

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: **1st Friday 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 10:00-12:00

June 23, 2019, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Readings (Missal no. 852): Gen.14:18-20, Ps.110,1-4, 1 Cor.11:23-26, Luke 9:11b-17

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

- Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints•

The Holy Trinity

Looking at images is an easier way to knowledge than listening to words. Throughout the centuries, painters have taught the Christian faith by means of their art, but they always had a serious problem with the feast of the Blessed Trinity. Speaking of God, *theology*, is not easy. Whatever words we use, none is exactly to the point. They always need some further explanation. But painting God, making him visible for the eyes and the eyes of the mind, is quite impossible. A good picture may perhaps give a lead to imagination, but our faith is shipwrecked when we remain with the picture; it may never be more than an inspiration.

In Ethiopian orthodox churches you usually find a painting of the Blessed Trinity. You see three figures seated side by side, venerable old persons, and each one is drawn in exactly the same manner as the two others. So there is no difference between them, except their position. They are three, yet three equals, and although they are three, none can be separated from the two others. This is meant to show us the one God to whom we turn when we pray *In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.*

The European tradition follows a different pattern, because it includes the history of salvation. The Father usually appears as the Elder, with him his Son Jesus holding his cross, and the Holy Spirit as a dove between them, coming from either of them and holding the triangle together. Also good, and equally misleading.

So we better try to speak of God in words. We must of course hold fast to what Jesus told us. He prayed, he turned to God, he spoke of him as "my Father in Heaven". Jesus repeated time and again that he was sent into this world, and sent by his Father. God had sent him to do God's work. And he does nothing else but God's work. He teaches what he has heard from the Father, he judges as he has seen his Father judge, and he performs the actions his Father has instructed him to do. So here we meet a human person, Jesus the son of Mary, in whom we see God, from whom we hear what God tells us, who does only what God wants to be done. Hence we become aware of a mysterious identity of two who differ only in one point; one is called Father, the other calls himself Son. To make this identity visible, the Ethiopian artists found their way to remind the congregation of the mystery of God.

The European style remains focused on what happened between God and his rebellious creature, we, the human beings. The Son becomes one of them, Jesus, a carpenter from Nazareth, like us in all things. He shares the lot of all human beings. He died. Is God now gone away from us? Is he no longer with us on earth? Jesus consoles his friends: Yes, he will go away. No, he does not leave us without God's presence. The Holy Spirit will continue to guide us, as Jesus promised: *He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears..., because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*" It took the Church a long time of prayerful reflection on these words, before she was able to formulate her insight that the Holy Spirit is identical with Father and Son, with the one difference that he is sent to us as guide.

Some among us may feel vexed with these terms, identical and different, one nature, three persons, being one and being three. Perhaps we can put it also this way: **God is one but never alone**, for he is **fully alive, hence never lonely**. Think of yourself "being one and there is no other", and you feel: Life cannot flourish in solitude. However, God is himself the fullness of life, hence one but not lonely. Therefore, we praise him as Father and Son and Holy Spirit, who be blessed and praised for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, MAfr.

Children's Liturgy of the Word – TODAY during Mass

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 May 12th: 96

Collection: All Saints: € 314.92



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 Buck Chisolm / Fr. Sylvester over the summer break for more information! Email: b.chisolm@gmx.de



Teens sought for service to the community.

We are looking for help with our Youth Ministries in the Fall, especially, for Children's Liturgy of the Word which is held during Mass.

We are also planning food drives and other activities where teen participation will be most welcome. If you are already interested in being more involved drop by the office and let us know. We will get you together with the teen leaders.

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.

Lost and found items are located in the hallway on the hangers and also in a box. Please check for any items that may belong to you. Later this year, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.



Thank you, **yes, YOU** - for making the All Saints Catholic Community special! We couldn't do it without your contributions, whether big or small, all make a difference.

From greeters, ushers to gift bearers; from lectors, choir singers to altar servers; from brownie bakers, hospitality assistants to clean-up crew; from catechists, event organizers to parent volunteers; from flowers, candle holders to coffee machine donors - **YOU are the All Saints Catholic Community and we are grateful to have you here.**

June 30th 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Eric Bertrand • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

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