

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



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.

September 20, 2015 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 56 et seqq.): Wis 2:12, 17-20 • Ps 54:3-6,8 • Jam 3:16—4:3 • Mk 9:30-37

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Jan Stuyt SJ

Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar servers: Madeleine & Samantha Rückeis, Eleanor Leung, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Marianne Sihotang • Designated collection: Caritas

Facing suffering in life

Jesus "set his face resolutely towards Jerusalem", as Luke puts it in his Gospel, knowing full well the fate that was awaiting him there, namely suffering and death; knowing that he was the „suffering servant of Yahweh“ of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke in the first reading. When Peter tried to stop him, Jesus rebuked him almost violently. Jesus accepted suffering and invites us to do the same.

Suffering and pain come to us in all sorts of forms and shapes. Toothaches and terminal sickness, handicaps and old age, failing exams and losing a job, being mobbed and humiliated, experiencing broken promises and betrayal of trust. Every one of us gets his share of pain and suffering, some more than others. Jesus got the whole lot and with extreme intensity. The symbol of all suffering, physical, emotional, spiritual, is the cross. He accepted it "willingly", as we say in the words of the consecration, and he invites us in turn "to take up our daily cross", to "embrace it", to accept it. And he warns us of "losing our lives", wasting our life if we always run away from the cross.

Our first human reaction in the face of suffering and pain is the opposite. When I wake up with a migraine in the morning I look for a painkiller. When I feel depressed I seek relief from a therapist. When I feel abandoned by God, as Jesus did on the cross, I tend to give up on Him and stop praying. My first reaction is to run away from pain.

Over the years we have developed techniques to avoid pain. But some of these mechanisms are destructive, sometimes deadly. Drowning my problems in alcohol or other tranquilizers, be in the form of drugs, uncommitted sex or a pie-in-the-sky type of religion, will eventually destroy me. If I want to live, I will eventually have to face my problems, my failures, my losses. I will have to embrace my cross.

One destructive technique of avoiding possible pain is not to commit myself to anything or anyone. There may be many reasons why young and not so young people avoid firm commitment in their relationships. Marriage is committing my life whole-heartedly to my partner. We may avoid such total commitment for different reasons, a bad example in my own family or among friends, economic disadvantage or simply lack of trust in the future when I look at today's broken world. Not committing myself fully may also be a form of avoiding pain. The more I invest in a relationship, the greater the suffering when it fails. To minimise that possible pain we are tempted to say: Let us just try! When it works, so much the better; when we fail, it is just too bad. In the attempt to avoid pain we risk to lose, to waste our life. No commitment, no self-giving love – no fullness of life.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

**Guided Scripture Study – Today, after Mass in the classroom!
Grab a coffee and join us!**

Holy Father's prayer intentions for September 2015

Universal: for increased opportunities for education and employment for all young people.

Evangelization: That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.



WELCOME! *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. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance on September 13: 147

Collection: Friends: €134.73, Media: €39.10

Please note that you may need extra time to get to church on Sept 27th – Berlin Marathon Sunday – if you are coming from the north. To check the marathon map route: <http://www.bmw-berlin-marathon.com/en/race-week/interactive-map.html>

A Successful BBQ!

Many thanks to Konrad, Marianne, Buck, Vanessa, Alex, Jost, Christian, Aidan & all those who made this event a great success. We had the largest turnout ever!

Guided Scripture Study: "Six Weeks with the Bible"



Six Weeks with the Bible (Catholic Perspectives) program will be offered after Sunday Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) over a total of 12 sessions until May 2016. The first six sessions are entitled "**God Makes a Start**" and will focus on Genesis 1-11. The second series of six sessions is called "**Getting to Know Jesus**" and will focus on the Gospel of Mark. Grab a coffee and join us in the classroom. John Bibby is facilitating the group.

Next scheduled sessions are on: **Oct 4th, Nov 1st, Nov 21st**. **Come join one or more sessions – no need to attend all of them!** Contact Jenny at: jgebhar@yahoo.de.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING...

on **Saturday, October 3rd** from **3:00 to 4:30 p.m.** for new volunteers & refresher training for old volunteers. **PIZZA PARTY** begins about 4 p.m. If you would like to join our group of servers please drop off a "green" application (found outside the church office) OR contact Buck Chisolm (B.Chisolm@gmx.de)

Congratulations to **Bishop Heiner Koch** on his inauguration at St. Hedwig's Cathedral! We look forward to the new leadership in Berlin.

FAMILY MASS SUNDAY SEPT 27th:

Kids, youth & their families are encouraged to get involved as ushers/greeters, gift bearers, lectors, altar servers/cross bearers or to help decorate the church. Contact Jenny (jgebhar@yahoo.de)



September 27th, 10 am Family Mass: Our Celebrant will be Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Conrad Chisolm, Josie Luegger • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen • Designated collection: All Saints

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints 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: GENODE1PAX**

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 over 1500 online shops through this website & All Saints receives a **DONATION** for every transaction made!



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>)