

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

### **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal p 220 et seq.): Mal 1:4-2:2, 8-19 • Ps 131:1-3 • 1 Thess 2:7-9, 13 • Mt 23:9, 10**

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

### ***Death and beyond***

At the beginning of the month of November as the days are becoming shorter and nature seems to go to sleep the Church remembers those who have gone before us. Gone where? The feast of All saints is an occasion to thank God for those great Christians throughout the centuries who have lived the Gospel in a radical way and also for all the wonderful people we have met in our lives and who have reflected to us something of the goodness and beauty of God.

As we reflect about the "the last things", let us begin by clarifying a misunderstanding. In the creed, which we pray at every Sunday mass we say that Jesus after his death and resurrection "descended into hell". In the liturgical renewal after the Vatican Council this phrase was translated "He descended to the dead" as we also say in the German Mass text "Er stieg hinab in das Reich des Todes". This is a more correct translation that reflects the world view of people in ancient, pre-scientific times. They imagined the earth to be like a house, the sky being the "roof" and it was the realm of the living. Above it was the realm of the god's or for Christians the one God. And below it was a dark and unfriendly place where the dead dwelt. In Greek it is called *hades*, in Hebrew *sheol*. The second letter of St Peter speaks of "the spirits in prison" to whom Jesus "went to preach" (1 Pet 3:19). It is a way of saying that the saving power of the cross and resurrection of Jesus is open to all, even the many generations that lived and died before him. Jesus died for all, for the whole of humanity, past, present and future.

Death is a mystery. If you have ever been present when a person dies you will have felt that strange sensation how from one moment to the next what was a living person has become a lifeless matter. Where has the person gone? "Where is granny now?" children will ask their parents. It is a question that is hard to answer, because at death we leave the world of time and space. The best answer would be: Granny is with God. Like God, who is Spirit, is nowhere (cannot be fixed to a definite place) and at the same time everywhere. The dead are nowhere and yet everywhere, they are with us.

The church speaks of three "places": purgatory, heaven and hell. We imagine them to be places because we think of everything as being in a place. But in fact, purgatory, heaven and hell are not places, but ways of being. Poets and painters have depicted purgatory as a place of physical torture. But it means rather a process of purification. When we die we are not perfect. Yes, we do love God, but not yet with our whole heart, soul and mind, as the first and most important commandment tells us. Part of us is still selfish. But God is pure love. So, whatever is not love in us we will have to let go. That is a painful process, but it is a spiritual pain, a process that is meant to make us fit for heaven, capable of enjoying the fullness of life in the presence of God who is love.

**Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke**

# 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 29<sup>th</sup>: 66**



Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Collection: All Saints: €148,27 + \$20**



## Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

It will soon be time again for our annual visit to the Senior Citizen's Residence located at Altmarkstr. 27, 12169, Berlin.

Practice starts at 15:00 h and caroling at 16:00 h.

For more information please contact Konrad Giersdorf at: [giersdorf@hotmail.de](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.de).

## Friends of All Saints Verein Annual membership meeting

We anticipate having our annual membership meeting on either December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> after Mass.

All members of the Friends of All Saints Verein are invited to attend.

If you have not paid your yearly dues (€5), please do so before the meeting. You can verify that your fees are current by checking with Heide Doblhofer in the church office.

Any other questions should be directed to Howard Eyth or Mike Hoth.

## Thank you for your help with my Eagle Scout project

Through your generous support we covered the ground near the entrance of the fellowship hall with rolled grass and installed a bench. Rowan McConvey



## **CASTING CALL**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CASTING CALL Boys and girls - we are looking for actors. Angels, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph; wise men, sheep, donkeys, camels, shepherds, and more! You do not have to attend All Saints to participate so pass on the word to your friends. An adult DIRECTOR is also sought. Our seasoned director will be away over the Christmas holidays but can train and assist with the rehearsals. Send an email to: [vhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:vhansen980@hotmail.com)

## November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr.

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Brinda Family •

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: GENODED1PAX