

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

March 1st, 2020 – First Sunday of Lent

Readings (Missal no. 808): Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7 • Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 • 1 Rom 5:12-19 • Mat 4:1-11

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

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

“The Church we are, wistfully greets the Church we want to be.”

The Gospel (Mt 5 38-48) takes us to the heart of the moral teaching of Jesus— there are four ringing commands that Jesus issues: *love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.* Jesus develops the thinking he receives from his Jewish contemporaries. Jesus somehow says: *“You are called to much more than what the existing rules and laws prescribe. You can do much more if you let your heart govern you.”* And Jesus brings examples how this might work practically.

The rule of *“an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”* comes from the Old Testament. It is also in the codex Hammurabi and was meant to protect people of unrestrained revenge. So, it was *not* a call to counter-attack, but a call to moderation and to temper oneself. Jesus goes one step further. He invites us to *renounce revenge and the claim for retaliation.* Instead of the *“tit for tat”* we are invited to walk in the way of love. The motto: *“As you are to me, so am I to you”* should not be the motto of a Christian who follows Jesus. And Jesus gives a reason for this in today's gospel: *“Your heavenly father makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, he causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.”* It is out of love that God does this. We humans are images of God, and as so we should imitate our creator as brothers and sisters. God takes no revenge; God does not insist on retaliation – so we also should say good-bye to revenge and retaliation.

This explains the somewhat excessive examples in today's gospel. Jesus wants to show that his followers, his friends should always counter evil with good, they should undermine evil by love. So, did Jesus **act** according to this? Was he someone who did not put an opposition to violence and who did accept evil without protest? No, certainly not. On the contrary!

Jesus did NOT keep silent when he was confronted with evil. But he never countered evil with evil; he never countered injustice with injustice. To oppose love to evil is not weakness, is not to give in in a cowardly way. To oppose love to evil is a very active fighting, a fighting to make evil lose ground. If evil loses ground, then it can no longer escalate and grow. Let us look at some examples how the expectations of Jesus might be put in practice in our everyday life.

For example: We should refrain from every form of hatefulness or nastiness in a quarrel; when there are reproaches we should not counter them with new reproaches but take the time to see if there are bits of truth in the reproach; -

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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 February 23rd: 94

Collection: All Saints: €129.00 Caritas: €105.34

Fr. Wolfgang's homily continued:

- if there was a mistake, a failure with someone, we should not again and again trot out this mistake or failure; if we are disappointed in a relation, we should not break the relation without thinking about it; if someone is clumsy, we should not brand him or her a fool or an idiot; if someone refuses to take a council or an advice from our part, we should not let this person down and abandon him or her; if we are exploited, if we are taken advantage of all too often, then we should not refuse to help others or to support others. These are some examples which illustrate what Jesus might expect from us today. And thus, this old "tit for tat" can be surmounted, because in the other we still see God's image.

Jesus did not presuppose that we are perfect. But he did not want to spare us the effort to explore the love to which we are able. To explore this capacity to love and not to give up too quickly. Jesus urges us to be "perfect as the Father is perfect". If we transcend the ordinary, the usual, the normal, then we approach our humanity, we come nearer to our being the image of God.

I like a phrase by Kierkegaard (1813-1855), a Danish philosopher and theologian. He said: "**The one I am, wistfully greets the one I want to be**". - „**Der, der ich bin, grüßt wehmütig den, der ich sein möchte**“. I like this word "wistfully", in German "wehmütig" – the dictionary says: "full of yearning or desire tinged with melancholy, colored by melancholy". Let us pray to strengthen this longing and yearning that time and again we leave the out-trodden ways of Christianity to become the Christians we would like to be. "**The Church we are, wistfully greets the Church we want to be**".



Mark your calendars for our annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK** celebration on **Saturday, March 14th**

'cause everyone is Irish when celebrating St. Patrick's Day!

The potluck dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. with a prayer and will continue until the last leprechaun has gone home!

Please bring a main or side dish, a salad or a desert to share with the others.

Volunteers needed to help set-up on Saturday, March 14th at 2 p.m. and to help clean the hall after the dinner.

Please sign-up with Konrad Giersdorf (giersdorf@hotmail.de).



Join us for **Friday Mass on March 6th** at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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.

Would you like to become more involved in our community activities?

If you have considered becoming more involved in our community now would be a great time to speak up. Ask Konrad, Vanessa or Buck. Thanks.

March 8th Mass at All Saints. Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke presiding the Eucharist

- Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: NN • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Bobot Quiming •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: Catholic nurseries •

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