

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

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

November 6th, 2016 – Thirtieth-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 232 et seqq.): 2 Macc 7:1-2, 9-14 • Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 14 • 2 Thess 2:16-3:5 • Lk 20:27-38

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

Lector: Howard Eyth • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang •

Designated collection: All Saints

God, the Lover of Life

I would like to concentrate today on the first reading from the **book of Wisdom**. It is the youngest book of the Old Testament, written in the first century before Christ. The Jewish people, the people of Israel was living in the whole known world, but they already suffered certain kinds of persecution in spite of the guarantees they had received from Rome. Rome was ruling over the world around the Mediterranean and guaranteed religious freedom, but there were always movements that objected to religious freedom and tried to make everybody believe the same things they believed. Those who believed or celebrated or lived differently were a nuisance and were not well looked upon. Often they were silenced.

It is in this context that the author of our book writes down what he believes. He writes down how he sees the world with the eyes of his faith, how he sees the relation of God to his creation, how he sees and evaluates the world around him, and he writes down how he sees himself in this world. A very touching book – because everything the author writes down he brings before God....*To bring one's life before God.*

I am not sure that our religions and denominations and faith communities see this as a priority in their service. Often it is the formal fulfillment of rules that is the priority. Let us look again at our text: For me, some of these lines are the most beautiful lines in the Bible: *"You love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made"* or in a different translation: *"You love everything that exists; you do not despise anything that you have made."* The author does not make a distinction between good people and bad people, between right and wrong. Everything in this world is loved by God, every human being, every animal, the whole of creation and what human beings make of their lives.

Everything (and everybody)!... No, the author does not judge! He does not say "This is good" - "This is bad", "This is sin" - "This is not sin", "This one believes in the right way" - "This one believes in a wrong way". The author of the book of Wisdom does not judge. How relevant this is for us today! Because we **do** judge, we **do** put people down, we **do** reduce people's value by telling them that they are deficient and sinful and unworthy.

I am sorry that religion often betrayed people by telling them that they were unworthy. Religion betrayed people by refusing them happiness and freedom and the possibility of living their lives in peace with God, in peace with others, in peace with themselves. And here our author says: *"You love everything that exists; you do not despise anything that you have made."* And he continues: *"You spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!"* or in a different translation: *"You have allowed everything to exist, O Lord, because it is yours, and you love every living thing. Your immortal spirit is in every one of them."*

God's spirit is in everything that is – isn't this enormous and terrific? God's spirit is in you and in me, in people we like and in people we do not like, in people near to us and in people far away, in people we understand and in people we do not understand or we do not want to understand. In all of them is God's spirit. God's spirit is in the whole of creation.

"Think big" is a motto that comes to my mind: the author *"thinks big"* of God just as God *"thinks big"* of us. God wants our happiness and does not want us to feel small and inferior and bad. God is the friend of life – and as a friend of life he wants us to live in happiness. So now the story in our **gospel** with **Jesus** and **Zacchaeus** (Luke 19,1-10) receives a new aspect in its meaning for us: Jesus sees Zacchaeus on his tree and Jesus offers a new beginning to the life of Zacchaeus. Jesus offers a new chance to Zacchaeus through his presence, through his respect and love. This is the way God deals with our mistakes or: – if you prefer the religious jargon – this is the way God deals with our sins. **This** is the God I would like to believe in, this is the God I would like to talk of and live with and celebrate.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Children's Liturgy during Mass TODAY

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 October 30th: 143

Collection: All Saints: €380.70

Eucharistic Minister Training

Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry!

Eucharistic Minister Training on January 14th and/or 21st, 2017 from 09:30 – 18:00 h and continued over three weekends at the Conference Center of the Kath. Academy, Hannoversche Str. 5B, 10115 Berlin-Mitte.

Applicants must be approved by Fr. Sylvester. All registrations must be completed before 30 November 2016.

Good command of the German language is necessary. Contact Fr. Sylvester (fadasyvester@yahoo.com) for additional details.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual dinner held on Saturday, November 26th in the Fellowship Hall.

Turkey, potatoes, corn and lots of other goodies provided.

Sign your family up to attend so we know how much to prepare and plan to bring a dish (salad, side or desert) to share with the community.

To help defray the expense we will have a donation jar in the Fellowship Hall on the Sunday's leading up to this dinner.

Also, you are invited to volunteer to help in one of the following ways:

- Set-up of tables and benches and decoration of the hall
- Preparation of the food. We will need volunteers to cook one or more turkey breasts and others to help set out the foods for all to enjoy.
- Clean-up crew. After the dinner put the tables/benches away, make sure the hall and kitchen are clean and ready for Sunday.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship hall after Mass for volunteers to make themselves known.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- November 11th – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 18:00 h. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- November 13th – All Saints Council meets in the conference room after Mass.
- November 20th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 20th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 25th – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 17:00 h. Volunteers to help with the tree and church decorations should contact Konrad Giersdorf.
- November 26th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** – in the Fellowship Hall from 17:00 h onward. Please volunteer with Konrad Giersdorf. See the announcement to the left for more details.
- December 4th –
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
 - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
 - **Friends of All Saints Verein membership meeting** at 11:15 h. see the agenda on the bulletin board next to the sacristy. Please renew your membership if you have not done so (include name and address).
- December 24th - **Annual Children's Christmas pageant and Mass** beginning at 15:30 h. We are looking for Mary and Joseph; shepherds, wise men and many others! You do not have to attend All Saints to participate. Watch for additional details including dates for fitting of costumes and practice dates and times. Adults volunteers needed to make this annual tradition a raging success. Inquire in the church office.

November 13th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Family Brinda • 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