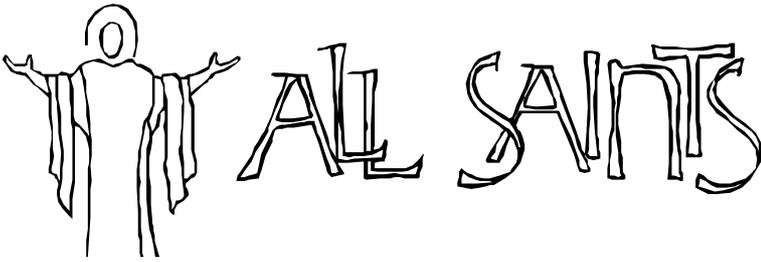


Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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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.

August 23, 2015 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 48 et seq.): Josh 24:1-2a, 15-18b • Ps 34:2-3, 16-21 • Eph 5:21-32 • Jn 6:60-69

Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

Giving himself for the life of the world

At the end of chapter six in the Gospel of St. John his listeners are deeply shocked: "This is a hard saying. Who can accept it?" Many abandon Jesus and even his closest friends are tempted to pack up and go. But Jesus simply insists on his teaching: "The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Eating human flesh seems crude, almost like cannibalism. We have to understand that John's Gospel "flesh" means "the whole human being marked by weakness and destined to die." "The word became flesh" (Jo 1:14) wants to stress that Word of God took on mortal human nature and became fully human in every aspect.

Why does John use such a strong image? He was fighting a heresy, called Docetism, which overemphasized the divinity of Christ to the detriment of his humanity. Docists taught that Jesus' body was not real, but only seemed or appeared like a body. Docetism emptied the mystery of the incarnation (God taking on in Jesus human nature; *carnis* = flesh) of its full meaning. To counter this false teaching John uses the word flesh to insist that Jesus became like us "in all things" including death.

The combined expression "flesh and blood (= life)" simply means the whole of the person. Giving his flesh and pouring out his blood signify the gift of his whole being to us. Jesus' self-giving throughout his life and in his death was not just something spiritual, it is very real, rooted in daily living. He gives himself completely, body and spirit, he shares with us his humanity and his divinity, his whole self.

Self-giving is the fundamental principle of life. Jesus' total self-giving expresses visibly who God is: self-giving love. The life of the Trinity consists in a constant mutual giving and receiving between the Father and Jesus in the Spirit of love. Creation is God continually pouring out of his love into a new reality outside himself, our world. The law of giving and receiving governs the whole process of evolution. Atoms "give themselves" to join and form molecules who join together to form living cells, and finally through their self-giving bring about nature's infinite complexity. In plants and animals this "self-giving" is not conscious, it happens automatically. In human beings self-giving becomes a conscious act of freedom. We can give ourselves freely, we can also refuse to share and close in on ourselves. Then we make ourselves the center and instead of becoming life-giving for others, we reverse the flow of self-giving love and begin to use others for our own interests. This can happen in our relationships when we become possessive or exploitative. It is obvious in many economic activities when we take unfair advantage of the work of others to accumulate riches at their expense. It can happen in all political systems, when we use power to manipulate and enslave others people. In many ways we can betray our vocation to be life-givers.

All this could seem rather theoretical and theological. But living the law of self-giving has many practical implications. We could ask ourselves at the end of each day: what have I done today to enrich somebody's life? It does not have to be some heroic deed. I can give life through a smile, an encouraging word, a helping hand, a kind gesture. In my own small way, in the "flesh" of my daily life, have I been like Jesus who gave his flesh for the life of humanity? **Fr Wolfgang Schonecke SJ**

WELCOME YOU AT ALL SAINTS!

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!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual All Saints Fall Family Bazaar Saturday, September 5 from 9 am – 3 pm Hüttenweg 46, Berlin-Dahlem

Cost for a space reservation: 10 Euros + 1 cake

Contact:

Heide Doblhofer
Tel. 8620 3636

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de



All Saints looks forward to welcoming
Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa, the new head of
the English-Speaking Mission in Berlin!

Fr. Sylvester was born in 1969 in Nigeria and was ordained in 1997. He has been in Germany since 2007 and earned his doctorate in Pastoral Theology from the University of Würzburg. He currently works in Bad Kissingen and will be moving to Berlin in the fall. We look forward to meeting you!

All Saints Annual Fall BBQ Potluck

After Mass on Sunday, September 13th
Please bring a side-dish to share!

www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin

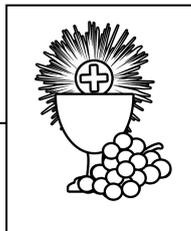
Please CONTINUE to support All Saints Community Life through our fundraising site at no extra cost. It's easy! Shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website & All Saints receives a DONATION for every transaction made!

The total this year up to now is at 1.038 Euros! THANK YOU!

First Communion & Confirmation Parents' Meeting

Sunday, August 30th after Mass.

Please contact Jenny for more
information: jgebhar@yahoo.de



"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>)