

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

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

December 2nd, 2018 – First Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal 785: Jer 33:14-16 • Ps 25: 4-5, 8-10, 14 • 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 • Lk 21:25-28, 34-36)

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

- Lector: Matthias Waliszewski • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: For the training of priests in Middle and Eastern Europe •

Christ the King

Every day we watch the news. Most of it revolves around rulers of States and what they do. If our idea of "king" comes close to the idea of "governing", would it be false to say that many of these rulers bring the title of "King" into disrepute? Kingship implies authority, nobility, admirable character, dominion or, as we say nowadays, good governance, that is, justice which allows people to live in dignity and peace. But so many rulers only pursue power, prestige and profit for themselves.

We may wonder what sort of kingship Pilate had in mind when he asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate had to judge someone who was accused of political misdoings, but the person before him looked like an ordinary man of the people, a man without means, an unlikely political up-start, hardly a serious contender for the throne of power and glory. Pilate's question has a ring of mockery. When at the end Pilate had the verdict, *this is the king of the Jews* nailed to the cross, his intention was to ridicule the Jews, rather than give officiality to the case.

Pilate had no sense for a kind of kingship that might differ from the usual political scene. Although Jesus never wanted to be identified with any of those "kings and rulers" that govern the world, he does not object to being called "King", provided the title is understood in its best sense. "You say I am a king", he replies and declares at once: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. - My kingdom is not here." Jesus speaks of his *kingdom*, he accepts the title of *king*. But he will not allow any misunderstanding, he will not use his position for himself, for power, prestige and profit. No stepping down from the cross, instead, a word of welcome for the repentant criminal, "today you will be with me in Paradise".

Even at the moment of dying Jesus possesses authority and speaks with authority, "you will be with me". People will have to look up to him, though not for his satisfaction, but for their own benefit. "I came into the world to testify to the truth." Pilate must have felt at a loss when hearing this, perhaps with amusement, but certainly with incredulity. This man in front of him claims to be the one who shows the world the road forward, explains what life is all about and how we can make a success of it, teaches what is truly important and what ensures a good life. He points out to the people of the world the direction to go, and he does so with authority.

Authority has no need to employ compelling force. The weaker a government, the more restrictive its policy, the stronger the police. True authority can afford granting freedom. Jesus does not compel anybody to pay attention to his word and example. Everyone has the right to his own free choice. But of course, everyone must face the consequences that flow from his choices.

Another difference is this: Our image of a king has him sitting on the throne, in sparkling glory, with plenty of servants and ministers around him, all at his service. Not so with Christ the King. Jesus declared most explicitly: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many." It is obvious, Jesus leads us in an unusual direction, very different from the rulers we experience in our ordinary political life. The honour that is due to Christ the King springs from the gratitude for all that He does for us. Doing something for others means service, that is, the aim of good living. In Christ we meet a king who serves. We remember the unforgettable example of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the last supper before his death. It renders visible what he said: *I came not to be served, but to serve.*

Charity is the great Christian law. Charity always aims at the good of others, not my own. This noble kindness, this respect and care for one another, characterizes the Christian, at all times and in all circumstances. It expresses the gratitude we owe to the Lord. Our thanksgiving becomes mature when it inspires us to share with the poor, with those who are poorer than we are, and none of us here is at the very bottom of the list. Gratitude is the sister of generosity. Thanking and sharing are twins.

We can offer no better gift to the Father, in the honour of Christ our King, than a life of service and of care for the needy and concern for others. Amen.

Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr

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 November 25th: 67

Collection: All Saints: €196.58



CASTING CALL

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CASTING CALL:

Boys and girls - we are looking for actors. Angels, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph; wise men, sheep, donkeys, camels, shepherds, and more!

We really need volunteers. So please do so not later than December 10th. If we do not get enough participation then we may have to cancel this annual tradition.

You do not have to attend All Saints to participate so pass on the word to your friends.

An adult DIRECTOR is also sought. Our seasoned director will be away over the Christmas holidays but can train and assist with the rehearsals.

Send an email to: b.chisolm@gmx.de or leave your name in the office. Opportunities are open for you to be: Joseph, one of our Kings / Queens or an angel. For the teens we need volunteers to be our ushers and altar servers (see note below).

Thanks for supporting this Christmas tradition.

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!

Mark your calendars:

- December 2nd – **All Saints Council** meets after Mass in Classroom 2.
- December 2nd – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.
- December 8th 4:30 p.m. – **Interfaith Concert** with PFF and Crossways. Please bring homemade sweets to share afterward.
- December 8th – Preparations for the **Annual Children's Pageant** – Director and adult helpers needed. Volunteer in the church office or send a message to b.chisolm@gmx.de
- December 22nd rehearsal for Children's Christmas Pageant. Time to be announced.



Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 2nd, 2018

It will soon be time again for our annual visit to the Senior Citizen's Residence located at Altmarkstr. 27, 12169, Berlin. Practice starts at 3:00 p.m. and caroling at 4:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Konrad Giersdorf at: giersdorf@hotmail.de.

Altar Servers / Usher volunteers needed for Christmas Eve Mass

We need volunteers to serve at the 3 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant Mass and, the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (December 24th). You can leave your name in the office or send a message to b.chisolm@gmx.de.

Thanks very much for your service to the All Saints community

December 9th, 2018, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Tom FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: John & Glenda Massey, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN •
- Designated collection: For children without family •

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