

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

June 17th, 2018 – Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 884): Ezek 17:22-24 • Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 • 2 Cor 5:6-10 • Mk 4:26-34 (G)

Welcome to our 10:00 a.m. Mass. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Tom FitzPatrick, Timothy Pedussel •

Hospitality: Beata McGreal • Designated collection: All Saints •

Jesus is stronger

Many years ago, I got a phone call from a psychiatric hospital. The doctors were at a loss what to do with a young woman from Africa who was mentally disturbed. When I told the lady that I was a priest and had been working in Africa for many years her face lit up and she told me her problem. Her aunt was utterly opposed to her living with a young man and had first threatened her, then mistreated her and finally cursed her. Now, many of us might not worry much about a curse. But in some cultures, this is taken very seriously, and that young woman was out of her mind with the fear that she would die. I gave her the Gospel text of today to read which speaks of a rich and strong man who owns a house and another man who comes, ties him up and takes away everything he has. I explained to her that the strong man, the evil spirit, who scared her so much, could be defeated by the stronger man, who is Jesus. She had only to trust Jesus and no evil spirit could have any power over her. When I visited her two days later she was completely normal.

In some passages of the Gospel Jesus casts out evil spirits. He saw evil powers at work in the life of people and sometimes taking possession of them. He called Satan "the ruler of this world". But he was also convinced that he was stronger than all powers of evil and had come to liberate people from these destructive powers and establish the rule of God instead. The bible sees history as a struggle of the light against the powers of darkness, of truth against the "father of lies", of love against hatred. It is also a struggle in the heart of every person.

If you are inclined to think that these are ideas of long ago which do not fit into modern times, just be aware that this struggle of evil against good is the stuff all great literature and every Sunday evening crime story is made of. It follows usually the same pattern: There are people living peacefully their everyday life till something terrible happens, e.g. a murder or some evil agent threatening to destroy the world. Then confusion tears people apart. Some are suspected of the murder, there are rumours and accusations. Finally, a saviour turns up in the form of James Bond or commissar X who uncovers the evil people and ties them up and restores the old order and security. Although we believe ourselves to be enlightened and to think scientifically the basic patterns of thinking are still the same. Only the way we image evil is culturally conditioned. Sometimes we are inclined to personify the power of evil and give it names like Satan or Bezebul. Modern people reject such ideas as a myth forgetting that myths do not describe facts, and yet contain basic truths. The truth is that evil is real and it has power over people and can possess them. Destructive ideas, thoughts and desires can become an obsession. People can have an obsession with personal power, e.g. dictators like in Syria who are ready to destroy their country and their own people. Others are obsessed by greed for money. Without any scruple they accumulate fortunes at the expense of those who have nothing. We might be obsessed by sexual compulsions, by feelings of jealousy and hatred ready to destroy our enemy. The power of evil that can enslave us takes many forms.

The Good News is that there is someone stronger who can break the chains of false ideas and ideologies, of destructive feelings and compulsions and open our mental prisons. Jesus is stronger than all powers of evil. The closer we are to him the less evil can touch us, the freer we become. Jesus has already overcome the world. On Good Friday the powers of evil seemed to have won the battle. On Easter morning Jesus proved to be stronger. This victory we celebrate at every Eucharist when we profess: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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: June 10th: 93

Collection: All Saints: €269.33

2018 Registration forms are now available in the office



Registration is open for preparation for First Holy Communion (FHC) and Confirmation 2018-2019

Registration for Communion and Confirmation classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the beginning of the new school year.

Please fill out the registration form of the English-speaking Mission which can be found outside the church office. Please submit it to the office (directly or via the mail box). Watch our website for more details.



Teens sought for service to the community.

Tom FitzPatrick has been asked to help spearhead an effort for our teens to be more involved in our church life. We are looking for help with our Youth Ministries in the Fall, especially, for Children's Liturgy of the Word which is held during Mass. We are also planning food drives and other activities where teen participation will be most welcome.

If you are already interested in being more involved speak with Tom.

Mark your calendar:

- June 24th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** – during Mass. This is the last CLOW before the Fall schedule begins.
- June 30th - **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 us on Facebook: **All Saints Catholic Community Berlin**



Will you be in Berlin over the summer?

If so, would you consider helping in one of these ways?

Hospitality – during the summer we just need to have someone make coffee and put out the cakes.

Water the garden – from time to time help water the flower beds, especially if we have some hot days. See someone in the church office to volunteer and thank you very much.

Lectors – If you would like to be our lector during the summer months please contact johannes.ploog@gmx.de or b.chisolm@gmx.de. Lectors need to be at church 30 minutes prior to Mass to make preparations.

Altar Servers – We don't have our sign-up Doodle during the summer months. If you would like to serve drop a line to b.chisolm@gmx.de or talk to me at church. Even if you don't volunteer when you arrive for Mass and are willing to serve just check in the sacristy. Chances are you will be asked to serve in the Mass. Thanks to all.

June 24th, 10:00 a.m.: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Herbert Gillessen

Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Tom FitzPatrick • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Catholic nurseries

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