

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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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

January 21st 2018 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 860): Jon 3:1-5, 10 • Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 • 1 Cor 7:29-31 • Mk 1:14-20

Welcome to our 10:00 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Shadrack Nyaaba, Conrad & Buck Chisolm

• Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

“No wonder ordinary people receive no calls; no one is listening.”

Can you see the similarity between the first reading (1Sam 3) and the gospel (John 1,35-42) we just heard? Both are about people being called. This is one of the most important pieces of literature in the bible: “call narratives”. The original readers of the bible were convinced they were especially called by God – the people of Israel, the disciples. So, these stories were intended to provide them with some insight into the implications of that call. What consequences does it have to be called by God?

The passage from the Old Testament, from the book of **Samuel**, highlights two important aspects of being called. First, God can call the most unlikely individuals – and God does it! Here, God calls a mere child. And the second point is: what should be our immediate response to such a call? Samuel is a child, so young that the biblical author must defend the boy's confusion: the boy was not able to identify the caller. *“At that time Samuel was not familiar with God, because God had not revealed anything to him as yet. “God calls a child, wants to speak to a child – and not to Eli, the priest on duty in the temple. If I were Eli the priest, I might be justifiably jealous that God is calling this child and not me. The bible presents us the almost comic routine of mistaken identity. But Eli is honest enough to instruct the boy about the proper procedure to follow when one receives such a divine call. “If you are called, reply, ‘Speak, God, for your servant is listening.’” Listening is essential when it comes to biblical and personal calls. I must always be aware beforehand that God might actually be calling me. To receive a call from God. I, like many of you, was brought up in a church in which emphasis was placed only on calls to the priesthood or religious life. Maybe you recall a teacher saying in an assuring and well-meaning way: “If you don't receive a call to be a priest or nun, then presume God is calling you to be married.” In other words, only priests and nuns receive divine calls that count as 100% divine calls, all the others are only “2nd best”. Other people than those called to priesthood and the monastery don't have to listen. Luckily, this time is gone. And here is one conclusion for us today: our biblical authors, who knew nothing of Christian priesthood or religious life, would simply conclude: “No wonder ordinary people receive no calls; no one is listening.”*

Let us come to the **gospel**. You remember the last line? *“You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas”* - which is translated Rock. “This is one of the most significant aspects of today's call of the first disciples. A biblical name change always signals a change in personality. From Abram to Simon and Saul of Tarsus, names are changed after calls are given and received. This means: an invitation from God is also an invitation to become someone new. Almost always, an unnoticed dimension of our personality emerges and becomes visible when we generously respond to God's call. Something up on the periphery of ourselves is now drawn down to the center of our lives – an interest or a talent we always had and which we can put at the service of others. That's why today's passage from the letter to the **community in Corinth** (1 Cor 6) is so significant. Technically it doesn't narrate a call. But Paul presumes all in the community in Corinth have received an invitation from the risen Jesus to imitate him in his dying and rising. They had said “Yes!” to that call. And this way their *“.....bodies (have become) members of Christ.”* All followers, all friends of Jesus are part of the body of the risen Jesus. Here in our passage, Paul stresses the new moral responsibilities friends of Jesus Christ have because they are one with Jesus Christ and with one another. When we sin, we are not just sinning against ourselves, we are also sinning against the body of Christ. We are accountable to all in the Christian community, to all who share that one body. Paul would never have understood a *“me and Jesus”* theology - a theology that excludes the community, that excludes the other friends of Jesus Christ. To be *“like Christ”* is also to be one with all those others who are *“like Christ”* out there. Today's three authors – Samuel, Paul and John - are certainly trying to make us more alert to God's call in our own everyday lives. But they are also concerned that we acknowledge the calls of others, acknowledge God's call in the lives of others. There is a lot more to calls than just priesthood and religious life. We need to be conscious and respectful of divine calls all around us. If we are not respectful to divine calls around us, then the body of Jesus Christ simply isn't going to function as he intended it to function. Shouldn't we more often open our ears and utter: *‘Speak, God, for your servant is listening.*

cf: Roger Vermaalen Karban 2012 <https://fosionline.com>



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: January 14th: 103

Collection: All Saints: €167.50, African Catechists: €19.10



Mark your calendars for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on Saturday, March 17th

'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating St. Patrick's Day!

Celebration of Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 5:00 p.m. followed by the potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. and continuing until the last leprechaun has gone home!

Please bring a main or side dish, a salad or a desert to share with the others.

Volunteers needed to help set-up on Friday, March 16th and clean the hall after the dinner. Please sign-up with Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com).



Editors wanted for our bulletin . . . Join our small group that reviews the draft each week. No original writing just checking the content.

Sorry no money, but, you will have the satisfaction of helping our bulletin team to get the weekly news out.

Want to help? Contact Buck Chisolm (b.chisolm@gmx.de) for more details.



Boys and Girls – Join in the Mexican tradition of the breaking of the piñata six weeks after Rosca de Reyes (Christmas in Mexico) at our hospitality on February 18th

Mark your calendars:

- January 28th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 11th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 18th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- February 24th – **All Saints Youth Event** – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Movie night – Cars 3.** Free soda and popcorn.
- February 25th – **Scout Sunday** Boy and Girl Scouts serve at all levels during Mass
- February 25th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 25th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- March 10th – **English Speaking Mission Day** – at Rosenkranz-Basilika (Kielstr.11, 12163 (Steglitz) Berlin) from 6:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin and on our website for additional information which is coming soon.
- March 3rd – **Child Protection Training for the English-Speaking-Mission** meets at St. Bernard from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- March 4th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- March 11th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 11th – **All Saints Council** meets in the small conference room after Mass at 11:15 a.m.

Check for the latest "News" at the **All Saints website** (<http://www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml>) or visit All Saints 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/>

January 28th, 10:00 pm: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Madeline & Samantha Ruckeis • Hospitality: Alicia Ching • Designated collection: Bible 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: GENODE33PAX