

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.

December 27th, 2015 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Readings (Missalette p 53 et seqq.): 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 • Ps 84:2-3,5-6,9-10 • 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 • Lk 2:41-52

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

Lector: Samantha Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Server: Conrad Chisolm •

Hospitality: Monique Luegger • Designated collection: All Saints

We often meet God in human encounters

In the gospel, we find two women, overwhelmed with joy, sharing their happiness. Mary and Elisabeth, both pregnant under unusual circumstances, were uncertain about the future of their children and families. Both were probably misunderstood by them but Mary and Elisabeth found comfort in understanding each other and understood that God was working in their lives. They knew that they were blessed in a very special way. – With whom could they share this faith experience? It is not easy to find someone with whom one can share one's faith. Often, people who are closest to us – such as our partners, parents, children, good friends - have no antenna for faith experiences so it is difficult to speak to them about it. We all experience encounters where we can discuss anything, but very rarely our faith. We need someone who listens and understands and is ready to take care of this experience and often entrusts us with his or her own experiences.

The Pastoral Constitution of the Second Vatican Council *Gaudium et spes* (Joy and hope), says: „*The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men and women of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find echo in their hearts.*“ The pastoral constitution gave directions and directives for the Church service in today's world. Vatican II took place 50 years ago. Did we put into practice what the council wanted to initiate? Are we, “followers of Christ”, open to the faith experiences of our fellow human beings? Do we offer spaces where one can speak about these experiences without being ridiculed? One thing is clear: when people share their lives, speak about their most intimate experiences, God is present. In a congregation where we share joy and hope, grief and anguish we can encounter God.

The reason why we address this issue at Christmas is that Christmas has become an ambiguous feast. On one hand, it is commercialized: the feelings, motives, mood and spirit of Christmas are exploited. On the other hand, this feast appeals to so many people: it expresses our longing for encounters, security and coziness that we are not able to offer each other. Christmas can fulfill this longing if we return to its original meaning and allow for closeness between people and look for and offer genuine encounters. This is what we can learn from Mary and Elisabeth: they share their joy and thank and praise God for everything they received from Him. *Sharing our joy, thanking God and praising God for everything we have received – this is what we are invited to do.* In this way we may receive the biggest and best Christmas present – one we cannot buy at any Christmas market: our thankfulness and joy about a God who is present in our world, in our lives, and keeps granting us his blessings.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Have a blessed Happy New Year 2016!



WELCOME! Visiting 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 December 20: 149

Collection: Friends: €244.14

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! Consider using Bildungsspender for your Christmas shopping!

The total amount transferred from Bildungsspender to All Saints for this year was **€1156.40**



A big thank you to all of the **Christmas Pageant participants**- Actors, Narrators, Ushers, Gift Bearers and Altar Servers. A special thank you to Father Wolfgang, Buck, Lupita, Lynn, Thomas, Mike AND Jenny and Donna with the music. Couldn't have done it without you! Vanessa



WELCOME FATHER SYLVESTER!

The All Saints Catholic Community looks forward to welcoming **Father Sylvester** as the new coordinator of the English-speaking Catholic Mission in Berlin! We have the great honor of having him preside over his first Mass in Berlin at All Saints on **Sunday, January 3rd**. Let's welcome him with a *very special hospitality* after Mass. Please bring your favorite sweet or savory dish to share for a **Welcome Party hospitality!**

Three Kings Day Celebration



We will have a special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass on **Sunday, January 10th**. Will you be the lucky one to find the special item in the Rosca de Reyes? If so, you get to be the King or Queen of the day!

Many thanks to those who **sponsored a refugee child** this Christmas! This present of yours made an unforgettable experience to many children who have gone through great sufferings during their escape from their countries. We pray for the peace of the world!

Guided Scripture Study: "Six Weeks with the Bible"

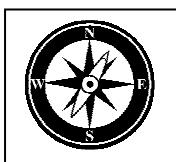


Study will take place after Mass (11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) and continues until May 2016. The second series of six sessions, "**Getting to Know Jesus**," will focus on the Gospel of Mark and will start in January. **John Bibby** is the facilitator. Grab a coffee and join us in the classroom. Contact: jgebhar@yahoo.de. Scheduled dates are:

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| January 10 | February 21 |
| January 24 | April 3 |
| February 14 | April 17 |

For all those traveling over the Christmas holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2016! Have a safe trip and see you in the New Year!

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: 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>)

January 3rd, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa & Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Johannes Ploog • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog, Jennifer Evans •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Ushers: Nathan & Conlan McConvey •

Altar Servers: Ava & Aidan Brinda, Conrad Chisolm • Hospitality: Lynn Brinda