

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

October 29th, 2017 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 216 et seq.): Ex 22:20-26 • Ps 18: 2-4, 47, 51 • 1 Thess 1:5-10 • Mt 22:34-40

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

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Marianne Sihatong, Julia Zaby •

Designated collection: All Saints

We need to be contemplative in action – looking at God while being active in his world

In today's gospel (Matthew 22,15-21) there seems to be two realms: God's and Caesar's. This is what Jesus says in the Gospel: "Give to God the things that are God's and to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." The question is: can we not live in both worlds? We want to, we have to - don't we?

Jesus made his statement to settle an argument posed to him by the Pharisees. But if we push the statement Jesus made too far, then everything of Caesar must go away because it is not of God; or on the other hand, God has to go away because science and secularism are so powerful and God has no place in this world.

Which realm do we live in?

Some of us may be "**Sunday Catholics**"; giving to God maybe an hour per week at Mass and then getting on with life (television and cars and food and work, etc.) So, faith limits itself to Sundays and the weekly service on Sundays. Or do we try it the other way around?

Perhaps we are so serious about Christianity and spirituality that we try to get away from every enjoyment of any worldly things and to live uncorrupted. Throughout the history of Christianity there have been multitudinous examples: the desert hermits, the cloistered nuns and monks, the great mystics. "A penny for Caesar and all the rest for God"?

So, the question is: Can God and Caesar co-exist? What if we are created to be *a container for God's presence* right in the midst of the secular world? What if, in spite of the voices within us saying that we are not worth much, in spite of the setbacks of life, the losses, the flatness, the disappointments, the reversals. What if we were created with room inside us where God, out of love for us, can be quietly present?

I hear the objections to such an idea: "God would never be at home in me, not until I do a lot better with my life." Or, "You want me to be some kind of nut, running around acting holy?" Or, "Sure, I want to let God in, but I like beer and TV too much." Or, "What does all this have to do with real life?" Or simply, "I don't want to."

Okay. But what if God were a great friend, a loving, faithful and close companion who really does want to be with us, within us, as much as is possible? In fact, how would it be if God were a companion who truly and actually accepts us and forgives us completely whenever we need it? It's another way to look at the connection between heaven and earth.

I am convinced God put you and me into the world to sanctify it, to make the world holy, to accept and respect and love the world, "the things of Caesar", to work in this world of sin, accompanied and encouraged by God, to work in this world of sin in spite of our own sins!

Jesus says, give to God "whatever *belongs* to God." "*Belongs*," not in a possessive, controlling, or jealous way, but in the way like something "is part of God", part of his project with our world, "some things belongs to God" like something is entrusted and commended to God. If we have this trust in God and his friendship, then why wouldn't we, in return, want to give ourselves to God? "Give ourselves to God..." – let us be touched by God...And live consequently: That means be present in the palaces of Caesar, and be present on the dirty roads outside of the palaces, to show what this friendship with Jesus, what this faith in God is all about. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of my religious order, called this "contemplative in action". "*Contemplative*" – looking at God, and "*in action*" working in our world, in God's creation – to make it more corresponding to God's project.

So, which realm should we live in? In Caesar's or in God's? The answer is evident and simple: in both!

Cf. John Foley SJ http://liturgy.slu.edu/29OrdA102217/reflections_foley.html

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 October 22nd: 89



Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 25th in the Fellowship Hall.

Turkey, potatoes, corn and lots of other goodies provided.

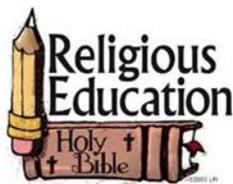
Sign your family up to attend so we know how much to prepare and plan to bring a dish (salad, side or dessert) to share with the community.

To help defray the expense we will have a donation jar in the Fellowship Hall on the Sunday's leading up to this dinner.

Also, you are invited to volunteer to help in one of the following ways:

- Set-up of tables and benches and decoration of the hall
- Preparation of the food. We will need volunteers to cook one or more turkey breasts and others to help set out the foods for all to enjoy.
- Clean-up crew. After the dinner put the tables/benches away, make sure the hall and kitchen are clean and ready for Sunday.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship hall after Mass for volunteers to make themselves known.



Call for volunteer catechists: any confirmed adult who wishes to minister to our children and youth by teaching the faith.

particularly in preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion are invited to contact any member of the All Saints Council. We need your help to support this vital ministry!

Collection: All Saints: €142.80 St. MISSIO: €42.53

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- November 1st – Holy Mass “All Saints Day” at St Bernard’s at 19:00 h
- November 7th - **Girl’s Confirmation Class** meets at 1330 at Family Pedussel’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.
- November 12th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- November 13th - **Girl’s Confirmation Class** meets at 1330 at Family Pedussel’s house.
- November 19th - **Girl’s Confirmation Class** meets at noon at All Saints (nursery).
- November 25th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** in the Fellowship Hall from 18:00 h onward. Please volunteer with Konrad Giersdorf to help with the set-up and take down of the hall or to be a helper in the kitchen during dinner. Don’t forget to sign-up so we know how many we will need to prepare for.
- November 26th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- December 1st – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 17:00 h. Volunteers to help with the tree and church decorations should contact Konrad Giersdorf.
- 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 at Family Dethlefsen.
- December 10th – **Children’s Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- December 24th – **Annual Children’s Christmas Pageant** – more details coming shortly!

November 5th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

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

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Rose Oruga •

Designated collection: Bernhard-Lichtenberg collection

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