

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

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

November 25th, 2018 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Readings (Missal 953: Dan 7:13-14 • Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5 • Rev 1:5-8 • Jn 18:33-37

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Dietmar Lenfers MAfr

- Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

Accepting death in my life

In the seminary where I prepared myself to become a missionary we were invited to once a month make a meditation on death. We were invited to imagine lying on our deathbed, as the priest anoints us and friends are standing around us to bid a last farewell. We did not take it very seriously.

More touching I found a meditation on death proposed by Anthony de Mello. He invites us to ask ourselves the question: What existed here, in the place where I am now sitting, some 3000 years ago? And what will remain of what I see now 3000 years from now? The answer to both questions is: Nothing. Nothing of the things around me existed at that time and will exist then.

The same realisation that nothing is permanent, nothing lasting I had when during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land our group stood next to a hill made up of different layers of rubble near Jericho which had been excavated by archaeologists. They explained to us that this was one of oldest settlements where over a period of 10.000 years a dozen different civilisations had built their towns. No trace of their achievements, nothing but broken stones had remained.

The truth that everything has an end, my life, my world, even the universe will come to an end. This is the message we hear in the Gospel of today. November is the time of the year when nature seems to die away and the liturgy reminds us of the end of everything. We do not like to think about this truth, but tend to push it aside. Some people are horrified when at a Catholic burial the priest says at the end: "Let us pray for the person among us who will die next." We do not like to be reminded of this depressing reality. And yet, it is good to face this reality.

It is a truth and Jesus says that the truth will make us free. We like to live in a world of illusions and illusions are dangerous because one day they collapse. We have lived for the two last centuries with the illusion that the resources of nature are unlimited. We have extracted them, exploited them without measure and so begun to destroy the very nature we need to live. We accept that everything has a limit, we start living more soberly and stop just accumulating possessions realising that in the end of our life we can take nothing with us.

Many years ago, I almost drowned in the Mediterranean and was rescued in the last minute. As I was going under water there was a short moment of panic realising that this was the end. But then I had a feeling of sinking slowly and peacefully into an ocean of light. This experience of near-death changed something in my attitude to life. I realised that the end of my life could happen anytime and that every day extra was a precious gift. We are inclined to give great value to things that are rare, like gold. When I understand that my life is fragile and my days are counted, every day becomes precious. It could be the last. And I want to live that day consciously, intensely and fruitfully. And as I realise how precious each day is there is a sense of deep gratitude filling me.

Our faith adds yet another hopeful perspective to the reality of death. Death is not the end of life, it is a transformation of one life into a new life in God which is beyond all our understanding and expectation. It is the total fulfilment of all our deepest desires. That is the core message of Christianity. The end of the world as we know it will not be a final destruction. The earth and the whole universe will be changed into a new earth and a new heaven. It is this tremendous mystery of our faith that we remember and celebrate when we come together to celebrate Eucharist and proclaim: "Christ has died, Christ has 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 on November 18th: 94

Collection: All Saints: €185.33



CASTING CALL

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CASTING CALL:

Boys and girls - we are looking for actors. Angels, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph; wise men, sheep, donkeys, camels, shepherds, and more!

You do not have to attend All Saints to participate so pass on the word to your friends.

An adult DIRECTOR is also sought. Our seasoned director will be away over the Christmas holidays but can train and assist with the rehearsals. Send an email to:

vhansen980@hotmail.com

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone who brought a dish to share.

We especially give our thanks to those who worked tirelessly to set-up the Fellowship Hall, prepare the food and stayed to clean-up. Without dedicated volunteers, such a gala evening would not be possible.

Hospitality Volunteers Sought

We still have a few Sundays which need a volunteer for our after-Mass hospitality hour. If you are interested, PLEASE see Vanessa Hansen or drop her a message at vhansen980@hotmail.com.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- November 25th – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room.
- November 25th – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 p.m. in Classroom 1
- November 30th – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- December 2nd – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass in Classroom 2.
- December 2nd – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.
- December 8th 4:30 p.m. – **Combined Advent Service** with PFF and Crossways. Please bring homemade sweets to share afterward.
- December 8th – Preparations for the **Annual Children's Pageant** – Director and adult helpers needed. Volunteer in the church office or send a message to b.chisolm@gmx.de
- December 22nd rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant. Time to be announced.



Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 2nd, 2018

It will soon be time again for our annual visit to the Senior Citizen's Residence located at Altmarkstr. 27, 12169, Berlin.

Practice starts at 3:00 p.m. and caroling at 4:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Konrad Giersdorf at: giersdorf@hotmail.de.

December 2nd, 2018, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN •
- Designated collection: For the training of priests in Middle and Eastern Europe •

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