

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 24th, 2017 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 205 et seq.): Isa 55:6-9 • Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 • Phil 1:20-24, 27 • Mt 20:1-16

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

Forgiveness, the gift of love

The gospel is about forgiving. To forgive means to take the first, second and last steps toward bridging divisions.

When I was living in France and in Belgium, the expression "*se regarder en chiens de faïence*" was used quite often. *Chiens de faïence* are dogs made of earthenware. They can be put at the entrance of a temple regarding each other and stay there for centuries without moving. *Se regarder en chiens de faïence* means: you look at each other without moving, maybe because of a conflict, because of an old quarrel... - and you do not move for months, years, decades, or, in the case of the earthenware temple dogs, for centuries.

Let us come back to the gospel: the cutting edge of Jesus' teaching on love is that nothing is unforgivable nor should there be limits to forgiveness.

Forgiveness is often difficult and sometimes painful; but Jesus calls us to look beyond our own hurt to the other person's healing; Jesus calls us to look beyond our own loss to the loss of relationship, to the weakening of community; Jesus calls us to look beyond our own pride to the dignity and goodness of those who wrong us.

When it comes to God's forgiveness, well, it is not **entirely** unconditional: if we do not **share** it, we will lose it. We can only obtain mercy and forgiveness from God if we forgive our neighbors.

We are at the beginning of the school year: are there practical implications of today's readings for you? For the parents, the teachers, the students? When you leave this church, I would like you to remind become as someone building a bridge.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

A story of two brothers (Accompanied the homily)

Once upon a time two brothers, who lived on adjoining farms, fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a conflict. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's tool box. "I'm looking for a few days' work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you.

Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor; in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence — an 8-foot fence — so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge — a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other!

A fine piece of work, handrails and all — and the neighbor, his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

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 17th: 85

Collection: All Saints: €177.44 Caritas €46.00



**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

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- 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 12th, **English-Speaking Mission Council (ESM)** meets in the Fellowship Hall 1700 – 2100 h
- October 15th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- November 8th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800. Location TBA.
- 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.
- December 3rd – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- December 7th, **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 1800. Location TBA.



**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.



Did you know that All Saints is run entirely by volunteers?

We pride ourselves that we are a self-supporting parish, but, new-helping hands are always appreciated! Please consider joining one of the volunteer groups that make the community work.

Would you like to help with the offering and acting as an usher during Mass? Are you 16 years or older and think being a Lector is your cup of tea? Altar Servers are always welcomed! Finally, you and your family might want to host one of our hospitality hours.

If you are interested, you can fill in a form located outside the office. We will be in touch to give you additional details and help you join in our volunteer efforts.

October 1st, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr.

Lector: Christine Tombarge • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

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