

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: 1st Friday 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

September 29th, 2019, Twenty- Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 930) Amos 6:1, 4-7 • Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 • 1Tim 6:11-16 • Luke 16:19-31

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

• Lector: Zachary Chitwood • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog •
Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints

Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends – G&P 927

The Gospel text is rather puzzling (Luke 16:1-13). It is about the dishonest steward. He faces dismissal and marks down the debts owed to his master by various of his master's debtors. He does this in order that once he is fired these men would be obligated to help him. When the master finds out about his actions, the master unexpectedly praises the steward for his dishonesty.

By telling this parable, we might be left with the idea that Jesus too is condoning and excusing the actions of this dishonest steward. But we know that this cannot be; Jesus would never approve of dishonesty or double-dealing. Actually, when we take a closer look at the text, we see that Jesus draws a conclusion from the story.

Jesus says: *"The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd and smart. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd and smarter in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light."* (v.8) By this we understand that Jesus is contrasting the actions of the *children of this world* (the "pagans"), with those of the *children of light* who are obviously the Christians. Jesus does not want us to be like the pagans but he wants us to be *just as shrewd and smart as they are*; but in our case he wants us to be shrewd and smart in relation to those things which will ensure that we reach heaven, in relation to those things that make us friends of Jesus.

As we have so often noted, Jesus wants us to acquire these virtues of love of God and love of neighbor because it is our practice of the virtues that will enable us to gain entry into his Kingdom, that will enable us to be near to God one day. So, what we need to do is to put our whole energy into acquiring these *virtues that bring us closer to God, closer to Jesus*. Just as the pagans put their whole energy into realizing *their* values: sometimes material success, sometimes fame or status, or just a very comfortable life.

Luke follows up this parable with a few sayings of Jesus - the topic of this chapter is the relationship between the Christian and the material world. The first of these sayings is this: *"Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home."* (v.9) Here it is clear: Jesus is speaking about the poor. He is telling us to use our money not to find worldly advantage but rather spiritual advantage. We know that one of the essential beliefs of the Gospel is that the poor have a privileged place in his Kingdom; so, therefore, using our money to help them will have the effect of enabling us to enter the Kingdom more easily.

Every Christian should be sensitive to the needs of the poor. Of course, it is very difficult to know who the real poor are. What Jesus is telling us is that we need to make a decisive choice in life. We need to choose between the world and the spirit. Yes, have material things! seek success in work! live a comfortable life! But be cautious of these things: understand well that they are not an end in themselves. Realize that the things of the spirit need to be given priority. Make more room for prayer; attend to the needs of the poor; do your best to live an honorable life; put more energy into acquiring the virtues than you put into increasing your income. This is how to live the Christian life, a life as a friend of Jesus.

As Jesus says: *"You cannot be the slave of two masters."* So, choose your master. Make your choice and stick to it.

cf. homilies.net/E-19-09-22.aspx

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 September 22nd: 68

Collection: All Saints: €100.77 Caritas: €46.68



All Saints Church Council Elections - Call for Candidates!

There is one open seat on the All Saints Council. We are in need of a volunteer to join the council for our monthly meeting and help to guide our activities at All Saints.

Interested then please see Buck Chisolm or Konrad Giersdorf.

Special Halloween Hospitality

After Mass on October 27th we will have a special Hallows Eve Hospitality with suitable beverages and ghoulish treats!



Young children are welcome to knock on the door to the room full of ghosts, goblins and zombies and say "trick or treat" to win a sweet.

But, only knock on the door if you are really brave!



Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

We are seeking several new volunteers to join our choir. If you feel the calling, please speak with Johannes Wrembek



**Our volunteers made
the Fall Family BBQ a
big success!**

Many 'Thanks' for all those who helped make the Fall BBQ a big success. The list is long but includes: Konrad Giersdorf, Megan & Brooks Spencer, Beate & Eddie McGreal and Jost Ruckeis (our grill meister). If we did not list your name you know that you helped and we thank you very much.



Congratulation to Dirk Verheijen who was ordained a DEACON on Saturday Sept 28th at 10:00 a.m.



Did you know that All Saints is run entirely by volunteers?

We pride ourselves that we are a self-supporting parish, but, new-helping hands are always appreciated! Please consider joining one of the volunteer groups that make the community work.

Would you like to help with the offering and acting as an usher during Mass? Are you 16 years or older and think being a Lector is your cup of tea? Altar Servers are always welcomed! The choir is always looking for more members too! Finally, hosting the hospitality hour is a great way for your family to contribute together!

If you are interested, you can fill in a form located outside the office. We will be in touch to give you additional details and help you join in our volunteer efforts.

September 6th, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

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