

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: **1st Friday** 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

May 5th, 2019 – Third Sunday of Easter

Readings (Missal no. 831): Acts 5:27-32 • Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 • Rev 5:11-14 • Jn 21:1-19

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

- Lector: Karen Castellon • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Timothy Pedussel •
- Hospitality: Jackie Anders • Designated collection: Pro Vita Collection •

OUR TRUE VOCATION IN LIFE

Almost a hundred years ago a young psychologist walked into the office of a manager of a company that sold washing machines and advertised their machines with the slogan: "Our washing machine gives you more time". The man agreed with the manager to double their sales against a small percentage of the profits. He did so very successfully by adding three small words to the advertisement: "for your family". In this way he turned the buying of a washing-machine from a selfish act: "time for myself" a moral action: doing something good "for the family". If you look carefully most advertisements use the same trick: Coca Cola does not sell soft drinks but joy of life, Marlborough cigarettes promise the freedom of a cowboy, Mercedes does not sell cars but status symbols that gives the owner the feeling of belonging to the top class of highly successful people.

Why is this so effective? Because deep in every human being is a thirst for something that goes beyond satisfying immediate material needs. We need to have a goal that reaches beyond our self, beyond what is just useful. Why do people climb mountains, explore the North pole, spend their lives discovering the secrets of nature or go to the desert to seek God? There is an urge in us to seek something transcendent, some goal greater than our own little life. The other day I watched with great pleasure a craftsman who was putting tiles into our bathroom. He was relaxed and yet very attentive; he worked like an artist keen to create something beautiful so as to make his client happy. He was not just earning a living with his work. He found a spiritual satisfaction in creating something perfect as God found pleasure in looking his wonderful creation.

We all need such a vision, a mission, a vocation in life, some goal beyond what is immediately needed or useful, something greater than ourselves. Without it, life tends become dull and empty. The problem of our society is that it offers us an immense choice of consumer goods, but no higher vision worth investing our time and energy. As our bishop pointed out in his Easter homily: The crisis of the European Union is a lack of vision for the future. Its founder-fathers wanted to create a Europe after the disaster of World War II where its various peoples have been reconciled and have learned to live in solidarity and peace with each other. Europe today is dominated purely by economic group interests. As a biblical proverb said: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The situation in the Gospel of today is a perfect illustration of this. The apostles were at first so fascinated by the vision of Jesus of a new way of living, of relating to each other, a new way of seeing God, not as a God who punishes and who forgives. Jesus called it the reign of God. But they perverted this reign based on spiritual values into a political power game; much in the way today Salafists pervert the mystical message of the Koran into a political plot to gain world domination. The apostles' expectations were utterly crushed when Jesus was executed. They became disillusioned and depressed. Some took a walk to Emmaus, Thomas simply got away from the community.

The risen Jesus reversed the situation instantly. How? At the first encounter with his disciples after his death his first words are – repeated three times: "Peace be with you." No mention of their cowardness and their total failure. It's all forgiven and forgotten. Then, he gives them a new mission. They are to continue Jesus' own mission of mercy, to go and proclaim God's unconditional love and forgiveness to everybody. Finally, he breathes on them as a sign that the Holy Spirit who guided Jesus on his mission will also be with the disciples. This experience of being trusted in spite of their total failure and given a new mission set free in them an enormous new energy which since has changed the world.

As Christians we all share in the same mission to continue Jesus' work today. We are sent to make God's reign present wherever we are by the way we live and relate to others and to God. Like Jesus' we are sent to show people that our God does not revenge or punish, but is a God of love and forgiveness, of patience and peace. This is our true vocation, our mission in life. How do we live it?

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 April 28th: **78**

Collection: All Saints: **€505.00**



All Saints Family Bazaar - Saturday, May 11th from 8 a.m.

Our traditional spring and fall bazaars are major fundraisers for our community.

The space for setting up a table costs €10 plus a donation of a cake or package of coffee. Space reservation at (030) 8620-3636 or email: [all-saintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de).

We need your help in spreading the information in kindergartens, schools, etc.

Special help is needed on the 11th for setup (from 7 a.m. on) and cleanup (around 3 p.m.). During the bazaar we need volunteers to help at our coffee and cake-stand. To volunteer contact Heide Doblhofer.

Thank you, **yes, YOU** - for making the All Saints Catholic Community special! We couldn't do it without your contributions, whether big or small, all make a difference.

From greeters, ushers to gift bearers; from lectors, choir singers to altar servers; from brownie bakers, hospitality assistants to clean-up crew; from catechists, event organizers to parent volunteers; from flowers, candle holders to coffee machine donors - **YOU are the All Saints Catholic Community and we are grateful to have you here.**

HOSPITALITY - Hospitality takes place after Mass on Sundays thanks to the volunteers who make it happen!

It is an important element of community life. Please consider volunteering for this special ministry as an individual or as a family one Sunday per semester. We need your help!



The message of The Divine Mercy is simple: It is that God loves us – all of us.

And, **God** wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for God's Mercy.

God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful.

God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. God wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus.

God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.



Special Collection in May to support our Youth Ministries

All Saints has an extensive and growing program of ministries aimed at our youth. Ranging from our weekly Children's Liturgy of the Word to our First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes we have now added a high school youth group.

We fund these programs from a variety of sources but are planning to have a special collection later in May dedicated to funding these programs. Watch for an announcement and please support our youth.

May 12th 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber

• Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: Confirmation Mothers • 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