

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

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

September 23rd, 2018 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal 926: Wis 2:12, 17-20 • Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6, 8 • Jas 3:16-4:3 • Mk 9:30-37

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is 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, Fall BBQ • Designated collection: Caritas Sunday •

Reflections on a painful subject

I have long hesitated to say something about the abuse that happened in the church, but the German Bishop's Conference will publish a paper about it this week and it will be discussed a lot in the media.

I want to avoid the impression to excuse the acts. As someone who has been part of what we consider today as a cover-up I intend to put the world-wide scandal into context and explain some of the elements that have favored abuse in the church. How it could come to such a shameful situation?

The historical context: Since the Middle Ages the spiritual authority of the church was regarded higher than the secular powers. Clerics could not be accused in a civil court, they were reported to Rome. When clerics investigate crimes of clerics, there is the danger of cover up. We have to learn that in a secular society the church can no longer claim any privileges and has to observe the law.

The theological context: an idealized image of the Church: We profess our faith in the "holy, catholic church". When the whole church is seen as holy, you tend to play down whatever is not holy in order to protect the image of the church. Revealing scandals in the church in public was and still is seen and felt as a betrayal of loyalty. Since the Vatican Council, we regard the church as holy through its head, Jesus Christ, but the body of the church, we all, may not always be holy.

The cultural context: Already in the early centuries, but especially in the 19th century sexuality was often seen as something negative, dangerous, even dirty. To talk about sexuality, and more so sexual abuse, was for a long-time taboo, not only in the church, but also in society and the family. If a child talked about being abused, it risked another beating on top. In such an atmosphere of secrecy, morbid attitudes and abuse can flourish.

The professional context: Abuse occurs mostly in contexts of intimate, personal relationships where adults and children are close to each other: in the family, in educational institutions, in the world of sports and in counseling and pastoral work. Priestly formation is mainly academic and does not prepare future priests professionally, psychologically and emotionally for the delicate situations they face later-on in their ministry.

Irresponsible ignorance: I have personal experience of the dynamics of processes of cover-up abuse case as part of the leadership team of my missionary congregation in the eighties, when a few cases of abuse were reported to us. The key problem for us was what to do with the accused confreres. Where I feel truly guilty today is that we rarely thought or talked about the victims. But I would plea also to consider mitigating circumstances. At that time, we were not aware about the devastating lifelong damage done to the victims of abuse, mainly because we did not listen to their stories. And we did not know that pedophilia is not curable. We considered it as moral weakness, a sin, maybe a sickness, but not as a crime. The standard remedy at the time was a course of spiritual renewal and a therapy. And if the psychologist gave a positive report, we would give the confreres another chance. But I would plead not to judge the procedures at that time with the knowledge we have today.

(Continued on reverse)

The key issue is power! Corporal and sexual abuse is always a question of an abuse of power: persons that are socially, economically, psychologically, spiritually in a position of power using another person for their own profit, interest or satisfaction. In the church the root of the abuse scandal is not celibacy in the first place, but clericalism which Pope Francis castigates as the root of many evils: an unchecked, unquestioned, uncritical position of power of the clergy over the laity. It has estranged so many of best Christians from the Church. But before we discuss structural change in the Church, we have to confess our moral and Christian failure that we did not protect effectively the weakest and most defenseless members entrusted to us. We were more concerned about our good image rather than the suffering of the victims. We want to pray today for the whole church and especially for our bishops to have the courage and the wisdom to take the necessary decisions.

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 September 16th: 95

Collection: All Saints: €281.89

Registration continues for First Holy Communion (Spring 2019) and Confirmation (2020)!

First Holy Communion (for 2nd & 3rd graders) and Confirmation classes has begun. **But there is still time to join these classes.**

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) or (Confirmation) Karen Castellon (karencastellon908@gmail.com).



Altar Server sign-up

We have made a change . . . Beginning this month, we will have our monthly altar server sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall after Mass on the 1st and last Sunday of each month.

Please stop in after Mass on September 30th and sign up to serve during the month of October.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- September 27th, **English-Speaking Mission Council (ESM)** meets at St. Elisabeth's, Kolonnenstraße 38, 10829 Berlin at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- September 30th – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- September 30th – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. in the Nursery.
- October 7th – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- October 7th – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. in the Nursery.

LONG RANGE (get these in your planner):

- November 24th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** in the Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. onward.
- November 30th – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- December 2nd – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.
- December 8th – **Combined Advent Service** with PFF and Crossways – details **TBA**
- December 8th – Preparations for the **Annual Children's Pageant** – details **TBA**

September 30th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Beate McGreal • 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