

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

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

October 16th, 2016 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal p 224 et seq.): Ex 17:8-13 • Ps 121:1-8 • 2 Tim 3:14 - 4:2 • Lk 18:1-8

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

Lector: Christian Doeringer • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog •

Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: N.N • Hospitality: Families Schmidt & Klitsches •

Designated collection: For the renovation of St. Hedwig's Cathedral

We are the descendants of the ten lepers

I would like to talk about the experience Jesus makes with the ten lepers. Usually the text is presented in a way that the one leper who comes back to Jesus understands Jesus, thanks Jesus, is the only one really healed. The other nine are unthankful and do not understand anything. I don't like this way of presenting the story. Why? Because Jesus does not put people down. Jesus never puts people down. So I would like to point to a different topic: ten lepers come to Jesus, the ten are healed, but only one remains with Jesus. Nine to one – this relation is still valid – generously calculated. I speak of the part of the population still remaining with the traditional Church and its message. Only ten percent may share the religious nearness to Jesus by continuing to go to church. But **all** the lepers have been touched, have been healed by Jesus.

So, the ten are not so different from each other. They all have been healed, but only one remains with Jesus. It is the **difference in reaction to the healing** that makes them different.

So many studies show that religiosity does no longer have this close link to the church, to the community of believers. To be far from the Church does not mean to be far from religiosity. The ways to experience God's nearness do not necessarily lead through the church doors. Those who come to church on Sunday, like you, they live a special form of religiosity, marked by the communion of the Church, marked by the wish to experience God's nearness in the space of a church building, of a church community.

But there are many other forms where people are experiencing the nearness of God. The Church is seen as just one of these places. What does this mean for the Church?

One way of dealing with the phenomenon is to continue as usual. Tradition, dogmas, doctrine, neither looking to the right nor to the left, not perceiving the world that surrounds the Church – continue as usual. Then the Church, then we as a community may become a ghetto, a ghetto in which people with the same ideas and ideals gather, a ghetto on the edge of society. To find ten percent of the population here in this realm seems already a lot. So, the first way is to continue as usual.

The second way would be to be totally open to everything we see in the modern world, to limit ourselves to the realm of giving good advices of how to succeed in life and in its crises. But here the Christian message would lose its specificity. The Church would not be more than a giver of good advices like so many other gurus.

Thus – on **one hand** you find church leaders worried about what Rome says, worried about correct liturgies, worried about the quality and the catholicity of the men and women coming to church – I mean catholicity in the sense of being conform to catholic rules and orders and requests and demands. A church occupied with herself, forgetting what happens around her.

On **the other hand**, you would find committed Christians asking themselves: "How do we go down well, how can we be well received? How to have fuller churches and how to have attractive events? How to produce and trigger good articles about the church in the news?"

This is a real **dilemma** – a dilemma that keeps the church alive. The tension is a fruitful tension if the two sides approach each other, if ideas and visions are shared. In this process, there is not one side in the possession of the full truth. Not one side has a monopoly for salvation. The ten lepers make it clear: The story is not about the one single follower of Jesus and the nine renegades.

No. They have all been touched and healed. But each one of them has his or her own way of dealing with it. It was the task of **Jesus** to handle this, Jesus had to live with this. It is **our** task today to handle this same phenomenon – we who are following Jesus, we who are the descendants of the ten lepers.

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Children's Liturgy during Mass TODAY

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 October 9th: 125

Collection: All Saints: €323.90

Halloween Party on 29 October

Mark your calendars- **HALLOWEEN PARTY** for kids up to 6th grade on Saturday, October 29th from 5 pm to 8 pm at All Saints! Kids 7th grade and older are invited to run the activities and receive service hours.

This event is open to everyone so bring friends and wear costumes. There is no cost but we do ask for everyone to bring snacks for sharing and contribute a bag of candy for trick or treating.

RSVP to vhansen980@hotmail.com

Fr. Lichtenberg Mass

The English-speaking Mission will be having a special Mass on Saturday, November 5th at 10 am "in the lower church" / crypt at St. Hedwig's Cathedral to commemorate the life of Fr. Lichtenberg, a Roman Catholic priest who spoke against the Nazi regime and died in Hof while enroute to Dachau in 1943.

All Saints has been invited to do the reading and to read one Prayer of the Faithful during Mass. If you would like to represent All Saints, please contact vhansen980@hotmail.com. This is open to all youth and adults.

Eucharistic Minister Training

Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry!

Eucharistic Minister Training on January 14th and/or 21st, 2017 from 09:30 – 18:00 h and continued over three weekends at the Conference Center of the Kath. Academy, Hannoversche Str. 5B, 10115 Berlin-Mitte.

Applicants must be approved by Fr. Sylvester. All registrations must be completed before 30 November 2016.

Good command of the German language is necessary. Contact Fr. Sylvester (fadasylvester@yahoo.com) or additional details.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- October 21st – **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 18:00 h. Eucharistic Adoration follows at 19:00 h. If you can assist with the preparation of the chapel, organize music or help in any other capacity please let Jenny Gebhardt or Heide Doblhofer know. Also tell your friends about our Friday Mass
- October 29th - **Halloween Party** – Fellowship Hall 17:00 – 20:00. Movie, food and fun for kids from 6 to 66.
- November 5th - **Altar Server training** – new and refresher training from 15:00 to 17:00 h in the main church – Please sign-up at our Doodle. Pizza party afterwards ☺
- November 5th - **Fr. Lichtenberg Mass** - The English-speaking Mission will be having a special Mass at St. Hedwig's Cathedral to commemorate the life of Fr. Lichtenberg. For more information, read the note to the left.
- November 6th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- November 6th – **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 11:15 h in the classroom
- November 20th - **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
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- November 25th – **Christmas Tree arrives**. Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 17:00 h. Volunteers to help with the tree and church decorations should contact Konrad Giersdorf.
- November 26th – **Thanksgiving Dinner** – in the Fellowship Hall from 17:00 h onward. Please volunteer with Konrad Giersdorf to help with the set-up and take down of the hall or to be a helper in the

October 23th, 2016, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: N.N • Hospitality: Beate McGreal • Designated collection: World Mission Day

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