

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 10-12

December 11th, 2016 – Third Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal p 38 et seq.): Isa 35:1-6, 10 • Ps 146:6-10 • Jas 5:7-10 • Mt 11:2-11

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Tamas Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Noemi Dethlefsen, Sara Sheehan • Hospitality: Jennifer Attah • Designated collection: All Saints

The risen Jesus is counting on us to bring about his new world

We Christians speak of Jesus as the Messiah. Do we know what we mean when we use the word Messiah? Wikipedia says: "A messiah is a savior or liberator of a group of people, most commonly in the Abrahamic religions." It means "the anointed one", this could be a king, a priest, a prophet... In Greek this becomes "Christos". It seems that also for the Jews, this word *Mashiach* was not very clear. There are many messianic pictures in the Hebrew Scriptures, none of which completely mirrors Jesus as Messiah.

Each generation of Jews had their idea of a messiah, a messiah who would eventually save them, who would bring them liberation from oppression and their unjust living conditions. The concepts of this messiah differed from generation to generation. As their needs changed, so did their idea of a Messiah, of a savior change. Contrary to common belief, there is no one consistent picture of a messiah in the Jewish world of 2000 years ago, as there is none in the Jewish world of today. **Isaiah**, for instance, in today's passage (Isaiah 11:1-10) conceives of the Messiah in terms of a king from the family of David. Like his regal ancestor, this new king will be "a sprout from the stump of Jesse." But this new king will differ greatly from some of the kings the prophet had recently encountered. We are in the 8th century before Christ. Because this new king is open to Yahweh's spirit, this new king will create a world in which natural enemies will become friends. This new king will make certain that "the earth shall be filled with knowledge of Yahweh", that is: filled with the experience of Yahweh, the experience of God.

Paul writes a letter to the Christian community in Rome. He believes that Jesus will eventually create the end results that Isaiah expects of a royal Messiah (Romans 15:4-9). But Paul brings in an element that the prophet Isaiah seems to ignore: the community. Unlike Isaiah's Messiah, the risen Jesus isn't going to bring about this new world all by himself. He is counting on us to play an essential role in the creation of this new world. As Paul reminds the Christian community in Rome, it is up to us to "think in harmony with one another." Among other things that means we have to "welcome one another as Christ welcomes us."

And during Paul's ministry, Jewish Christians had a big problem welcoming one specific group. For the Jewish Christians welcoming the Gentiles, the non-Jews, was a big challenge. Gentiles, people different from the Jews, people coming from different backgrounds, people with different traditions – to welcome them was a real challenge to the Jewish Christians. Already Isaiah envisioned non-Jews seeking out Yahweh – he had this wonderful vision that they all celebrate a feast together in Jerusalem. Now Paul envisions Jewish Christians taking the first step and seeking out Gentiles as equal partners in the salvation Jesus offers. Only when all God's people relate correctly with one another will God's peace become a reality. In order to be authentic imitators of Jesus, we all must accept the other as equal – no matter what their background is.

That seems to be part of the "good fruit" which **John the Baptizer** expected all God's people to produce (Matthew 3:1-12). True followers of Jesus long ago came to understand that their Messiah was only part of the show. They and their relations with others were the rest of the show. Both **Paul** and **Matthew** paint a picture of an ideal world. But they are convinced that the special person destined to usher in that longed-for era isn't going to bring it about alone. It will only come when we have the courage to live our lives as Jesus of Nazareth lived his.

No wonder St. Augustine always handed the Eucharistic bread to people with the reminder: "Receive what you are: the Body of Christ, the Messiah."

cf. <http://www.dignityusa.org/breath/december-8-2013-second-sunday-advent>

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 December 4th: 132

Collection: All Saints: €531.17, Orphans: €87.79



Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass

CASTING CALL: We are looking for Mary and Joseph; shepherds, wise men, sheep, angels and many others! You do not have to attend All Saints to participate.

Sign-up after Mass in the Fellowship Hall or send an e-mail to: vhansen980@hotmail.com or b.chisolm@gmx.de

Dress rehearsal and costume fitting from 1300 – 1700 on 23 December 2016.

Participants need to be at All Saints at 1330 on 24 December 2016. Mass begins at 1500 and will end at approximately 1625.

Altar Servers volunteers needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

We need volunteers to serve at the 3 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant/Mass, the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and on Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

You can leave your name in the office or sign up at doodle.com/poll/sxecn9k2akyrg6i5.

Thanks very much for your service to the All Saints community..

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 16th – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- December 18th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- December 18th - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.
- December 23rd – **Dress rehearsal and costume fitting for Christmas pageant** at 1300.
- December 24th - **Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass** beginning at 1500. The collection during this Mass will be designated for the support of our Children, Youth and Hospitality ministries.

Note: Because we have three faith communities celebrating Christmas on this day we must clear the church by 1625. If you can help with the clearing of the church, please let the greeter know when you arrive as he will be able to give you a task to speed us on our way after Mass. Thanks

About Mass at All Saints!

"The All Saints Catholic Community takes great pride that our congregation comes from all over the world. This brings to us a multitude of views and also introduces us to liturgical practices from different traditions with distinct customs.

One such custom may raise the question: "Should I stand, kneel or even sit during the Eucharistic prayer (the consecration of bread and wine) during the service at All Saints?"

The answer is: "Do whatever you are most comfortable with, determined by what you have done in the tradition or parish in which you grew up."

December 18th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Samantha Scott, Will Sheehan • 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: GENODE1PAX