

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 26th, 2017 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Readings (Missal p 228 et seq.): Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17 • Ps 23:1-3, 5-6 • 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 • Mk 11:9, 10

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

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: John & Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang, Karen Castellon •

Designated collection: All Saints

Inequality

Jesus speaks about the mystery of God and the way God relates to us through stories, which have many layers of meaning and different possible interpretations. They are like an onion. When you have peeled off and understood one layer of truth a new layer become visible.

Like many stories of Jesus, the Gospel of today is a provocation. God does not act justly. This master seems to discriminate his servants. To one he entrusts five "talents" (a huge amount of money at the time), the other one only one talent. It is an apt description of reality. That is the way things are. One child in the family is extremely gifted, the other one struggles through school. One is always healthy and great at sports, the other often sick. God seems very unfair in distributing his gifts.

The parable also answers our question, at least partially. God gives to each one "according to his capacities". More importantly, each one, whether he gets five or two talents as starting capital, will in the end receive the same reward: to "enter your master's joy." One may add another thought. If every human being would have the same qualities, would the world not become very boring? It is our differences that make life rich. Our big mistake is that we compare our gifts with each other and get jealous instead of developing whatever we have received.

And that seems to be the second layer of the story. God wants us to grow and develop our gifts, few or many. Many stories of Jesus compare God's kingdom to seeds that have the power to grow and produce a great harvest. The story of the talents challenges us whether we are still growing, not physically or materially in our possessions, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Do we trade with our talents? Even in old age we are still capable of growing, if we stimulate our brain, take up new ideas and initiatives. Do we grow in compassion for those who are in need? Pope Francis declared the 33rd Sunday of the Year as the Word Day of the Poor. What place do the poor have in our life? How do I look at the beggars and the homeless on the streets of Berlin? Do I take some time to phone a lonely person or to visit a sick friend? Or does my heart become insensitive like a stone to the suffering of others?

The greatest talent we have all received is our capacity to relate to God and love God. But if we never pray personally to God, never read his word and a good book that encourages us to search for him, our spirit becomes dull, our spirit dies.

Finally, the story of the talents questions us about the image we have of God. The third servant admits why he failed his master: because "I was afraid of you." The other two trust their master and trust themselves. They are not afraid to take risks. Fear paralyzed the third. Many of us still carry within us an image of a God who judges and punishes which paralyzes us and kills our joy for life. Jesus wants us to look with total trust at God as He did: as our Abba, our loving Father.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke

Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass
Altar Server Meeting after Mass in the Chapel

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 19th: 84

Collection: All Saints: €226.15 Diaspora Sunday: €24.00



The Blessed Sacrament Chapel turns 60 on December 17th!

The All Saints Catholic Community will have a special hospitality after Mass to celebrate the anniversary of our chapel being consecrated 60 years ago. Please bring cookies or baked goods to share.

We will also be “dedicating” our new bench outside the church.



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.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- 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 10th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- December 10th – **Friends of All Saints Verein** annual meeting after Mass in the fellowship hall.

WE NEED YOU FOR



Christmas Pageant at Christmas Eve Mass from 0930 – 1100 a.m.

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.

The pageant will be held at morning Mass which will start at 0930 on December 24th (Christmas Eve). Send an email to: vhansen980@hotmail.com

December 3rd, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellon •

Designated collection: Caritas

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