

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.

May 3, 2015 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings (*Missalette* p 90 et seq.): Acts 9:26-31 • Ps 22:26-32 • 1 Jn 3:18-24 • Jn 15:1-8

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

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Celso Menjares, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar server: Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Pro Vita

Jesus is the child of God par excellence

The **first letter of St John** (1 John 3:1-2) contains one of the most important and best-known lines in Scripture: "*Dear friends, we are already God's children, right now, and we can't even imagine what it is going to be like later on. But we do know that when God comes we will be like God, as a result of seeing God as God really is*". What does it mean to be "*to be like God*"? As God's children now, and having a promise of being more like God in the future, what can we expect? I presume no one has a precise idea of what such divine similarity entails. Luke in the Acts of the apostles and John the Evangelist take for granted one thing: Jesus of Nazareth is God's child *par excellence*. So by reflecting on the special titles Luke and John give to Jesus, we might understand something of what is expected of us as God's children. The apostle Peter defends his cure of the crippled beggar (Acts 4:8-12) by telling his accusers that he is simply continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ the Nazorean.

Often we think that salvation only revolves around someday getting to heaven. Yes, this is a significant part of biblical salvation, but only a part of it. Our Christian authors in the Bible presumed Jesus is saving us right here and now, long before we enter the pearly heavenly gates. In our passage, Peter, as someone who imitates the risen Jesus, saves the beggar here and now. Peter saves the beggar by releasing him from the paralysis that completely controls his life. As friends of Jesus, we are committed to becoming saving co-workers with Jesus who is God's child. We can do this by committing ourselves to helping remove the paralysis of others, which stops people from being the individuals God wishes them to be. Today we know: psychological paralysis is often more painful and debilitating than bodily paralysis.

People may have caused pain in our lives. This may lead to a pain and a paralysis in their lives. One way of helping them overcome this paralysis might be to forgive them. Our unwillingness to forgive might be the cause of their paralysis. Perhaps that is why Jesus' consoling image of the good shepherd (**John 10:11-18**) quickly became so popular and frequently appeared in the writings of the early "Fathers", and often was depicted in catacombs. John's Jesus assures us that we are following someone who not only knows us, but is willing to lay down his life for us. Yet we should never overlook that Jesus is on the outlook for "*other sheep that do not belong to this fold*." Though we find great security in being part of a specific Christian community, like here at All Saints, there should always be a certain unease in that security. There are always those "*out there*" who would give anything to be part of our flock. A big piece of their salvation could revolve *around our welcoming them into our community* right here and now, even if it costs us something.

It sounds great to hear ourselves called children of God, but that title comes with certain implications. cf. <http://www.fosilonline.com/index.php?pagekey=roger> [Fourth Sunday of Easter B]

Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

All Saints Annual Family Bazaar May 9th, 9 am – 3 pm

Holy Father's prayer intentions for May 2015

Universal: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on April 26: 72

Collections: Friends €205.14

Visiting All Saints for the first time? Please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from at the end of Mass so we can welcome you and join us after Mass for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!

May 10th, Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Tamás Meggyes • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Celso Menjares • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Conrad Chisolm, Thomas Donovan, Michael Donovan, Paddy Donovan
• Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: All Saints.

UPCOMING DATES

First Holy Communion at All Saints

All Saints will be offering English-language sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion starting in September 2015. First Holy Communion will be celebrated in May 2016. Parents who would like to pre-register their children are invited to contact Jenny Gebhardt (jgebhar@yahoo.de) or Vanessa Hansen (vhansen980@hotmail.com) to receive a pre-registration form. We are also taking a poll of families interested in Confirmation classes starting in September 2015. Please contact one of us, if you are interested.

MAY CROWNING, Sunday, May 10th

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all mothers! A special Sunday Mass will be celebrated on **May 10th**, preceded by a 30-minute **May Crowning** ceremony in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel starting at 9:30 AM in which the statue of Mary will be blessed and crowned with flowers. Music, a reading, short reflection and a procession will complete the ceremony. During Mass, mothers will receive a blessing and flowers to honor them. **Brian Wasileski** has kindly agreed to support on the guitar! There will be a **rehearsal on May 9th**, at 6 PM with a pizza dinner. **Children and youth of all ages** are especially welcome. Please sign up for this very special event by contacting Jenny G. (jgebhar@yahoo.de) or Vanessa H. (vhansen980@hotmail.com).

Next Children's Liturgies on Sunday May 17th & 31st

ALL SAINTS ANNUAL FAMILY BAZAAR

May 9th, 9 am – 3 pm. The fee for a space is €10 plus a cake/pack of coffee. Bring your own table. Contact the office (Heide).

We will need volunteers for set-up/break-down and volunteers for the coffee and cake table. Great opportunity for service hours.

HOSPITALITY - Hospitality takes place after Mass on Sundays thanks to the volunteers who make it happen! It is an important element of community life. Please consider volunteering for this special ministry as an individual or as a family one Sunday per semester. We need your help!

Pilgrimage to Rome - October 2015! Please see Buck or Vanessa for more info. Reserve your tickets for the audience with Pope Francis! Tickets are limited and going fast!

"Designated collections" are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, the All Saints Catholic Community 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

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>)