

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**

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

### **December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 – First Sunday of Advent**

**Readings (Missal p 784 et seq.): Isa 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7 • Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 • 1 Cor 1:3-9 • Mk 13:33-37**

#### **Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

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

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellon & Marianne Sihatong •

Designated collection: Caritas

### **Join God as the One who cares for others**

Last Sunday was not only the feast of Christ the King, it was also the last Sunday of the Church year! Advent begins, Sunday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>! Some of us have been getting nervous about Christmas presents. About our Christmas family dinner. Or with whom to celebrate with.

Yes, but let us look at today and not go too far in the future. For now, we need only ask why the churches have chosen to mark Christ as "king." Did the churches think that we would understand the year that lies behind us better this way? Yes, I think that the image of Christ as the King is helpful. This image helps to look at the Christ we have seen in the Gospel readings over the past months! And a revealing way to look at Jesus Christ is offered to us in the readings heard on the feast of Christ the King.

Look at the shepherd imagery of the first reading. God says, "I myself will look after and tend my sheep. The injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal." This is a beautiful passage. Throughout history, God continually sought out his people, we are told, inviting them to a mutual relationship. This knowledge about God's presence in our world is the foundation of our faith – in spite of all the terrible things we see and hear in the media: God is not far away in heaven, God suffers with us, God is helpless in his love for us. Is God still all mighty then? Yes – but God ties himself, binds himself to humanity, and in this way, becomes vulnerable and helpless. And yes: God wants to shepherd us today in the same way as God did then!

Two and one-half thousand years ago, the Responsorial Psalm was written, "The Lord is my Shepherd." This psalm 23 is the one I pray very often with the patients in the hospital where I am chaplain. Again: if we are paying attention we see that God is still being the shepherd, as he promised. God has us walk beside restful waters, through green pastures. Goodness and kindness are all around us – we just have to open our eyes and our ears. Then gratitude fills our hearts.

In the letter to the Christian community in our second reading, St. Paul tells us about Christ, who is God's shepherding made concrete. Yes, there is the rampage of death and sorrow and sin and terrorist attacks and shootings. But in spite of this, Christ wants to bring light and peace to the world – the *light* and the *peace* we were told of in the first reading, in the prophet Ezekiel!

Finally, the Gospel according to Matthew tells us in a parable who will get to have this light and peace. Not everyone! Some people have been "bad goats" as the gospel calls them, not "good sheep". All right, how do we become "good sheep", in spite of our bad "goatish" tendencies? Or how do we become, at least sometimes, the good sheep?

I think this is quite simple. We care for the Lord by caring for other people. Yes, certainly, we need goals for our lives, but if we take our own preferences as the only goals for our lives, then we become like those Jesus calls "goats". So, instead of "goatishly" taking our own preferences as the only goals, we can join God as the One who cares for others. We dip into the restful waters with Jesus, we offer everything we can, like Jesus, for the poor and needy, they are the images of God in our world, not because it is simpler but because this is the way Jesus has taken among us as the very way of God...the way of the King.

You see, the example is Jesus Christ who gives according to the many needs of the least of his brothers and sisters. Instead of sleeping restfully in the slumber of non-acting, we are to join with Jesus Christ as one among very many shepherds. We are asked to say "yes" to the God who loves without prejudice, yes to the Christ who spent life as a nobody in a negligible corner of the Roman empire, yes to the shepherd who would love his sheep to the very end. We will be cared for insofar as we care for the others!

**Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ**

cf. [http://liturgy.slu.edu/ChristKingA112617/reflections\\_foley.html](http://liturgy.slu.edu/ChristKingA112617/reflections_foley.html)

**Remember: Today begins a new liturgical year as Advent begins. Today begins the new year of God's love – a new invitation and a new chance for us all**

# 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 26th: 94**

**Collection: All Saints: €189.94**



## **Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) TODAY!**

Today is the day 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).

## **Children's Christmas Pageant**

Preparation for our annual Christmas Pageant continue. We are still looking for actors. You do not have to attend All Saints to participate so pass on the word to your friends.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, **costume fitting** from 3-5 p.m.
- **Dress rehearsal** on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Time: TBD

The pageant will be held at morning Mass which will start at 0930 on December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve).

Interested: send an email to: [yhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:yhansen980@hotmail.com)

## **All Saints Council 2017 - 2019**

We have elected a new council to serve the church for the next two years. Four members are returning: Konrad Giersdorf, Vanessa Hansen, Thomas Schmidt and Buck Chisolm.

We welcome Glenda and John Massey to the council and appreciate their willingness to support our growing community through service on the council and in the other ways they volunteer each week.



## **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.

**Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!**

### **Mark your calendars:**

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 1645 – 1845 h.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – **Friends of All Saints Verein** annual meeting after Mass in the fellowship hall.
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – **Decoration of Blessed Sacrament Chapel** for its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Time will be announced.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Annual Children's Christmas Pageant** – 9:30 a.m. Curtain call at 9:00 a.m. Be there by then in your costume. Want to join us? Contact Vanessa Hansen.



## **Altar Server sign-up**

We have made a change . . .

Beginning this month, we will have our monthly altar server sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall after Mass on the 1st and last Sunday of each month.

Please stop in after Mass and sign up to serve during the month of December.

## **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke**

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •

Designated collection: Orphans

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