

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

September 22nd, 2019, Twenty- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 927) Amos 8:4-7 • Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 • 1Tim 2:1-8 • Luke 16:1-13

Welcome to our 10:00 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans • Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: Caritas

Reflections on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the Baptism of Emilia Anders

In today's Gospel (Lk 15,1-10), we are presented with an overwhelming picture of God – that is why this gospel text fits so well with the baptism of Emilia we just witnessed. It is a picture of God that we could never have guessed at ourselves and, in spite of Jesus' words, it is a picture that many of us still find difficult to accept in its fullness.

In the **Gospel** we are given a twofold picture of how God looks on human beings and on people.

The two stories hammer home the same theme: *God will go to any length to bring the human back to a loving relationship with himself.* There is the story of the sheep, perhaps a rebellious maverick, which has wandered far from the flock. The shepherd does not rest till he has found this sheep and brought it back. There is no punishment but rather an invitation to the neighbors to join in celebrating the reunion.

So should Emilia ever be lost, let us hope that there is this good shepherd who looks for her and who brings her back – one of her family, one of us ...

Then, there is the woman, presumably poor, who loses a coin she can ill afford to be without. Again, the emphasis is on the joy shared with the neighbors on finding what had been lost. The message of the two stories is abundantly clear:

- God loves everyone and wishes them to turn to him.
- If they do, there is a huge welcome for them.
- There are two elements in our relationship with God which need to be distinguished.

The **first element** is the **love of God for us.**

That love is absolutely unconditional. No matter what kind of person I may be, God's outreaching love for me is absolutely unchanging. God does not love me more if I am a saint or love me less because I am a sinner, because I am baptized or because I am not baptized. God is all love: and so, his whole self goes out in love, to all of us, and today certainly to Emilia.

Baptism does not open the doors of heaven. The doors of heaven are open for each and every one with or without baptism. But baptism makes this promise of God's love for us *visible*. Today, God wants to give a place of honor to Emilia.

Emilia will have to decide one day for or against this way with God - God has already taken his decision in favor of Emilia.

The **second element** is **community**: as I already said, the poor woman loses a coin she can *ill afford to be without*.

"She can *ill afford to be without*" ... every coin counts. By our baptism, we are part of this communion of Christians whose vocation is to help God accomplish HIS project with the world. The project of God with our world: a more human, more united and a less unjust world, a world closer to him. Emilia is going to be part of this community of Christians who, following Jesus, want the world to be nearer to the project of God. So, the active love of Emilia for a better world will be a sign of the Kingdom of God – and: every coin, every person counts – "*we cannot afford to be without Emilia in our community*".

We cannot move or change much as long as we are alone. But: together with Emilia, together with you all, together with God's help we are able to change the world. Let us all become persons who *make* this friendship with God, with Jesus *attractive* for Emilia – that she receives God's love unconditionally and that she feels as part of this group of friends of Jesus that needs her, this groups of friends of Jesus that ill afford to be without her. Amen.

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 September 15th: **83**

Collection: All Saints: **€99.92**



Teens would you like to join our Youth Group who meet for the 1st Friday Mass of each month?

Then talk to Justine Pédussel or leave your name in the office and we will pass your information along. Justine is leading this effort but **your participation and ideas** will help shape this youth initiative!



Dirk Verheijen whom we all know from his "internship" with the English-speaking mission will be ordained DEACON on Saturday Sept 28th at 10:00 a.m.

The service will take place in St Joseph, Müllerstraße 161, 13353 Berlin-Wedding (U-Bahn 9 / Leopold-Platz).

After the service, there will be a reception in the hall and in the court behind the church.



All Saints Church Council Elections - Call for Candidates!

There is one open seat on the All Saints Council. We are in need of a volunteer to join the council for our monthly meeting and help to guide our activities at All Saints.

Interested then please see Buck Chisolm or Konrad Giersdorf.



Do you like to sing? Consider joining the choir!

All are cordially invited to join our choir. All it takes is desire on your part and willingness to come early to practice before Mass.

Interested? Speak with any member of the choir or Johannes Wrembek, our Music Director



Did you know that All Saints is run entirely by volunteers?

We pride ourselves that we are a self-supporting parish, but, new-helping hands are always appreciated! Please consider joining one of the volunteer groups that make the community work.

Would you like to help with the offering and acting as an usher during Mass? Are you 16 years or older and think being a Lector is your cup of tea? Altar Servers are always welcomed! The choir is always looking for more members too! Finally, hosting the hospitality hour is a great way for your family to contribute together!

If you are interested, you can fill in a form located outside the office. We will be in touch to give you additional details and help you join in our volunteer efforts.

September 29th, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

• Lector: Zachary Chitwood • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: NN • 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