

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

October 27th, 2019, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 942) Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 • Ps 34:2-3, 17-23 • 2Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 • Luke 18:8-14

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

• Lector: Eric Bertrand • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: World Mission

“Moses, the holy man, needs the solidarity of others” (G&P 939)

I presume that the first reading (Exodus 17 8-13) either shocked you or bored you. It may be boring because of the many Hebrew names, and it is certainly shocking because of the war and the violence and the fights it tells. A shocking, a displeasing story read on a Sunday in Church. On a Sunday!

Wouldn't it be good to leave the difficulties and quarrels and conflicts out of the church? Wouldn't it be good to be left in peace at least on a Sunday? Well, the opposite is the message of our first reading: Leave out conflicts from church would be like living in an ivory-tower. No, no realm of our life must be excluded from our service to God, everything needs to be brought before God, before his healing presence. Everything – and certainly our reality as it is needs to be brought before God. Our reality that is marked by crises and wars and violence.

Isn't it amazing what the Jewish people wrote down in their holy book? They did not keep quiet about anything that happened to them. We heard today about the battle of Amalek – was this just out of an historical interest that it was written down? No, I think that the people of Israel experienced God's presence in their misery, God helped them, God was with them. And they kept this experience alive for the future generations by writing it down in their holy book. Only if you recall the past you can help the future generations.

The German people has been trying to live up to this: never forget the Nazi terror, the Shoah so that the future generations are not caught by the same trap in the future. In 1985, Richard von Weizsäcker, then president of the Federal Republic said: „*Das Geheimnis der Erlösung heißt Erinnerung*“ – “the secret of redemption lies in remembrance” – by this he quoted Jewish writings.

Weizsäcker continued: “*This oft quoted Jewish adage surely expresses the idea that faith in God is faith in the work of God in history. Remembrance is experience of the work of God in history. It is the source of faith in redemption. This experience creates hope, creates faith in redemption, in reunification of the divided, in reconciliation. Whoever forgets this experience loses his faith.*” This is what Weizsäcker said 34 years ago. So, our story wants to help future generations.

But isn't our story from the Book of Exodus a glorification of war? No, certainly not. The battle is not decided by the men who fight, but by the presence of Moses on a mountain. This presence of Moses obtains God's help. Moses is a holy man – but nevertheless he needs help, he needs the solidarity of others to persevere in his effort. The victory comes from God, from Yahwe. This is what Israel should retain from this story. New attacks, new difficulties, new dangers are to be expected – but yet, behind this reality there is the promise God made, the promise that he would be near and true to his people. The promise that his people will thus survive.

So the story we heard is a story of encouragement: remembering the misery and distress of the past the people can put their hopes in God. And – what is more practical for us today – remembering the misery of the past shows how necessary solidarity is: be at the sides of the ones whose hands begin to sink, support the ones whose strength vanishes, whose courage decreases. Then our story becomes a story of perseverance by lifting up your heart and hand so as to never lose faith and courage - because of the experiences made with God.

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 October 20th: 66

Collection: All Saints: €144.54

Special Halloween Hospitality

After Mass on October 27th we will have a special Hallows Eve Hospitality with suitable beverages and ghoulish treats!



Young children are welcome to knock on the door to the room full of ghosts, goblins and zombies and say "trick or treat" to win a sweet.

But, only knock on the door if you are really brave!



Join us to celebrate **Thanksgiving** at our annual dinner held on Saturday, **November 30th** in the Fellowship Hall.

Turkey, potatoes, corn and lots of other goodies provided. Sign your family up to attend so we know how much to prepare and plan to bring a dish (salad, side or dessert) to share with the community.

To help defray the expense we will have a donation jar in the Fellowship Hall on the Sunday's leading up to this dinner.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship hall after Mass. Consider volunteering to help with the preparation on Friday, November 29nd at 16:00.



Fall Cleanup Day is on Saturday, November 30th from 10:00 to 14:00

Bring your family, mop, brooms and lots of elbow grease. Together with PFF and CW's we will give a Fall Cleaning to our common spaces.

Mark your calendars:

- November 29th – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- December 8th – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.
- Rehearsals for the **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be announced soon.



The English-Speaking Mission celebrates the Feast of All Saints on Friday, November 1st in the main church.

Join with the other members of our ESM to celebrate Mass at **7:00 p.m.**

Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Community Hall after Mass so we know how many will attend.

November 3rd, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Lector: TBD • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog • Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: Catholic Schools •

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: GENODE33PAX