

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.

October 5, 2014 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7 • Psalm 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 • Philippians 4:6-9 • Matthew 21:33-43

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Herbert Gillessen

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Renée Menjares, Beate Hausmann

• Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Conrad Chisolm, Aidan Brinda •

Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection today is for All Saints.

An Important Synod

On October 5th, the synod on the family will open in Rome. It may become an important event in the life of the Catholic Church for two reasons. It can redefine the way the world's bishops in union with the Pope give guidance to the Church on pastoral issues and, at the same time, bring greater clarity into some thorny questions concerning sexuality, marriage and family life.

We have had many synods since Vatican II. But so far they were merely consultative, i.e. suggesting ideas to the Pope which could be used or discarded at his own discretion. It seems that Pope Francis intends to make the bishops' synod an instrument of "collegiality", i.e. Pope and bishops exercising their authority together. For centuries, synods were the common method for deciding on important issues in the Church and they still are in the Orthodox and the Anglican churches. If the governance of the Catholic Church were exercised less through the Vatican administration, as is the case today, and more directly by the college of bishops in union with the Pope, this could have a great impact of ecumenical relationships with other churches.

In preparation for the Synod on the family, Pope Francis asked for a consultation not only of bishops' conferences, but also of the laity, Christians who are the most concerned with family life as they are living it every day. The consultation showed very clearly one thing: the Church's teaching and the life of most ordinary Christians are far apart in a number of important points. As those who took the trouble of answering the lengthy questionnaire are likely not to be lapsed, but practicing Catholics, their opinion has to be taken seriously. The synod will have to analyze the reasons and propose ways how the gap can be narrowed. There are in particular three areas where most Catholics no longer follow the Church's teaching: birth control, sex before marriage, and divorce and remarriage.

The synod faces a formidable task. On the one hand, the Church cannot change what is Christ's clear teaching. The word of God is not a matter of opinion. On the other hand, if so many serious Christians no longer see the teaching of the Church as reasonable and relevant, something is wrong somewhere. Is it merely that they have succumbed to the "Zeitgeist", the spirit of the world? Is it that the conditions of life have changed so drastically that some rules of old do not make sense any longer in the modern world? Has the Church failed to communicate Christ's message to a new world culture?

The synod fathers and mothers will have to make a serious spiritual discernment. For that they need our prayers. So Pope Francis has asked the whole Church to pray this week for the upcoming synod. We think back on how God's spirit inspired the bishops at the Second Vatican Council and how the Spirit inspired time and again the college of cardinals to elect unexpected. We have good reason to believe that the same Spirit will help the synod with propositions that are both faithful to the Gospel and relevant to the life of today's married people and Christian families.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on September 28th: 75

Collection: Friends €162.12

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 next **Children's Liturgy** is taking place on **Sunday, October 12th** during Mass. Following, we will have a special mini-pumpkin display during Hospitality. Every child will receive a lucky number and will receive his or her mini-pumpkin to take home!
- Please be sure to read about our **new English-speaking interfaith youth group: LIFT (Living In Faith Together)**! There will be a **Ghana Night** on **Saturday, October 18th** for older kids and a **Halloween Night** on **October 25th** which will include two parallel programs for elementary school kids according to age groups. These events are open to children of **ALL** faiths. So please spread the news!
- On **Sunday, October 12th** we will have a **special collection** for the refugees in the Middle East who are suffering from the atrocities by the Islamic State. Please be generous!

Notes

- A great thank you to Jenny and her helpers for organizing our **Children's Liturgy**. Conveying Christ's message to the children is a valuable contribution to our religious life.
- Many thanks to Vanessa and all contributors for organizing the **Fall Harvest Celebration** last Sunday! This event added a new color to All Saints' activities.

October 12th, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr Wolfnag Felber SJ

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Renée Menjares

• Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Karoline Stein, Conrad Chisolm •

Hospitality: Beate McGreal • Designated collection on October 12th is for Middle East.

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. We are completely **dependent** upon your donations. 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 0633; 0157 78959845
	Eucharistic Ministers	Heide Doblhofer	832 6272
	Greeters	Buck Chisolm	0152 56301776
	Children's Liturgy	Jenny Gebhardt	843 10073
	Lectors	Johannes Ploog	0160 98289515
	Music Director	Johannes Wrembek	341 3190
	Office, Treasurer	Heide Doblhofer	832 6272

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. Gillessen, 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.