

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 12th, 2017 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 222 et seqq.): Wis 6:12-19 • Ps 63:2, 3, 5, 7 • 1 Thess 4:13-18 • Mt 25:1-13

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

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

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

Designated collection: All Saints

The Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel readings for three Sundays, from the gospel of Matthew, were full of conflict between Jesus and Jewish religious leaders. In those gospel readings, the Pharisees and Sadducees tried several times to entrap Jesus, but he easily slipped their trap. In the gospel reading of today, Matt.23:1-36, Jesus turns to the crowds and his disciples addressing the spiritual failure of the scribes and Pharisees. He says that the scribes and Pharisees “sat on Moses’ seat”. Moses, of course, was the great lawgiver. Sitting on Moses’ seat means teaching by Moses’ authority—the highest authority available to a teacher of the law. Jesus acknowledges and tells his disciples “whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do”. That means that in spite of their personal failings, these scribes and Pharisees are stewards over a great spiritual treasure (the law), and Jesus wants his disciples to avail themselves of that treasure. This is in keeping with Jesus’ earlier statement, “Don’t think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfill” (Cf. Matt. 5:17). But he says further “but don’t do their works”. This is the point! The teaching of the scribes and Pharisees may be sound but their personal example is abominable. When it comes to teaching; nothing is as effective as a good example and nothing as corrosive as a bad example. There is always a problem of reconciling orthodoxy with practice. Teachers of faith have a special responsibility to be models of the behaviors and morals they teach. Their personal conduct should provide visible lessons. But the scribes and Pharisees fail to practice what they preach. Their lack of integrity undermines their work. They were so interested in personal honor and respect that they lost the vision of their call- to provide in “words and deeds” counsel on spiritual matters to people, who don’t have the opportunity to study the law day-and-night, who are often illiterate and who would not have access to the precious scrolls even if they could read. For people to see them and accord them respect, “they make their phylacteries broad; enlarge the fringes of their garments”

The Phylacteries and the tassels refer to two aspects of Jewish traditions prescribed by the Law of Moses. The *Phylacteries* are small leather boxes containing one or more scrolls inscribed with passages of scripture that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. Tassels were worn on the corners of the garments. They serve as constant reminder of God’s law and commandments. The problem is not that they wear these things as demanded by the law, but that they seek personal honor for doing so. They wear especially large phylacteries and long tassels to draw attention to their scrupulous observance when they do not observe the inner contents of the Law. It is only external show without interior practice. The Phylacteries and tassels are like stained glass windows or icons intended to help people understand deeper spiritual things. Jesus’ warning against these things resonates with us today.

Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Happening Today!

Children’s Liturgy of the Word during Mass

Combined Confirmation Class meets at St Bernard’s from 1645 to 1845

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 November 5th: 90



Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 25th from 6 to 8 p.m. 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: €245.83, St. Hedwig €24.10



Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 3rd, 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.

Friends of All Saints Verein **Annual membership meeting**

Our annual membership meeting will be held on December 10th 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.

Hospitality Volunteers Sought

We still have a few Sundays which need a volunteer for our after-Mass hospitality hour. If you are interested, please see Vanessa Hansen or drop her a message at vhansen980@hotmail.com.



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

November 19th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr

Lector: Glenda Massey • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott • Hospitality: Beata McGreal • Designated collection: Diaspora Sunday

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