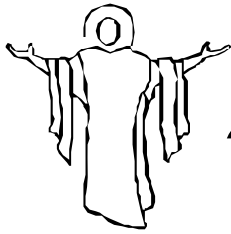


Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



ALL SAINTS



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

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

May 26th, 2019 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings (Missal no. 840): Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 • Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 • Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 • Jn 14:23-29

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

- Lector: Rachael Rueckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Madeline Rueckeis, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

Reflection on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

When listening to the first reading, I admired Paul and Barnabas, and thought, yes, that is what we all should do, *strengthen the spirits of the disciples and exhort them to persevere in the faith*. For we get easily stuck in the endless difficulties and problems of our daily life. Then they push the wider perspectives out of sight. But trouble is not to last. The second reading speaks a different language. Instead of *“enter the Kingdom of God, with hardships,”* it says: *“a new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.”*

Suddenly we are shown the great solution for all the difficulties that plague us. A great and beautiful vision is set before us where all our problems are solved, all at once. Whatever may worry us will definitely be set straight, and in an overwhelming manner. What will happen? *I saw a new heaven and a new earth!* That is how the Book of Revelation summarizes our future.

The former heaven and the former earth, the world of our present experience, *had passed away*. Things will not continue forever as they are, and as we know them. Then a short surprising sentence follows: *and the sea was no more*. Everywhere in the Bible we can notice that the people of Israel are at home on the land, in their fields and with their cattle. They are afraid of the sea. They are definitely not sailors; they distrust the water. The sea and the waters always stand as a symbol for all that threatens our life; this shapeless element means fatal danger, disorder, a dark cloud hanging over all human life. And now this, *the sea was no more*. A liberation from all threat and danger, disorder and disturbance, from all that we human beings fear, and not without reason. The words *“and the sea were no more”* contain a marvellous promise.

What is the cause of all this change? Something is *coming down out of heaven from God*. It is called *the holy city*, a place to live in, *the new Jerusalem*. In the old Jerusalem the Temple had been built as the house of God's presence; and now in the new Jerusalem God will be present in a different and new way, not in a temple. This city itself will be of the utmost beauty, *as a bride adorned for her husband*. At no other occasion will a woman take more care to appear beautiful than on the day of her wedding. So, will it be with this holy city, a beauty not to be surpassed.

Finally, we hear the key declaration: *Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself will always be with them as their God*. Now we wonder what effect this will have, *God dwelling with the human race*. The new earth will obviously be very different from the old one, where we live at the moment. For *he will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain*. Indeed, *the old order has passed away*.

Wonderful! But we must ask, what and how does it profit us to live with this beautiful vision of things to come, while we plague ourselves with so much suffering and pain, problems, bitterness, disease and death? Is all that we are told *pie in the sky*?

No, we are on the way. This new city is at hand, we are challenged to make it begin. Compare these two remarkable sayings! The last sentence of the second reading: *“The One who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new’.*” And Jesus' word in the gospel: *“I give you a new commandment, ‘love one another’.*” He does not say, “be nice to one another”, or “be always kind to people”, or “let the gentleman or the lady in you prevail”. He says, *“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”*

Where we honestly strive to reach such total love, we discover *God's dwelling is with the human race*. For such love practises the complete willingness to step in for one another, to share what we are and have, to bear with one another and to excel in peace, attention and understanding. When we take this road, *“as I have loved you”*, how many tears will be wiped away, how much wailing and mourning will cease, how much pain and suffering will lose its sting and become bearable! - *God is love*, writes Saint John, and love for each other is *God dwelling with the human race*. That is *a new heaven* already now on this old earth. That is exactly what Jesus tells us: *‘I make all things new’.*

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers

FHC Candidates fitting for Alb's on Saturday, June 1st during the rehearsal

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 May 19th: 89

Collection: All Saints: €290.97



Summer vacation "Good-bye" BBQ - June 16th after Mass

Please join us for our annual Goodbye BBQ before summer vacation, starts on Sunday, June 16th after Mass.

Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Please sign-up to help in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.



Special Collection on TODAY to support our Youth Ministries

Please consider giving generously today when the collection plate is passed. All tithes not in one of the white envelopes will be dedicated 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 have also recently purchased new Alb's for our altar servers and part of the collection will go to defray this cost.

We fund these programs from a variety of sources but also hold a special collection at the Children's Christmas Pageant. However, this year we did not hold this traditional event so our coffers are bit thin. Thank you.

Home4 LIFE - Africa

Fr. Sylvester has created a charity – Home4 LIFE – Africa.

Details to the right but you may wish to consider making a donation. Bank details provided.

Happy Birthday Fr. Sylvester

Let us all wish Fr. Sylvester a wonderful 50th birthday which he will celebrate on June 22nd.

Home4 LIFE- Africa

Home is an acronym for
H: hope,
O: opportunity,
M: motivation
E: empowerment

HOME4LIFE™ is designed to be a center for youths' orientation. It is an initiative of LIFE- Nigeria. LIFE: (Lay Initiative For Evangelization) is a non governmental organization registered in Nigeria that creates a platform for the laity to play active roles in Evangelization. The center is dedicated specially to youths who are socially displaced, disoriented, street children/youths from abjectly poor and vulnerable families(forced to child's Labour in street vending, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation)

It provides care through seminars/ workshops, music, vocational trainings, smart workshops for career seeking youths, spiritual and psychological guidance/counseling, education sponsorship for children from abjectly poor families (especially orphans) and free health care support for lowest income families.

<p>Planned outreach Network</p> <p>Nigeria Cameroon Kenya Tanzania Botswana</p>	<p>Coordinators in Germany</p> <p>Juliet Aliyu Juliette Dohgima Peter Egbuna Chu Eben Chioma Anyasodo Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa (Spiritual Director)</p>	<p>Bank info.</p> <p>Sylvester Ajunwa IBAN: DE1279070022791800 BIC: DEUTDE33 Purpose (HOME4LIFE)</p>
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June 2nd 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Lector: Brendan FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: To promote charity work •

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