help and provide a side dish.



Congratulations Fr. Sylvester! 20 years in the Priesthood!

Please join us on Sunday, September 3rd for a special hospitality after Mass in celebration of Fr. Sylvester's 20th anniversary in the priesthood!

Many thanks to Vanessa Hansen and Marianne Sihotang for organizing this special after-Mass hospitality.



Save the Date: September 23rd from 18:00 to 20:30 is Family Bingo Night!

Prizes, food and lots more! Fun for all ages! **Bring Your Friends!**

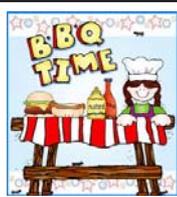


All Saints Church Council Elections - Call for Candidates!

We will be holding elections for a new slate of candidates to serve for the next two-years as members of the All Saints Council.

There are six elected positions on the council. Candidates (16 yrs and older) should submit a brief, one-page (DIN A4) profile with a picture to Mike Hoth.

Profiles will be published. Deadline: October 29th. Elections will take place on Saturday, Nov 25th (Thanksgiving Potluck) and on Sunday, Nov 26th after Mass.



Fall BBQ Potluck

Please join us for our annual All Saints Community Fall BBQ Potluck on Sunday, September 24th after Mass.

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

Sign-up to help with Konrad Giersdorf in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.

September 10th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: To Be Announced

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Luc & Carl Dethlefsen • Hospitality: Alicia Ching • Designated collection: Media Sunday: For the work of the Church in television, radio, press, video

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