

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](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://www.all-saints-berlin.de)

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

### **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal 923: Isa 50:4-9 • Ps 116:1-9 • Jas 2:14-18 • Mk 8:27-35**

**Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr**

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

Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •

Hospitality: Karen Castellon • Designated collection: All Saints

### **Reflection on the Twenty-Third Sunday Reading**

The evangelist ends with a remark about the people's reaction: *They were exceedingly astonished and they said: 'He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'* And we can add, he makes the blind see and the lame walk; he feeds the hungry and cures the sick, and so forth. Of course, people are impressed, they like what they see him do. For common human longing is satisfied. Jesus appears as a master of wish-fulfilment.

There can be no doubt, Jesus feels with suffering people who look for relief, and then he makes God's goodness visible to them. No doubt too, people do right when they bring their troubles before the Lord and look for help to escape from their hardships.

However, we should doubt whether that may be the basis for our love of Jesus, for our worship of the Father in heaven. And more than doubtful is the temptation to think of God as our great problem-solver, and then to measure our love for him by the degree he keeps us out of difficulty and free from the unpleasant aspects of life.

"Make a deal" has become a key word not only of political life; it pervades our daily practice everywhere. Trading, give and take, buying and selling govern the greatest part of our social life. And it makes sense, there is nothing wrong with it. We need all this dealing to maintain our mutual relationships peaceful, predictable. That is true amongst ourselves, human beings.

But I think we must constantly guard against dealing with God our Creator in this same fashion: "We praise and worship him, and he keeps us out of harm." - That sounds like a fair deal. He lets us have what we want, and we thank him for all the good we encounter.

No, better let us be a little critical regarding our religious life and practice. To what extent do we spontaneously incline towards this strange habit of "dealing with God", of reducing his greatness to problem-solving?

When we look at Jesus, his way of doing and the pattern of his life, another picture emerges. For instance, tired and thirsty he sits at the well in Samaria. He waits, while his friends go shopping in town. He does not appeal to the Father to make his days easier. He bears the pains and disappointments of human life. Only once, in the garden of Gethsamani, when the situation becomes fatally dangerous and breath-taking, he begs the Father that the course of events be changed. But even this petition is not proposed in the form of a deal. Jesus concludes his prayer with the brave words: *'Not my, but your will be done'*. Above all stands the Father's will, not Jesus' own wish to escape from the harsh demands of the moment.

When we look to the Lord and perceive his radical fidelity to the Father and the absolute "trade-free" attitude of reverence, of true worship and utter dedication, we cannot but feel *"exceedingly astonished"*. How narrow and poor is a perspective that approaches God as the most efficient recourse to ease our lives, whereas in fact he is the absolute Lord and Master, before whom we stand as his creatures, trustful but ready for whatever He plans. Yes, surely, he will care for his creatures, for they exist only because he wants them to be, and to have life, *life to the full*, as Jesus said. But God does the planning.

We are gathered here to worship; and worship has nothing to do with striking a deal. God is infinitely greater than the figure we have in mind when we search for someone to help us solve our problems.

People were right when they praised Jesus *"he has done all things well"*. Indeed, he is our big brother to whom we can turn in every need. But he is also the Son of the Father in heaven. Like the Father he must be given worship and adoration, and our silent readiness in all situations of our life. Amen.

**Fr. Dietmar Lenfers**

**All Saints Council meets today after Mass**

# 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 September 9<sup>th</sup>: 70

Collection: All Saints: €181.37 Media Sunday €16.00



## **Fall BBQ Potluck**

Please join us for our annual All Saints Community Fall BBQ Potluck on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> after Mass.

Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

Sign-up to help with Konrad Giersdorf in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.

## **Registration is open for First Holy Communion (Spring 2019) and Confirmation (2020)!**

First Holy Communion classes (for 2nd & 3rd graders) begins TODAY - September 16th

Please share this news with friends and invite our young people to grow in their faith through the sacraments.

Registration forms are outside the church office; please submit completed forms to the office or via the mail box.

For questions about the sacraments, please contact: (FHC): Zachary Chitwood ([zacharias7@gmail.com](mailto:zacharias7@gmail.com)) or (Confirmation) Karen Castellon ([karencastellon908@gmail.com](mailto:karencastellon908@gmail.com)).

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

## **Mark your calendars:**

- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. in the Nursery.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Fall BBQ** at 11:15 a.m. in the Community Hall and garden. Please sign up to help and provide a side dish.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. in the Nursery.



**Teens would you like to join our Youth Group for meetings after Mass on every other Sunday?**

Then talk to either Tom Fitzpatrick or Justine Pédussel or leave your name in the office and we will pass your information along.

Justine and Tom are leading this effort but **your participation and ideas** will help shape this youth initiative!



**Did you know that All Saints is run entirely by volunteers?**

**We pride ourselves that we are a self-supporting parish, but, new-helping hands are always appreciated! Please consider joining one of the volunteer groups that make the community work.**

Would you like to help with the offering and acting as an usher during Mass? Are you 16 years or older and think being a Lector is your cup of tea? Altar Servers are always welcomed! The choir is always looking for more members too! Finally, hosting the hospitality hour is a great way for your family to contribute together!

If you are interested, you can fill in a form located outside the office. We will be in touch to give you additional details and help you join in our volunteer efforts.

## **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Dietmar Lenfers**

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: Jackie Anders • Designated collection: Caritas 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: GENODED1PAX