

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

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

September 17th, 2017 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 203 et seq.): Sir 27:30-28:7 • Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 • Rom 14:7-9 • Mt 18:21-35

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

Lector: Tom FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •

Designated collection: Promotion of Caritas work

Walking with Jesus

Years ago, in a radio interview, the late actor Dennis Weaver mentioned why Gunsmoke's Mr. Dillon had a sidekick like Chester. "All radio and TV western heroes needed someone to be with them, otherwise the show and movies would be terribly boring; the audience would never know what the heroes were thinking. The Lone Ranger talks to Tonto; Gene Autry confides in Smiley Burnette. Without their sidekicks, the heroes wouldn't have been heroes."

In some sense, the same thing applies to our faith. Unless we somehow associate with others, our faith – no matter how deep – could quickly become meaningless.

Biblical faith is never to be lived on a mountain top. Only when it's experienced in the midst of a community does it make sense. Unless we're relating with others, the examples of living given us by Yahweh and the risen Jesus are useless. It's easy to "imagine" we're believers. Actually, giving ourselves for others proves it. As M*A*S*H's Fr. Mulcahy once observed, "No matter how good you are at bluffing in poker, eventually you've got to show your cards." Only then does the rubber hit the road.

Paul reflects on our unique situation in today's second reading: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another . . ." Biblical faith only comes alive when we share our love with others. Since nothing should stand in the way of that love, the Apostle reminds those early Jewish/Christians in the Roman church whose lives once revolved around obeying the 613 Laws of Moses, "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law."

Yet, as we know, there's no one action that to everyone always shows love. Our acts of love differ because the needs of those we love differ. As a prophet, for instance, Ezekiel shows love by being the community's "watchman." It's his responsibility to let them know what Yahweh wants them to do. In 6th century BCE Israel, the normal way the Chosen People surface God's will is by first surfacing the community's prophets, then carrying out what they tell them to do. If any prophet refuses to follow through on his/her ministry, they'll suffer the same punishment as those who refuse to listen to Yahweh.

Because the first followers of Jesus were convinced they shared in Jesus' prophetic ministry, Matthew's Jesus stresses their responsibility to confront others in the community when those others refuse to show love to those around them.

Though overlooked by many, in today's gospel the whole community receives the same power to bind and loose that Peter personally received back in chapter 16; a built-in tension which Matthew is convinced is necessary in any loving Christian community. In other words, there're no simple answers to complicated questions. Not only that, but Jesus takes his disciples' prerogatives one step further. ". . . If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father."

Of course, all this community stuff must be seen against the background of love. We're not just people who accidentally find ourselves in the same stadium crowd. We're actually the loving body of Christ. As Matthew's community quickly found out, it's in the acts of love we share that we discover the risen Jesus in our midst. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The people we encounter during our lives aren't just sidekicks who help us reveal ourselves to others. More than anything else, they help us reveal ourselves to ourselves. Only when we show them love do we surface the hero in ourselves.

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 September 10th: 108

Collection: All Saints: €297.31 Work of the Church €16.20



Join Us at the GIMN! Intergenerational Event Mary: The "Yes" That Changed the World

Date: 7 October 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the All Saints Community / Fellowship Hall.

Please contact us if you are planning to attend, providing us with the number of people in your group. E-mail: jgebhar@yahoo.de

Please RSVP by: 1 October 2017



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.



Save the Date: September 23rd from 16:00 to 18:00 is Family Bingo Night! Prizes, food and lots more! Fun for all ages! **Bring Your Friends!**

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- September 22nd, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800. Location TBA.
- September 23rd – **Family Bingo Night – NEW TIMES from 1600 – 1800** h in the Fellowship Hall
- September 24th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- September 24th – **Fall BBQ** at 11:15 h in the community hall and garden. Please sign up to help and provide a side dish.
- September 24th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- October 4th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800 at Family Chisolm's house.
- October 6th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800 at Family Wilson's house.
- October 15th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- November 8th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800 at Family Wilson's house.
- November 8th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800. Location TBA.
- November 12th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- December 1st – **Christmas Tree arrival and decoration of the church** at 1700 h.
- December 3rd – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 1500 h.

September 24th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr.

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Shadrach Nyaaba • Hospitality: **NN** •

Designated collection: Catholic religious instruction at the public schools

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