

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

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

January 28th 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 863): Deut 18:15-20 • Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 • 1 Cor 7:32-35 • Mk 1:21-28 (G)

Welcome to our 10:00 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Helga Beck • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Madeline & Samantha Ruckeis • Hospitality: Alicia Ching •
Designated collection: Bible Sunday

Answering God's Invitations at Once

The word that struck me in the Gospel of today is the little word "at once", unfortunately replaced by the rather vague word "then" in our liturgical books. Jesus calls the fishermen Simon and Andreas and "at once they left their nets and followed him". There is a sense of urgency in this scene. The Kingdom God Jesus had preached about is something so important that it can't wait. Everything else is secondary. It requires an immediate answer. Usually we don't take such an important decision that changes life completely in a hurry.

Supposing Peter would have answered Jesus: "Thanks for the invitation. Let me go home and discuss it with my wife." She would probably have said: "Are you crazy? Who is going to provide the food for our children? And what about me?" And had Peter consulted the village Rabbi, he probably would have said something like this: "We don't know this fellow Jesus. His statements are sometimes a bit unbalanced. Wait till we have more information about him." Had Peter followed his reason and not the intuition of his heart, his story would not have been told this Sunday morning.

The first reading of today tells a very different story. It is about a prophet by the name Jonas who also gets a call and also seems to answer immediately. But the reading leaves out the most important part of the story, namely that Jonas goes indeed to the harbour, but then he takes a ship sailing in the opposite direction. He simply runs away from God's call. Don't we often react like Jonas when God sends us a gentle invitation? We tend to push it aside and do something else.

Last Sunday we heard about another reaction to God's call. In John's Gospel Andrew asks Jesus: "Where do you live?" He wants to find out first who Jesus is before committing himself. Usually that is a wise thing to do before taking an important decision. Get more information, consult other people about it, take time to think and pray about it, go through a process of discernment.

While this is prudent in most cases, there are situations, which call for an immediate reaction. And if we do not grasp the chance there and then, it passes never to come again. Here is an example. On his flight from Chile to Peru last week, Pope Francis was served by two stewards, a man and a lady. Looking at the man the Pope pointed to the lady and asked: "Is this your wife?" When the steward said yes, the Pope continued the conversation. "Are you married?" "Yes, but only in the registrar's office." "Why did you not marry in Church?" "Well, the church we wanted to marry in was destroyed by an earthquake." In his spontaneous way the Pope surprised them with the invitation to get married then and there on the plane." And so, it happened. If they had hesitated and insisted to consult first their families, this opportunity to be married by the Pope would have never happened again. In some situations, it is now or never. If Peter and Andrew had not responded at that moment, Jesus may simply have passed on.

Such occasions, where we have to decide at once or miss our chance, happen rarely. But there are little invitations and inspirations through which God calls us almost on a daily basis. We see someone in need and have the feeling: I should go and help that poor person. If you do not do it on the spot, you may never meet that person again. Or something says in you: I should write that difficult letter now, but then you procrastinate and escape into other occupations and forget all about it. Or you may go to your work in the morning and you feel a subtle urge to lift up your heart in prayer to God for a moment. If you do not respond at once, that chance may never come back during the rest of your busy day.

Maybe we could try to become more aware of these little invitations we receive and like Peter and Andrew respond at once.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 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: January 21st: 83

Collection: All Saints: €268.69, Family Sunday: €22.00

Plan for the whole family to join us to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th Mass at 5 p.m. Dinner beginning at 6 p.m.



Potluck, music, dancing and good conversation. Make sure you block this date for our March get together



Scout Sunday on February 25th

For over 100 years, Scout programs have instilled in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

On Scout Sunday our scouts will serve as the Altar Servers, Lector, Greeters, Ushers and will provide our after-Mass hospitality. To volunteer for any of these positions please contact Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com.)



It's time for a FIESTA!

Boys and Girls – Join in the Mexican tradition of the breaking of the piñata. Tradition has it that the person who finds the baby Jesus (or trinket) in the Rosca on

Three Kings Day must hold a party no later than 6 weeks after Christmas. In this case, All Saints will be having our fiesta after Mass on February 18th in the Fellowship Hall.

Please take this copy of the bulletin and use it to spread the word about the All Saints Community

Mark your calendars:

- February 11th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 18th – **Celebration of Rosca de Reyes** after Mass in Fellowship Hall – Children come and take your swing at our piñata.
- February 18th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- February 24th – **All Saints Youth Event** – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Movie night – Cars 3**. Free soda and popcorn.
- February 25th – **Scout Sunday** Boy and Girl Scouts serve at all levels during Mass
- February 25th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- February 25th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- March 10th – **English Speaking Mission Day** – at Rosenkranz-Basilika (Kielerstr.11, 12163 (Steglitz) Berlin) from 6:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin and on our website for additional information which is coming soon.
- March 3rd – **Child Protection Training for the English-Speaking-Mission** meets at St. Bernard from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- March 4th – **Combined Confirmation Class** meets at St Bernard's from 4:45 – 6:45 p.m.
- March 11th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- March 11th – **All Saints Council** meets in the small conference room after Mass at 11:15 a.m.

Check for the latest "News" at the **All Saints website** (<http://www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml>) or visit All Saints on Facebook: **All Saints Catholic Community Berlin**

Visit the **English-Speaking-Mission (ESM) Website** to learn more about what is happening in the ESM: <http://www.english-mission-berlin.de/>

February 4th, 10:00 pm: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Felber

Lector: Jennifer Petersen • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellan • 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