

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

October 21st, 2018 – Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal 938: Isa 53:10-11 • Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 • Heb 4:14-16 • Mk 10:35-45

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

- Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: John & Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Beata Mc Greal • Designated collection: All Saints •

Homily on the Twenty-Eighth Sunday

Please, notice the sudden change in this young man. He comes running up to Jesus, kneels down before him and asks the question that occupies his heart, *"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"* He is fully alive, sparkling, hopeful; and a few minutes later he goes home, sad, with a long face. Why this sudden change from joy and eagerness to sadness and depression? *For he owned many possessions*, we are told. Certainly, he was a good man who strictly followed the demands of his religion. He had observed the ten commandments *from his youth*, and his great desire was to inherit eternal life. We hear, *Jesus looked at him and loved him*. Nevertheless, there is something lacking. The man lacks freedom. He remains tied to all the riches he had inherited, and he was too fond of the pleasures his wealth could afford. Yes, he wanted to inherit eternal life, but there were many other desires that he also wanted. Then, to make him a free man, focussed on what is truly important, Jesus invites him to get rid of all his private preoccupations and to live for the Kingdom of God, by following Jesus, adopting his style of life. This radically new adventure was too much for the man. He shook his head, and *went away, sad*.

This incident reminds us all how crucially important it is to know what we really want. What am I after in my life, and what stands on top of the scale? For what do I care most of all? For myself "that it be well with me" or for others whom I love, for the Lord and his concern, for absolute fidelity to God? Of course, we always retain the possibility of leaving this question unconsidered. Then one moves through life without any clear idea of what is the point of all the odd business that fills the day. That is meant by 'lack of freedom', because in that case whatever looks nice holds you bound.

Jesus at once realised that this incident could illustrate a necessary lesson for his disciples. He wished them to become aware of the most dangerous obstacles that might hinder their obedience to Almighty God, the obstacles on their way to heaven.

An uncontrolled desire for all sorts of things would disrupt their engagement for the Kingdom and make them lose their orientation. Therefore, he warns them with very sharp words against riches that make it impossible to follow God's call. *How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God*. One who *has wealth*, he says. Now 'wealth' belongs to those curious things that we usually perceive only in others and rarely in ourselves. How many among us regard themselves as wealthy? Rather are we inclined to say, **"we"** live a modest life after all, and **"they"** are the others with fat bank accounts, the millionaires, with plenty of money, the big people of this world. Hence, we quickly convince ourselves that Jesus is talking of them, not of us, who do not own any immoderate riches. **They** are the camels that have to pass through the eye of a needle. Plain sailing for us. Often, we like to fool ourselves with such thoughts.

Whatever we may possess or not possess, when looking at this rich young man we should ask whether in fact he differs from someone who, perhaps with envy, desires to be in his position, who wishes to live in comparable abundance and the same luxury? It is time for us to realize that Jesus is not talking of the means at hand, but of the bond that ties us to whatever serves our own comfort. This bond can be just as strong in someone quite poor who constantly strains to obtain those wonderful riches he dreams of, although with bitter frustration he fails to get them. Having and desiring to have can be equally paralysing. Both can rob us of the freedom we need to put God first in all things.

What is at stake is our basic orientation in life. A free, happy, satisfying life must be guided by this constant "God first". For the wealthy man, who came running to Jesus, this was asking too much, in spite of his desire to inherit eternal life. So, he trod home, sad. "God first" means "all possessions second or third, never on top of the list". This attitude of "God first" is what Jesus demands of his disciples. "God first" leads us to the Kingdom that Jesus preaches.

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, 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 October 14th: 83 Collection: All Saints: €222.81, Renovation of St. Hedwig € 30.60



Volunteers sought to become Eucharistic Ministers

Perhaps you have already served as a Eucharistic Minister in a previous parish or would like to explore becoming one. If you are interested please inquire in the office or speak with any of our Eucharistic Ministers.



Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 24th in the Fellowship Hall.

Turkey, potatoes, corn and lots of other goodies provided. Plan to sign your family up to attend so we know how much to prepare and plan to bring a dish (salad, side or dessert) to share with the community.

You are invited to volunteer to help with the preparation on Friday, November 23rd at 16:00.

Watch for more details and sign-up sheets!



All Saints Church Council Elections - Call for Candidates!

We will be holding a special election in early December to replace John & Glenda Massey who will be leaving us in December. If elected the term of office will run until the next regular election for all six candidates in Fall 2019.

Candidates (age 16 and older) should submit a brief, one-page (DIN A4) profile with a picture to the office or any member of the All Saints Council. The exact date of the election will be announced shortly.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- October 21st – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room.
- October 21st – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- November 2nd – **Friday Mass at 19:00 in St. Bernhard, not in All Saints**
- November 4th – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass in Classroom 2.
- November 9th – **Confirmation Class** – Attend Friday Mass at 18:00 followed by Adoration.
- November 11th – **Friends of All Saints Membership meeting** after Mass

LONGER RANGE (get these in your planner):

- November/December – **Special election for open position on the All Saints Council** – consider volunteering to serve the community – Plan to vote!
- November 23rd – **Set-up for Thanksgiving Dinner** in the Fellowship Hall from 5 p.m. onward.
- 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 – additional details coming soon
- December 8th, 2019 – Preparations for the **Annual Children's Pageant** – details TBA

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS PLANNING DATES:

- February 9th, 2019 – **First Reconciliation** for our First Holy Communion Candidates.
- June 2nd, 2019 – **First Holy Communion Mass** at All Saints. Exact times to be announced.

October 28th, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, MAfr

- Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN •
- Designated collection: World Mission •

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