

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

May 22nd, 2016 – The Most Holy Trinity

Readings (Missal p 174 et seqq.): Prov 8:22-31 • Ps 8:4-9 • 1 Rom 5:1-5, 12-13 • Jn 16:12-15

• **Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr Wolfgang Felber**

Lectors: Confirmation Class • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt

Greeters: Confirmation Class • Altar Servers: Confirmation Class • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

Designated collection: 100th German Catholic Day

GOD'S SPIRIT TRANSFORMING CHAOS INTO A NEW CREATION

In the opening verses of the bible we read: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the face of the earth and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." The Hebrew word "Tohuwabohu" (formless and empty) could also be translated as "chaos and desolation". So the world started in a state of chaos and desolation. But then something surprising is said: in that original chaos the Spirit of God is already present and creates out of chaos in a long and painful process the cosmos, our universe, governed by laws and finely tuned forces, and it strikes our senses by its harmonious order and breath taking beauty. Scientists call this process evolution; the bible sees in it God's Spirit at work.

Three chapters further on another Spirit appears on the scene, a Spirit of destruction, a spirit whose whole aim is to undo the order and harmony of God's creation and turn it back to chaos and confusion. The bible calls that Spirit Satan in Greek "diabolos", the one who tears things apart. This "diabolos" is remarkably successful. In a series of symbolic stories the bible describes how that evil spirit manages to pull away the human race from its creator which has disastrous consequences. Violence enters family relationships (Cain and Abel); the harmony between man and nature is disrupted (the Flood); finally, the whole of human family end up in confusion (the tower of Babel). These are not stories of what actually happened in the past, but symbolic descriptions of the state the world is in.

But the story of humanity does not end in chaos. God never gives up and begins a new creation in the person of Jesus. The Spirit who raises him out of the total chaos of death into new life is poured out on Pentecost on all who believe in him. Pentecost is the beginning of a new creation, the birth of a new people, the Church.

Pentecost tells us: Be sure that God's Spirit is already present in any chaos, in the chaos of our own lives, in the chaos of today's world, when the familiar order of things seems to be breaking up everywhere, in the sometimes chaotic developments that are transforming the Church. There is no darkness so dark that it will not be penetrated by God's light. There is no situation so confused that it will not eventually be cleared up by God's Spirit. God's creative Spirit will always prove stronger than the powers of death and destruction.

The first creation took billions of years to be where it is today. The new creation, too, is a slow process and it is already at work in our own hearts. If we open our hearts to the Spirit, the light of the Spirit will gradually lead us into the fullness of truth and the Spirit of love transforms our hearts and through us renews the face of the earth. Let us trust in the creative power of the Spirit!

Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

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 17th: 105
€21.70

Collection: Friends of All Saints: €198.83 RENOVABIS:

Spring BBQ Potluck

Please join us for our annual **All Saints Community Spring BBQ Potluck** on **Saturday, May 28th** starting at **5 pm**.

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

Sign-up to help with Konrad Giersdorf in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.

Thanks to the members of the Confirmation Class for their roles in today's

Mass

Lectors: Amalia, Julia
Altar Servers: Joshua, Aidan, Karoline, Justine
Ushers: Quinn, Will
Greeters: Alicia, Celine, Rebecca, Rowan
Gift Bearers: Adrian, Josephine, Lily

Registration open for preparation for First Holy Communion

Registration for Communion classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the beginning of the new school year. Please fill out the registration form of the English-speaking Mission which can be found outside the church office. Please submit it to the office (directly or via the mail box). Watch our website for more details.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- May 26th – **Corpus Christi Mass** 18:00 at Gendarmenmarkt. Eucharistic procession follows immediately.
- May 27th – **Friday Mass** - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 18:00 h.
- May 28th – **Spring BBQ** – Sponsored by the Confirmation Class starting at 5 pm. Details on the left.
- May 28th - **Pilgrimage hike with St Bernhard** 08:45 – 20:00 h. See the announcement below for more details
- May 29th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass
- June 5th – **Meeting of the church ministries** to plan for the coming quarterly events (Conference Room).
- June 5th – **Confirmation Class** 11:15 – 13:00 h
- June 5th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the Classroom
- June 5th – **Eucharistic Adoration** for 1st Communion class with Fr. Sylvester (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
- June 10th – **Confirmation Class** 18:00 – 19:30 h
- June 12th – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the conference room
- June 12th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass

Thank you to all who helped with our **spring All Saints Family Bazaar on Saturday, 21 May**.

Special thanks goes to **Heide Doblhofer** who organized and helped to manage this event.

It was a huge success and is one of our major fund raisers for the church community.

The **English Speaking community of St. Bernhard** is organizing a **pilgrimage hike/youth activity** for Saturday, 28 May. Meet at Bhf Berlin-Südkreuz (appx. 08:45) and take a RE to Bhf Chorin (Schorfheide). From there approximately a 10 km hike through woods and fields, culminating with a visit to the 13th-century former Cistercian abbey at Chorin. More info at: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kloster_Chorin

May 29th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Ruby Schmidt • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Jennifer Evans
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •
Designated collection: Friends of 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