

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

August 24, 2014 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23 • Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8 • Romans 11:33-36 • Matthew 16:13-20

Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Beginning of the School Year Blessing

Dear Lord, we ask for our blessing as we begin this new school year. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our hearts and minds to new friends and teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies, courage to accept new opportunities and inspire us to do our best this year. Amen.

To Live is to Learn

We usually read about scandals in the boulevard press, not in the Bible. But the Gospel can easily scandalize us. We know Jesus as someone who is welcoming to everyone, who invites the marginalized people to his table and does not exclude anyone from his company. The way Jesus treats the Canaanite woman is very unusual, to say the least. The poor woman pleads with him for her sick daughter but Jesus rudely refuses to help her. His final remark comparing the Israelites to the children of God's household and the pagans to dogs is definitely offensive.

Scripture scholars have been struggling with this passage. Was Jesus only pretending to turn her down in order to test her faith? Or was he in the beginning of his ministry truly convinced that his mission was limited to the people of Israel? If so, he then saw himself in line with the prophets whose vocation was to bring the people back to the abandoned Yahwe as John the Baptist had done. Maybe it took Jesus time to realize that his mission was not only to Israel but the whole of humanity. And the extraordinary faith of this pagan Canaanite woman opened his eyes to recognize that gentiles, non-Jews, were also called to the kingdom of God.

Human life, from the day we are born until we die, is one long learning process. To be human is to learn, to adapt to new situations, to understand oneself, the world around us and the ways of God ever more deeply. If Jesus was truly human, gaining new insights and growing in wisdom were also a part of his life. He did not know everything from the start. He had to learn.

The Gospels point to such moments when Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding. As a teenager, during his first pilgrimage to the temple and again during his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus had a mystical experience of God being so intimate and close that he spoke of Him as his true "Abba", Father. Pagans who had greater faith than his own disciples astonished him and made him realize that they, too, were loved by his "Abba" and called to share God's life.

Jesus is a model for us in his openness to recognize new realities, to see God's Spirit at work in unexpected ways. There was a time when we thought that only Catholics would go to heaven till one day we met men and women of great faith, who were Protestants. And we realized that they were maybe nearer to the Spirit of Christ than we were ourselves. With the horrors committed by Muslim fanatics in the Middle East, we may be inclined to look at all Muslims as dangerous and violent, unless we meet Muslims who radiate great goodness and holiness. Are we – like Jesus – ready to see God at work where we did not expect him and accept that God is so much greater than our heart?

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are **visiting All Saints for the first time**, please introduce yourself at the end of Mass so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake after Mass in the Community Hall!

Mark your Calendars

- The **Annual Fall Bazaar** is taking place on **September 6th from 9 am to 3 pm**. You can register by either stopping at the office after Mass, sending an email to allsaintsberlin@t-online.de or calling 030 862 03 636. Please leave a message - your call will be returned. The cost is one homemade cake and 10 euros. Volunteers to help set-up, clean-up or sell coffee & cake are always welcome!
- Boy Scout Troop 46 would like to invite the All Saints Community to their **60th anniversary celebration** on **Saturday, September 13th at 5:30 pm** at Hüttenweg.
- We will be having our annual **Fall Welcome BBQ** on **Sunday, September 14th** directly after Mass. Please bring a side-dish to share.

Many of the **designated collections** are for special purposes of the Archdiocese of Berlin. All Saints supports these initiatives and transfers this money in full. However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support from the Archdiocese. 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 printed below. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Friends of All Saints Verein: Bank Account No.: 6001669018, BLZ 370 601 93, Pax-Bank eG
BIC: GENODED1PAX IBAN: DE15 37060193 6001669018

Our celebrants: Jesuits and White Fathers			
All Saints Coordinators	Altar Servers	Katharine Doeringer, Buck Chisolm	03328/335725, 86203785
	Bulletin, Website	Tamás Meggyes, Vanessa Hansen	811 06 33; 0157 78 95 9845
	Eucharistic Ministers	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72
	Greeters	Buck Chisolm	0152 56301776
	Hospitality	Levina Menjares, Lupita Wilhelm	466 09 788, 305 82 45
	Lectors	Johannes Ploog	0160 98 28 9515
	Music Director	Johannes Wrembek	341 31 90
	Office, Treasurer	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72

All Saints Council: Konrad Giersdorf (Co-Chair) * Vanessa Hansen (Co-Chair) * Rudolf Hausmann * Nora Bungert * Tamás Meggyes * Marianne Sihotang

Friends of All Saints Verein: Howard Eyth, Mike Hoth, Lupita Wilhelm, Heide Doblhofer, Eddie McGreal

Rector Ecclesiae: Fr. Gillissen, English-Speaking Cath. Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, Berlin, Tel: 8132026

Boy Scout Troop 46: All Saints is the proud Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost." *True to Scouting Values for over 55 years* (www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com)

Directions to All Saints:

- **Subway:** U 3, Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or S 1, Zehlendorf, then bus.
- **Bus:** Bus 285: stop Am Waldfriedhof (last stop, 2-min. walk); bus 110 or 623: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk).
- **Car:** A115 Avus highway, Hüttenweg exit or Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>)

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