

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

**June 26th, 2016 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings (Missal p 185 et seqq.): 1 King 19:16, 19-21 • Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 • 1 Gal 5:1, 13-18 • Lk 9:51-62

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

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

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Josephine, Elizabeth & Maggie Luegger Patrick, Michael & Thomas

Donovan • Hospitality: Vanessa Hansen • Designated collection: Friends of All Saints

It is good that we can celebrate together. That we are gathered here after the killings in Orlando, after the assassination of Jo Cox in Great Britain, the murder of two French police agents in Magnanville near Paris. People hate each other, for various reasons: political, racial reasons, because of the sexual orientation of a person, because of their cultural background. In the reading we just heard, St Paul describes the Christians, the friends of Jesus as totally different from these men and women filled with hatred. So I would like to concentrate on the letter to the Galatians.

"*Liberté, égalité, fraternité*" - liberty, equality, fraternity: this was the motto of the French Revolution in 1789. These terms depend upon each other. The concept of *equality* is the fruit of the period of Enlightenment, but it has its roots also in the Bible.

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul speaks about equality: "*There are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus*". Something new had come into being: the common faith and the life in one Christian community was meant to abolish hierarchical orders. Each and every one in this community is wished and created by God. All have the same dignity before God.

We Christians are convinced that God is a friend of life and that God wants the happiness of all. All are invited to reach the fulfillment of our lives, to become what and who each and every one is meant to be. We are convinced that all human beings have been drawn nearer to God through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We say we are redeemed: we do not need to seek redemption ourselves, but redemption is offered to us. Paul says: "*All of you are one in Christ Jesus*." This is not something very spiritual, but something very concrete: we form the body of Christ here in our world, and we belong to this body by our baptism. We are linked to Christ, and we are also linked to each other. So within the Christian community we are *equal*.

Does this mean that those who are not within the Church are less equal? What about Jews and the so-called pagans? It is absolutely clear that they also can reach the fulfillment of their lives. And what is true for us Christians is true also for them: they can reach the fulfillment of their lives not out of their own effort, but because God wants it, because God loves all human beings with the same love.

And the measure for us all is to be found in Matthew: "*What you did to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!*" This is what Jesus says – independently if the action or the omission is put in a relation to Jesus.

In history, the Christian teaching on *equality* abstained for too long from a political claim. It concentrated on individual admonitions for living together in small communities, in families. Equality before the law was achieved only after centuries of political struggle – often against the Churches. American and French constitutional law from the 18<sup>th</sup> century led to the formulation of the equality of men and women, and to the inadmissibility of discrimination because of one's sex, one's race, one's origin, one's language, one's faith, one's sexual orientation, one's political views etc.

Now these social and political developments influence in their turn the way the Church and the faithful see themselves. The concept of equality is an example how biblical and Christian values migrate into the historical and social evolution. There they grow and mature – and there they are rediscovered one day as originally biblical and Christian.

That the official Church is not immediately willing to welcome this concept of equality is a fact, a fact that makes many of us sad. But on the other hand this biblical origin of equality allows the church to address its message not only to Catholics or to Christians, but explicitly to "*all men and women of good will*".

**Fr Wolfgang Felber, SJ**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**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!

Attendance on June 19th: 67

Collection: All Saints: €123.15

## About Mass at All Saints!

The All Saints Catholic Community takes great pride that our congregation comes from all over the world. This brings to us a multitude of views and also introduces us to liturgical practices from different traditions with distinct customs.

One such custom may raise the question: "Should I stand, kneel or even sit during the Eucharistic prayer (the consecration of bread and wine) during the service at All Saints?"

The answer is: "Do whatever you are **most comfortable** with, determined by what you have done in the tradition or parish in which you grew up."

We hope this helps you to participate in our celebration the way you are used to.

**Volunteers needed:** Are you coming to Mass over the summer vacation break and willing to help water our plants? If you would be willing to help water our plants this summer please tell Jennie, Konrad or Buck who can explain the location of our gardening stuff.

Support All Saints through our fundraising site at [www.bildungsspenden.de/all-saints-berlin](http://www.bildungsspenden.de/all-saints-berlin) at no extra cost to yourself. You can shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website. The funds collected this way will go toward supporting our community life, such as our children's and hospitality ministries.

## Attention Lectors and Altar Servers

Vacation begins next week and for the months of July and August and we need volunteers to help as Lectors and Altar Servers for Sunday Mass. If you will be here please consider volunteering.

## Registration open for preparation for First Holy Communion

Registration for Communion classes is now open! Classes will begin in the fall with the beginning of the new school year. Please fill out the registration form of the English-speaking Mission which can be found outside the church office. Please submit it to the office (directly or via the mail box). Watch our website for more details.

## Explore the Faith: "Catholicism" Film Series Continues after Friday Mass on July 1st!

Please join us for episode 10 of Bishop Robert Barron's "**Catholicism**" series after Friday evening Mass. The theme this week is:

**"World Without End - The Last Things"**

## Make a Note . . . Friday Mass

Father Sylvester will celebrate weekday Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at All Saints every Friday beginning at 18:00 h.

**Call for volunteer catechists:** any confirmed adult who wishes to minister to our children and youth by teaching the faith, particularly in preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, is invited to contact Jenny Gebhardt / Fr. Sylvester before the summer break for more information! Email: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de)

## July 3rd, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: NN •

Designated collection: Peters Pence

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>)