

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**

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

### **December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The Nativity of the Lord**

**Readings (Missal p 51 et seqq.): Isa 52:7-10 • Ps 98:1-6 • Heb 1:1-6 • Jn 1:1-18**

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

Lector: Christine Tombarge • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •

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

Designated collection: For the Church in Latin America

### **Jesus' God-given name – My true name**

When parents are expecting a child, one topic of discussion sooner or later will be: what name shall we give our child? How did you pick the names of your children: a name from a list on a website or from the bible or a name of a saint or a personality you admire? There are many ways of giving names. In some African cultures it could be the name of a grandfather, a name to remember an event when the child was born or a name to thank God for the gift of a child, like "God is creator" or "God is the giver of life".

Mary and Joseph did not have that problem. They received the name of the child in Mary's womb directly from God. In today's Gospel, the angel tells Joseph two names: Jesus and Emmanuel, the name also mentioned in the first reading. This name Emmanuel defines who Jesus is: "God with us". The rest of the Gospel will spell out that in Jesus God has become visible to us. He teaches with the authority and heals with the power of God. And he will constantly remind his disciples that they have no reason to be afraid because "I am with you... till the end of time." The name Emmanuel expresses his true identity.

The name Jesus that is more familiar to us indicates his mission, the purpose for which he has come. Jesus means: "God saves." He was sent by his father not to condemn the world, but to save it. John the Baptist was convinced the Messiah would come to save the "just" by destroying all sinners and establish a reign of justice. When Jesus acted differently and befriended sinners, he could not make any sense of it. Jesus remained faithful to his mission till the very end, when he prayed for his enemies and forgave the criminals crucified together with him. Perhaps the word "save" or "Saviour" sounds unfamiliar to many people today. We could rather say: Jesus came to liberate us, to set us free from sins, from sickness of soul, mind and body and finally from death.

When, in the bible, God himself gives a name or changes a person's name, it always indicates a new mission. We have not chosen our name. It was given to us by our parents. But if we had the possibility to give ourselves a name that indicates what our mission in life is, what we would like to be and to achieve, what name would you give yourself? That question is not easy to answer. Life is a long and sometimes painful process to discover who we truly are, what gifts God has put into us, and what is the task God has entrusted to us in the world. We never finish discovering something new in ourselves and in the people around us. Human beings remain always a mystery.

But one day, we will understand fully who we truly are. St. Paul expresses it in his dense language when he writes in 1 Corinthians 13: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." Now we know ourselves only very superficially and vaguely. But the day of death when the limitations of our bodies and the limits of time and space fall away, we shall know God and through him ourselves fully, the way He knows everything about us now. Then He will give each one of us a new name that expresses fully who we truly are. "I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it." (Rev. 2:17)

**Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke**



# 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 December 18<sup>th</sup>: 100**



## **Three Kings Day Celebration**

We will have a special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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!

### **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.

**Collection: All Saints: €308.43**



Thank you to all the volunteers who made the All Saints Catholic Community a growing success in 2016. Whether working with our youth, singing in the choir, planning our many events or providing the weekly hospitality we appreciate your contribution.

## **Holy Father's prayer intentions for January 2017**

**Christian Unity:** That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

### **Mark your calendars:**

- January 6<sup>th</sup> - **Friday Mass - in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** at 1800. Tell your friends about our Friday Mass.
- January 8<sup>th</sup> – All Saints Council meets at 1115 in the conference room
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Mass.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> - **High School Youth Group** – meets after Mass at 1115 in the classroom.

### **Schedule of Christmas Services at All Saints**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm: Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 pm: Christmas Carols**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 pm: Midnight Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr**

Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Server: Madeleine & Samantha Rueckeis, Conrad Chisolm • Designated collection: Adveniat

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am: Christmas Mass: Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber**

### **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr Sylvester Ajunwa**

Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: NN • Hospitality: NN •

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