



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

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.

June 21, 2015 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missalette p 25 et seq.): Jb 38:1, 8-11 • Ps 107:23-26, 28-31 • 2 Cor 5:14-17 • Mk 4:35-41

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jenny Evans, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar server: Shadrach A. Nyaaba. • Hospitality: N.N., N.N. •

Designated collection: Catholic Kindertagesstätten.

Most of us demand immediate results...

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel speaks to us. Ezekiel speaks in poetic terms. He has God say: *"I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar."* (Ez 17:22-24).

The prophet Ezekiel who writes this was rejected by most of his fellow Israelites. And he consoles himself with the conviction that this small branch will one day grow into a huge tree, a majestic cedar. What group of persons is this small branch? All those who actually listen to Ezekiel and carry out God's word. This small group of believers is what biblical prophets call the "remnant", the holy rest. Many prophets begin their prophetic ministry with high hopes for success. But all are eventually forced to admit that very few of the "faithful" are even interested in hearing the word of God. Very few of them want to listen to the message the prophets are commissioned to deliver. And even fewer are interested in carrying it out.

After a while most of the prophets are convinced that only a minute number will change their lives because of the message of the prophets. So the prophets have no other choice but to develop low expectations. When we look at the prophets, we see that Ezekiel's ministry is not centered upon familiarizing his people with a catechetical list of beliefs. Ezekiel's task was to demand that his listeners live the kind of **life** that flows **from** those beliefs.

This is also true for Christians: We are invited to imitate the lifestyle of Jesus – there are many who call themselves Christians, who may even be baptized, but they have no intention to imitate Jesus. So are there too many people who call themselves Christians? Should we restrict the label "Christian" only to those who are truly 100% committed? Restrict the label to the "radical Christians" as we might call them?

As we hear in today's **second reading**, Paul knows it takes courage to *"walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Cor 5:7), it takes courage to *"live by believing and not by seeing"*. Yet Paul also knows we are eventually going to be judged only based on what we do "in the body" as he says in our reading. God looks on what we do during our lifetimes. A million good thoughts about faith do not equal one good action performed in faith. Christians are to imitate Jesus, not just think or talk about Jesus. We are gradually to become more and more like Jesus Christ – an idea very dear to Paul. What part of Jesus' life are we expected to imitate?

In **today's gospel** (Mk 4:26-34) it is the part which springs from Mark's conviction that God is working effectively right here and now in our daily lives. Mark refers to that insight whenever he talks about the *"kingdom of God"* or the *"kingdom of heaven."* Real Christians need a lot of patience. Both of today's "kingdom parables" stress that dimension of faith: the patience of farmers planting fields or the patience of the farmers sowing mustard seeds. Eventually the things we sow in faith will grow. But it will take a long time before we notice any tangible results. Few people are willing to work a lifetime focused on a distant, better

future that they cannot see, which they cannot enjoy, where they have no benefit. Most of us demand immediate results.

This leads me to think of our present Church and Vatican II. It's been two and a half generations since Vatican II began. Today only a faithful few still seem committed and engaged to carry out the reforms of Vatican II. Those who expected the council to bring instant results left years ago or are on the edge of leaving the Church. Instead of discouraging us, those who no longer come to the Church might do better to encourage us not to give up too quickly – but also to be aware of the time it takes for some seeds to grow and to bear fruit. Those who have left the Church should be encouraging us to lead a life that imitates Jesus, a life that shows the commitment of the friends and family of Jesus.

Let us pray for pope Francis and for the newly appointed bishop of Berlin that they encourage us to imitate Jesus.

cf: Roger R. Karban: http://fosilonline.com/pdf/roger/2012/karban_20120610_20120617.pdf

Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Today we have Children's Liturgy.

All Saints Summer BBQ after Mass today



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on June 14: 93

Collections: Friends €238.79

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!

June 28th, 10 am Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr Jun Ocampo SVD

Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Jenny Evans, Beate Hausmann, Celso Menjares •
Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: N.N., N.N. • Hospitality: N.N. •
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 (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 interested!

www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin

THANK YOU! The next 365 EUR donation has been transferred from our Bildungsspender fundraising account, bringing the total this year to 566 EUR! Please **CONTINUE** to support **All Saints Community Life** through our fundraising site at www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin at no extra cost. It's easy! Shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website & All Saints receives a DONATION for every transaction made!

"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>)