

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: **1<sup>st</sup> Friday** 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](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://www.all-saints-berlin.de)

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

## November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Readings (Missal no. 954) 2 Sam 5:1-3, Psalm 122:2-5 Col 1:12-20, Mark 11:9, 10

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

- Lector: Eddie McGreal • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer • Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: Beate McGreal • Designated collection: All Saints

### A Copernican Revolution in our faith is necessary (G&P 951)

A consoling sentence from the [First Reading](#) for Sunday (Malachi 3, 19-20a): "You who fear my name, for you there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays."

*Healing rays.... Justice...* All of us hopefully wished such things for a long time, we would really welcome them. But what about the fear part: "You who fear my name". We are supposed to take in God's majesty in its awesome and fear-invoking greatness. The scripture is not talking about the fear we get in horror films: not that strange noise when you are alone in the house. Instead it is "fear of God", a reasonable, settled concern, an awe before what is very much bigger than you, a reverential wonder toward the creator.

Only when we have this "awe" are we starting to relate to God, to begin maturing in our relation with the Most High. And only then do we start suspecting what it really means to say that "God is Love". Healthy as this last sentence may be - "God is love" - understanding it requires a continuing spiritual revolution in our lives.

It is like the revolution brought about long ago by Copernicus (1473 – 1543) – the decades when America was "discovered". The Poles say he was Polish, the Germans say that he was German. Copernicus showed that the sun does not revolve around the earth but rather that the earth circles the sun. Most of us, spiritually, are "pre-Copernican": we think that God's job is to circle around us, just as if we were the center of the universe; we think like tiny planets in this universe: the immense sun should answer our prayers, the immense sun should make us peaceful, should make our side win the ball game, help us find a parking place and so on...

Nothing is really wrong with any of these – but these thoughts are a bit too childlike. As adults in faith, we are in desperate need of a Copernican revolution. In fact, God does not exist to serve us, it is just the opposite: the center of the universe is God, not us; just like after Copernicus we know that the center of our solar system is the immense sun, not the tiny earth. God quietly maintains in existence everything that is: stars, galaxies, lands, oceans, cities, human hearts, butterfly wings. We owe reverence to such a Being. It takes a spiritual transformation to think this way. What would happen if you or I tried it?

*First, we would be living in truth instead of in pretense, in fiction, in a fake reality.* The truth of our lives is that we are at home only when we open to this real God - the source and goal of who we are as human beings - instead of opening our lives to the latest fashion or style. As believers, we often say "God is greatest." If God is greatest, why would we make something else the center of our life?

*Second, the "sun of justice with its healing rays" would shine upon us* - as the prophet Malachi says. God's love would appear to us as truth instead of just a way to find a parking place if we pray for it. We would begin to see God as the gentle source of life and the affectionate mother of the entire universe!

Advent is coming very soon. The Church will be preparing to see tender love shown forth in an infant. In this pre-Advent time, we are supposed to take in God's majesty in its awesome and fear-invoking greatness, so that we might be humble enough to prepare for the baby. And that is why the First Reading from Malachi and the [Gospel](#) from Luke thunder on about the day of reckoning and judgement: when "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom," (Luke 21) and so on. These are meant to bring forth awe and fear, to show us who is at the center of the universe ... and who is waiting for us to climb down from our thrones.

# 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 17<sup>th</sup>: **91**

Collection: All Saints: **€240.49** Diaspora Sunday: **€240.49**



## Christmas Caroling at the Bergstrasse Senior Citizen's Residence (Steglitz) on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.de).

## **Hospitality Volunteers Sought**

We have a need for a new hospitality coordinator to take charge of this important function.

The coordinator solicits volunteers to support our after-Mass hospitality each Sunday.

If you would like to lead this important function please inquire in the office or write to Buck ([b.chisolm@gmx.de](mailto:b.chisolm@gmx.de)).



Join us to celebrate **Thanksgiving** at our annual dinner held on Saturday, **November 30<sup>th</sup>** 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 **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 14:00.**



## **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!

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 help train and assist you with the rehearsals. Please stop by the office to volunteer or send an email to: [allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de)

## Mark your calendars:

- November 29<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.

## **December, 1<sup>st</sup> Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

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

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