

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



# ALL SAINTS



## 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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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

## March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 – Third Sunday of Lent (v)

Readings (Missal no. 815): Exo 20:1-17 • Ps 19:8-11 • 1 Cor 1:22-25 • Jn 2:13-25

**Welcome to our 10:00 a.m. Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •

Greeter: Andreas Urechia • Altar Servers: Shadrack Nyaaba, Nisha Wunder, Buck Chisolm •

Hospitality: Families Brinda & Ademi • Designated collection: To promote Caritas work

### Transform the way we see life and the way we commit ourselves...

Glory and Praise - Page no. 812

The scripture readings presented to us today are: The Sacrifice of Isaac (Gen 22); the famous passage from Romans "With God on our side who could be against us?" (Rom 8) and St Mark's account of the Transfiguration (Mark 9).

We need to hear the Genesis reading against the background in which it was originally composed; otherwise some of us might think that Yahweh is history's most sadistic God. Our passage was written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century before Christ. Israelites frequently copied the religious practices of their pagan neighbors: some even sacrificed children like their neighbors did.

There was a thinking that went like: if you generously offer your first-born male child to the local fertility god, that god would generously see to it that you had many more (preferably male) children, when this life ended, you would live on forever in the memory of your descendants. If you refused to offer that first-born male, you had to reckon with the wrath and punishment of the fertility god.

Of course, faithful followers of Yahweh refused to kill their children and they often had to endure the criticism of their pagan neighbors that they were not as dedicated to their Jewish God as non-Jews were to their pagan gods. The author of this passage invents a story to convince the Israelites that child sacrifice is a no-go in the Jewish religion. In this invented story, Abraham, the ancestor of all Jews, is depicted as willing to sacrifice his first-born, Isaac, if that is what Yahweh demands of him. This biblical narrative wreaks havoc with our emotions – and that is the intention of the author: Abraham not only has three days to think it over, but also engages in a heart wrenching conversation with Isaac as they are climbing up to the sacrificial site. Fortunately, we all know the "happy ending": Yahweh or his messenger intervenes just in time to stop the sacrifice; Abraham substitutes a ram for the boy. "All's well that ends well."

The author's message is clear: faithful Jews were expected to go against the practices of their pagan neighbors who wanted to control their gods by sacrificing children, who believed that if they said a certain prayer so many times, if they held their hands in a specific way, or if they performed actions which attracted the attention of the gods then the gods would be forced to grant whatever they prayed for. The name Israel comes from "*to wrestle with God*" – Jacob *wrestled* with God. True to their name, Israelites wrestled with their God, they did not try to control God; they received life by preserving life, not by taking it in a sacrifice.

The earliest followers of Jesus also stood out among their contemporaries on the issue of life: they didn't take life - they gave life for the others in their community, for the well-being of their brothers and sisters, for the well-being of the society in which they lived.

Did this "giving their lives" diminish the quality of their lives? In his letter to the Christian community in Rome, Paul assures them that their mentor, their guide, their teacher Jesus actually experienced a completely new life when he gave his life for us.

No wonder that Mark in his Gospel includes a transfiguration story: he is always interested in pointing out the uniqueness of Jesus, and also the uniqueness of his followers. The faith of the historical Jesus transfigured him in the sight of his friends, of those who were with him on the mountain, it transfigured *him* – but Jesus' faith also transfigured *them*. Mark, by writing the story of the transfiguration, is graphically displaying one of his deepest convictions: by imitating Jesus, we look at life from a completely unique perspective, from the perspective of Jesus, from the perspective of the faith of Jesus. If we are able to imitate Jesus in this life-giving perspective, then we shall be able to actually transfigure life itself, to transform the way we see life and the way we commit ourselves in our lives.

cf. [www.dignityusa.org/breath/march-1-2015-second-sunday-lent](http://www.dignityusa.org/breath/march-1-2015-second-sunday-lent)

**Copies of Archbishop Koch's Lenten Letters in English is available outside the church office.**



## 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: February 25<sup>th</sup>: 93**

**Collection: All Saints: €260.75 Catholic Schools €33.20**

### **Easter Triduum**



*The English-speaking Mission celebrates the Triduum as one large community, with All Saints, St. Bernard's, and St. Elisabeth's each hosting one of the liturgies.*

**Holy Thursday (29.03)** - *Mass of the Lord's Supper* - St. Bernard's Church, 7 p.m. The faithful are invited to stay for a period of quiet adoration after the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Good Friday (30.03)** - *Celebration of the Lord's Passion* - All Saints Church - with distribution of Holy Communion, at 3 p.m., preceded by the Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m. Opportunity for individual confessions.

**Holy Saturday (31.03)** - *Easter Vigil Mass* - St. Elisabeth's Church, 9 p.m.

**Easter Sunday (01.04)** - Masses will be celebrated according to the usual Sunday schedule in each community.



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

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

We will celebrate Mass this year in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 5 p.m.

Dinner follows beginning at 6 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 and clean the hall so please sign-up with Vanessa Hansen ([vhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:vhansen980@hotmail.com)).

### **Mark your calendar:**

- March 4<sup>th</sup> - **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- March 9<sup>th</sup> - **All Saints Council** meeting 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> - **St Patrick's Day potluck dinner.** Mass at 5 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel with dinner to follow at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - **Boy's Confirmation Class** meets at 6 p.m. at Family Chisolm's house.
- **NEW** - March 29<sup>th</sup> - **Setup for Good Friday** at 3 p.m. in the main church. Volunteers sought.
- March 30<sup>th</sup> - **Good Friday Liturgy** – 3 p.m. in the main church.
- **NEW** – April 1<sup>st</sup> - **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** following Easter Mass.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> - **Confirmation Mass** at 11 a.m. at St. Bernard's
- **NEW** - April 21<sup>st</sup> – **All Saints Youth/Family Event – Movie night.** 6:00 p.m. featuring *The Sandlot* please: RSVP [vhansen980@hotmail.com](mailto:vhansen980@hotmail.com)
- **NEW** - **Spring Family Bazaar** on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. until about 3 p.m. This is one of two annual fund-raising events for All Saints. Volunteers sought to help with this event. Please speak with Heide Doblhofer.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - **Spring All Saints Family BBQ** in the Fellowship Hall and Garden after Mass
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - **First Holy Communion Mass** at 11 a.m. at St. Bernard's
- **RESCHEDULED** - June 30<sup>th</sup> - **English Speaking Mission Day** – at St. Bernard's (Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin) from 6:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin and our website for additional information coming soon.

✓ 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**

### **March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ**

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints

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