

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

### **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Readings (Missal no. 803): Isa 60:1-6 • Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 • Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 • Mt 2:1-12**

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

- Lector: Tom FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Three Kings Day • Designated collection: Carol Singers •

#### **The feast of the Holy Family invites us to reflect upon the quality of our relations**

Christmas is the feast for the families. We give presents to express our love and respect and appreciation for someone. Mainly because we really want to express these feelings, sometimes we give presents only because we feel obliged to. We spend time with people we love, who are important to us, who need us. People we meet on a daily basis like our family or people we see once a year – on Christmas we spend time preferably within our family.

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and Jesus are in the center of our attention on this Sunday after Christmas. Why do we speak of the “Holy Family”? The first question is: are they really a **family**? Or is Joseph just accompanying Mary and Jesus for a certain time, just to ensure the upbringing of Jesus? Does family have to do with biological parenthood, are we family because we are sons and daughters of someone, or fathers and mothers to someone? Is family really only defined by parenthood? Or is the concept of family much larger, including partnership, the network of my relations... - a concept far beyond marriage and parenthood.

In this broader definition, where the main point to identify a family would be the quality of the relations, I would say that Joseph, Mary and Jesus were a family.

And then, second question: why do we call them “**Holy**” Family? Are they holy because they had to flee their home country? Are they holy because Joseph stayed with Mary in spite of the unclear origin of Mary’s child? Was Jesus the only son Mary had – so no children with her husband Joseph? I shall try to explain, why I think that we really can speak of the Holy Family: It has something to do with the quality of their relations. The relation between Joseph and Mary has undergone a deep crisis: unclear origin of the child, flee to a foreign country, material hardship and privation, persecution of the child, unclear future for the couple and their son. And yet, *their relation* had matured through all the phases of this yearlong crisis. Also, their *relation to God* had become more mature: the relation they had as individuals and their common relation as a couple to God. More and more they listen to what God tells them, Mary from the beginning, Joseph more and more in the running of the years. From a human point of view, they needed time to see who their child was. They needed time to recognize in him the fruit of the Spirit of God, to see in him God’s messenger for the salvation of humankind, God’s messenger to show his solidarity with humankind. To recognize who your partner is, who the child is – this is a question of relations and of time and of trust. And the quality of the relations in the Holy Family is extraordinary: on the human level it is really marvelous how Joseph and Mary interact, how they stick together as a couple in spite of the extreme burden and pressure they are subject to. And on the religious level they are more and more aware that God is the inner center of reference for their family. This inner center keeps them together and gives them strength to withstand all the exterior and interior crises their couple has to endure.

So here we can ask ourselves: What quality do our relations have? Is God this inner center of our relations, do we see the others as linked to God, as images of God? The cohesion, the solidarity within the Holy Family is challenging. Would my relations really grow and mature in times of crises and burden as they did for Mary and Joseph? This is one of the challenging messages of Christmas: Christmas invites us to reflect about the quality of our relations. It invites us to find out, to identify the power that makes our relations live, the power that gives them their quality.

**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 30<sup>th</sup>: 54

Collection: All Saints: € 121.13



## Three Kings Day Celebration

We will have a special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass TODAY.

Will you be the lucky one to find the special item in the Galette des Rois? **If so, you get to be the King or Queen of the day!**



Join us to watch **Turbo**, a 2018 DreamWorks release on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Fee of €3 includes a hot dog, chips and drink. We plan to offer free popcorn to make the evening special.

All we ask is ask that movie attendees help us straighten up the Fellowship Hall when we finish.

Families are welcome and we should be done by 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends!

So that we are sure to have sufficient snacks and drink please RSVP by January 15<sup>th</sup> to Vanessa (vhansen980@hotmail.com) so we know how many to prepare for.



## Become a Hospitality Volunteer

Our loyal group of hospitality volunteers are looking for some "new blood" to support this important ministry.

Consider you, or your family, hosting a hospitality once a quarter! That's only 2 - 3 hours four times a year.

What is involved? Come about 9 a.m. to make coffee and put out the cakes and refreshments which we have already purchased. After Mass stay and get the Fellowship hall neat/ready for the next group and ensure all our coffee cups/ plates are in the dish washer.

Signup in the office or ask for more information.



On Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> we will take down the Christmas tree and decorations. Will you help us?? If so, please be at the church at 5:00 p.m. and depending on how many helping hands show up we should be done by 7:00 p.m. or earlier.

## Holy Father's prayer intentions for January 2019

**Evangelization - Young People:** That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.



## World Peace Day 2019

Pope Francis message for the celebration of World Peace Day of January 1<sup>st</sup> may be found if you use the search string: **World Peace Day 2019 Pope.**

## January 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: African Catechists•

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