

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

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

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

December 22nd, 2019, Third Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal no. 792) Isa 7:10-14 Psalm 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mat 1:18-24

Welcome to our 10:00 am Mass at All Saints. Fr. Frank Rossmann will preside the Eucharist

- Lector: Karen Castellon • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Bobot Quiming • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints

John the Baptist – How to Be Strong (G & P 789)

In a book called *“To Love and to Fight”* published by *Anselm Grün*, a German Benedictine monk, there are some nice lines about John the Baptist. He is presented like a wild man – in the gospel according to Mark we read: *“John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He had a leather strap around his waist and ate grasshoppers and wild honey”* (Mark 1,6). He lives in the desert – not only among wild animals but clothed with the skin of a wild animal. He is a dropout – he left his society with its laws and conventions - and the wilderness, the exterior and interior wilderness, gives him strength and energy. Strength and energy to proclaim the message of God, to call the men and women he encounters to change their way of living. His preaching is like his outfit – coarse, showing no undue respect for the feelings of his listeners.

The Pharisees were respected among the population. To them he says: *“You bunch of snakes! ... Do something to show that you have really given up your sins. And don't start telling yourselves that you belong to Abraham's family”* (Mt 3,7f). John does not want to be everybody's darling – he does not need to be everybody's darling. He says what he feels aloud, he appears in public without becoming dependent upon the public.

He is free – he knows he is serving God. He dares criticise the King, the authorities – and the King fears him. The King recognises the “holy man” in John, tries to protect him from his wife who wants to kill John. *“Herod was afraid of John and protected him. He knew that John was a good and holy man. Even though Herod was confused by what John said, he was glad to listen to him. And he often did”* (Mark 6,19f).

The King perceives this inner freedom John has, an inner freedom that does not allow any fear of human beings, that makes John stand upright – also in front of the King, in front of the authorities. No one can rule over this man – John has his strength and energy from someone else, from God.

Jesus says John does not act *“like grass blown about by the wind”*, he is not a turncoat, an opportunist changing ideas with the changing of the authorities. John is clear and without ambiguity. To the exterior he is wild and powerful, but he does not insult or hurt people. On the contrary, John makes people stand up. His task: John is to prepare the way for Jesus; the scriptures say: *“I am sending my messenger ahead of you to get things ready for you”* (Mt 11,10).

So from this point of view, John may be a model for us as individuals or as a community: he does not need any masks, he does not have to show a false and undue respect for the feelings of authorities, façades that we build in order to appear faultless and irreproachable – he makes them collapse.

“To Love and to Fight” – this is the title of the book *Anselm Grün* wrote – this is what John was doing, what Jesus was doing – and this is what we are invited to do – as individuals, and as a community.

Anselm Grün, Kämpfen und lieben. Wie Männer zu sich selbst finden

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 December 15th: 85

Collection: All Saints: €108.04 Caritas: €92.26



Christmas Caroling

on December 24th at 21:30

before the Christmas Holy Mass at 22:00.

We are looking for sopranos to sing along, young people are very welcome.

Please join us for practice at 20:45 in the church.



LAST CALL FOR CASTING

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.

Assistant directors and adult helpers are also sought. Our director this year needs helping hands. Will you volunteer to help with the costumes, direction and execution of the play? Please stop by the office to volunteer or send an email to: allsaintsberlin@t-online.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).

Christmas Services in English at St Bernard's

(Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin)

- Christmas Day, December 25 at 11 a.m.
- December 26 at 11 a.m.
- New Year's Day, January 1 at 11 a.m.

December 24th, 3:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant and Liturgy of the Word

- Lector: Jennifer Evans • Greeter: Buck Chisolm
- No Hospitality • Designated collection: All Saints •

December 24th, 9:30 pm: Christmas Carols

December 24th, 10:00 pm: Midnight Mass: Presider Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke, MAfr

- Lector: Rachael Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Tom & Brendan FitzPatrick • No Hospitality •
- Designated collection: Adveniat

December, 29th Mass at All Saints. Fr. Wolfgang Felber is presiding the Eucharist

- Lector: Zachary Chitwood • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer •
- Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Bobot Quiming •
- 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