

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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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

December 16th, 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal 791: Zep 3:14-18 • Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 • 1 Phil 4:4-7, 8-11 • Lk 3:10-18)

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

- Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Beata McGreal • Designated collection: All Saints •

Paul invites us to discover the risen Jesus in our lives

The vast majority of our Sacred Scriptures were composed decades, even centuries after the events they tell took place. The distance between the events and the biblical text provided their authors with something very valuable: the ability to interpret those events through the lens of later events and of later experiences, a perspective different from the people who actually experienced these events.

The author of the book of **Baruch** wrote his book in the first century before Christ. He looks back through the centuries at the return of the Israelites from the Babylonian Exile. This exile had taken place in the fifth century before Christ. The author describes this event, the return from the exile, in majestic terms: "*Jerusalem, take off the clothes that show you are sad and mourning. Put on the beautiful clothes of God's bright glory and never take them off! Wear the robe of God's justice and the crown of his eternal power.*" (Baruch 5:1-9)

Of course, when the first Israelites actually returned from exile 500 years before, Jerusalem was just a mass of ruins. Rather than spend the rest of their lives rebuilding their state and their houses in Jerusalem, most Jews opted to stay in Babylon. The author of Baruch obviously saw something in their return that few of the original returnees from Babylon to Jerusalem noticed.

In a parallel way, **Luke** wants his readers to reflect on the significance of the ministry of John the Baptist. Luke wrote more than 50 years after the public appearance of John the Baptist. John the Baptist not only had a great impact on his contemporaries, he also played an important role in the decision of Jesus to go public: "*If John hadn't made his move, Jesus wouldn't have made his.*" John the Baptist used the quote from Isaiah about "*a voice crying in the wilderness.*" Luke uses this quotation to anticipate the coming of Jesus: "*In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'*" What John the Baptist declared in his own context - the wilderness, the desert... - is re-interpreted by Luke in a Christian context. Only years after John's original proclamation did the followers of Jesus find this deeper significance in the words of John.

Baruch and **Luke** are not so much concerned with providing a history lesson for their readers: they want to help them understand the history, the life, the circumstances in which they are actually living. Past events have a deeper meaning - the events of our everyday lives also have a deeper meaning - as long as we know how to interpret them.

That's precisely Paul's message in today's passage from his letter to the community in **Philippi** (1:4-6, 8-11): "*I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.*" Paul wants his community to reflect more and more on the experiences of the risen Jesus in their lives. I am convinced that we, too, can have experiences of the risen Christ in our everyday lives: every time we feel that something hopeless turns into good, every time we experience that we receive something without "deserving" it, every time we are loved or can share love. These can be experiences of the change the risen Jesus brings into our lives. I think there is not much sense in only **reading** about other peoples' experiences and their **reflection** on them, even if they are in our Scriptures: let us make these experiences ourselves – let us discover the risen Lord in our lives, in the lives of others, in our world.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

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 December 9th: 85

Collection: All Saints: € 447.89, For Orphans: € 22.20



Three Kings Day Celebration

We will have a special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass on **Sunday, January 6th**. Will you be the lucky one to find the special item in the very special cake? If so, you get to be the King or Queen of the day!



The Blessed Sacrament Chapel turns 61 on December 17th!

For all those traveling over the Christmas holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2018! Have a safe trip and see you in the New Year!

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board! Mark your calendars:

- December 22nd 6:00 p.m. – Advent Penitential Service at St. Bernard's. Multiple confessors available to hear individual confessions.
- December 24th 3 p.m. – Children's Christmas Pageant 3 p.m. NO MASS
- December 24th Midnight Mass – Caroling begins at 9:30 p.m. with Mass at 10:00 p.m. Fr. Felber is our celebrant.
- December 30th - **Holy Mass at All Saints** at 10:00 a.m.
- January 1st – Holy Mass at St. Bernard's, Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin, at 11:00 a.m.
- January 6th – Special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass in the Fellowship Hall.

During Advent dates and times of events may change. 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*

This years Children's Christmas Pageant has been cancelled because of logistical/planning reasons. We hope you will join us for the evening Mass starting at 9.30 p.m. with Christmas carols.

Volunteers sought to become Eucharistic Ministers

Perhaps you have already served as a Eucharistic Minister in a previous parish or would like to explore becoming one.

The ESM will offer a class in English during January 2019. If you are interested please inquire in the office or speak with any of our Eucharistic Ministers.

December 23rd, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Heide Doblhofer • Designated collection: All Saints •

December 24th, 9:30 pm: Christmas Carols

December 24th, 10:00 pm: Midnight Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

- Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: TBA • Hospitality: NONE •
- 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