

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

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

April 15th, 2018 – Third Sunday of Easter

Readings (Missal no. 830): Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 • Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 • Jn 2:1-5 • Lk 24:35-48 (W)

Welcome to our 10:00 a.m. Mass. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Tom FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •
- Greeter: Andreas Urechia • Altar Servers: Tom & Brenden FitzPatrick, Konrad Giersdorf, Buck Chisolm •
- Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Catholic Daycare Equipment •

Second Sunday of Easter – Sunday of Divine Mercy

As you know, in my sermons I like to develop with you the implications of our Biblical texts for our everyday lives. Now, the readings after Easter overflow with implications of Jesus' resurrection for our everyday lives. It is no accident that today's Gospel from John is always on the Sunday after Easter, always on the Sunday of Divine Mercy, no matter if we are in cycle A B or C. The modern Christian community established this order of the readings for Mass. So, our modern Christian community believes that John's insights into the resurrection of Jesus should be in the forefront of those implications for our everyday lives. These stories playing in "the upper room" in Jerusalem are even more significant because John, the evangelist, originally ended his Gospel with them. Biblical scholars are all convinced that the last chapter, Chapter 21, was added much later.

The one thing where all authors of our Christian sacred books agree: our lives should drastically change because of Jesus' resurrection. Luke demonstrates this in the Acts passage we just heard: *"The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other ... no one went in need of anything"* (Acts 4:32-35). This unique action of "sharing everything" was how the apostles told everyone in a very powerful way that the Lord Jesus was now alive. (Acts 4:33). If Jesus is alive among us, then everything changes - including the way we look at everyone around us.

Of course, this transformation of our way of looking at the world doesn't come without pain - transformation always means to leave things behind. That is why the author of the first Letter of St John mentions that our teacher *"Jesus Christ came by the water of baptism and by the blood of his death! He was not only baptized, but he bled and died."* The purpose of the verse is to tell that Jesus was truly human and that he really died: "blood" in this context refers to Jesus' suffering and death – yes, Jesus was truly human and he really died.

We not only experience life here in the image of "water" through him, we also experience pain and suffering and dying and death. Nowhere is this pain clearer than in today's Gospel. In John's Gospel, Jesus begins his "Easter Sunday night appearance" by showing his disciples "his hands and his side;" an obvious reference to his wounds. Though he wishes his followers, "Peace!" it is a peace which comes only to those willing to suffer in order to achieve this peace. What form does that suffering for the friends of Jesus normally take? Listen carefully to what the risen Jesus says: *"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."* (John 20:22s).

By the fact that this is in one of our Gospels, it's clear our Biblical authors wanted their communities to reflect on the power they shared as the Body of Christ. Of course, knowing the teachings and example of the Gospel, there's no way any Christian author would ever expect any Christian, any friend of Jesus, to retain someone's sins. That part of Jesus' statement was to remind them that their *lack of forgiveness* has just as deep an effect in the lives of others as their *actual forgiveness*. No wonder the well-known proclamation of faith of Thomas also revolves around the wounds of Jesus.

In the case of Jesus, you are giving yourself over to someone who achieves life by suffering and even by dying because he is one of us. But suffering does not have the final say in his life – suffering does not have the final say in our lives. Death does not have the last word as long as we stand together as a community of friends of Jesus. It is God's mercy that has the last word, God's unending love for each and every one of us..

cf. fosilonline.com/files/karban_and_braxton_and_rebuttals.html#roger1

The April newsletter is available on the bookcase outside the office.



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: April 8th: 94

Collection: All Saints: €226.24



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.

Mark your calendar:

- April 21st – **All Saints Youth/Family Event – Movie night.** 6:00 p.m. featuring *The Sandlot*. Please: RSVP vhansen980@hotmail.com
- April 22nd – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- May 5th - **Spring Family Bazaar** from 8 a.m. until about 3 p.m. This is one of two annual fundraising events for All Saints. Volunteers sought to help with this event. Please speak with Heide Doblhofer.
- May 5th – **All Saints Youth/Family Event** - Details to be announced.
- May 6th – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- May 13th - **Spring All Saints Family BBQ** in the Fellowship Hall and garden after Mass.
- May 27th - **First Holy Communion Mass** at 11 a.m. at St. Bernard's
- June 9th – **All Saints Youth/Family Event** - Details to be announced.
- June 30th - **English Speaking Mission Day** – at St. Bernard's (Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin) from 6:00 p.m. Please watch the bulletin and our website for additional information coming soon.

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



Spring Potluck BBQ - After Mass on May 13th

Please join us for our annual All Saints Community Spring BBQ Potluck starting 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 and in the coming weeks.

Child Protection Training in English

A course is being offered at St Bernard's on 16 June (10:30 to 17:00) for members of the ESM who may wish to teach or be a substitute teacher for our Youth Religious Ministry (First Holy Communion, Children's Liturgy of the Word and Confirmation).

Seating is limited to 25 so if you would like to attend please email b.chisolm@gmx.de and we will reserve a seat for you.

April 22nd, 10:00 a.m.: Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr.

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Andreas Urechia • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: Karen Castellon • 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: GENODE33PAX