

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

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

December 17th, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal no. 790 et seq.): Isa 61:1-2, 10-11 • Magnificat (Lk 1) • 1 Thess 5:16-24 • Jn 1:6-8, 19-20

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

Lector: Tom FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen •

Designated collection: All Saints

Giving God a chance

Every year tens of thousands of people from Sub-Saharan Africa cross the desert on their way to Europe. Some drown in the Mediterranean, some die on the way through the desert because there are hardly any roads. You need a local guide to direct you or you risk getting lost. Knowing this helps us to appreciate today's invitation of Isaiah and of John the Baptist to build, not just a road, but a highway in the desert. It is built for fast travelling. No valley, no hills, like the just opened rail line to Munich for trains travelling at 300 km/h. Today we don't fill valleys or level mountains, we build bridges and tunnels. But the idea is the same: that people and goods reach other places as fast as possible. But the highway through the desert is not for trains or cars, it is FOR THE LORD, FOR GOD.

We are very good at creating communication systems to connect people and towns and continents. We are less good at creating channels of communication each other or with God. In fact, our lines of spiritual communication lines are poor. Advent invites us to reflect on how we can improve them so that we can reach God and God can reach us.



There are many ways of communicating between God and us. Let us look at two of them. When we want to tell someone far away something important or very personal we tend to write a letter. Well, God has written us many letters, mostly love letters. There is a whole collection of God's love letters to different people over thousands of years put together in a book called the Bible. We do not read love letters only once. We go back to them many times to taste the joy of someone telling us over and over again: I love you, you are so precious to me. One way of rebuilding our communication highway with God would be to read some of His letters as if they were written to me personally today. There is another way to communicate we use very often these days. We use Twitter, send an SMS or a WhatsApp message when we have something urgent and brief to communicate like: My train is late. Let's meet tonight. The film was wonderful. God also uses a kind of messenger service, short quick messages that flash through the brain for a moment. I walk along a busy street and something in me says: Look at that poor woman over there. Give her a smile and a coin. I had a quarrel with someone and I hurt the person. Later I get a strong inner urge saying: Why not go and say sorry. Those messages of God come and go in a flash. Growing spiritually means learning to pick them up and react immediately.

Why do we have such a hard time reading God's love letters or responding to God's quick messages? Because there are traffic jams on our mental highway most of the time. Our communication lines are overloaded with an useless flow of useless information. God always gets the feedback: line is occupied. What do you do when you receive hundreds of emails daily? You switch on a spam filter which deletes the useless and keeps only important mails. Advent would be a great time to clear up our mental mess and give God a chance to get through to us.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

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 December 10th: 87

Collection: All Saints: €204.67 Orphans: €34.95



Christmas Pageant Information

- Saturday, December 23rd - **Final Rehearsal with costumes** from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 24th – **CURTAIN CALL: all actors be at the church not later than 9:00 a.m. in costume.**
- Sunday, December 24th – **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** from 9.30 – 11:00 am.



For all those traveling over the Christmas holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2018! Have a safe trip and see you in the New Year!

Hospitality Help Needed

We still need a Hospitality volunteer for December 31st! Please consider volunteering individually, as a family or with a friend! Please see Vanessa.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 24th – **Annual Children's Christmas Pageant and Mass at 9:30 a.m.** Fr. Felber is our celebrant – See information to the right about dates and times. Sign up today to be a part of this annual event!
- December 24th – **Midnight Mass** – Caroling begins at 9:30 p.m. with Mass at 10:00 p.m. Fr. Schonecke is our celebrant.
- December 25th – **Christmas Day Mass at St. Bernard's**, Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin, at 11:00 a.m.
- December 26th – **Holy Mass at St. Bernard's**, Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin, at 11:00 a.m. December 31st.
- December 31st – **Holy Mass at All Saints** at 10:00 a.m.
- January 1st – **Holy Mass at St. Bernard's**, Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin, at 11:00 a.m.
- January 7th – **Special Three Kings Day** hospitality after Mass in the Fellowship Hall.

During Advent dates and times of events may change. Check for the latest "News" at the **All Saints website** (<http://www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml>) or visit us on Facebook: *All Saints Catholic Community Berlin*
Visit the **English-Speaking-Mission (ESM) Website** to learn more about what is happening in the ESM: <http://www.english-mission-berlin.de/>

December 24th, 9:30 am: Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Glenda & John Massey • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Ushers/Gift Bearers: Rowan & Conlin McConvey, Will Logsdon • Altar Servers: Brenden & Tommy FitzPatrick, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: NONE • Designated collection: Children, Youth and Hospitality Ministries.

December 24th, 9:30 pm: Christmas Carols

December 24th, 10:00 pm: Midnight Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha & Madeline Rückeis • Hospitality: NONE • Designated collection: Christmas Collection for Advent

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