

Angelus prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among woman
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death
Amen.*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary.....

V. And the Word was made flesh
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary.....

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
*Pour forth we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy Grace into our
hearts;
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ,
Thy Son, was made known
by the message of an angel,
may by His Passion and Cross be brought
to the glory of His Resurrection,
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ADVENT'S PRAYER

WEEK 3, JOY

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.



English speaking Catholic Mission Archdiocese of Berlin

Sunday Bulletin

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent Cycle C
Missal no. 791

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

A savior is promised to Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6

A song of praise to God our savior

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

Collection is for **English speaking Mission**

Advent Penitential Service with individual confessions

Saturday, December 22, 2018 - 18:00

The English-speaking Mission will offer an Advent penitential service on December 22nd at 6 pm at St. Bernard's.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

There will be multiple confessors available to hear individual confessions.



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Office hours:

Monday 14:00-18:00, Thursday 9:00-14 (Secretary); Tuesday 10:00-13:00, Thursday 9:00-13:00 (Pastor)

Wednesday and Friday-by appointment

Visit our website: www.english-mission-berlin.de

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

(Sunday connection, www.loyolapress.com)

The Confirmation program is open for registration! Confirmation will be celebrated in 2020 in the English-speaking Mission.

Our program is aimed at 7th and 8th graders and commences with an introductory course in Holy Scripture using the T3 Timeline Bible Study.

The first class is due to kick off on January 19th, 2019.

An organizational meeting for *students and parents* will take place on January 6th, directly after 11 am Mass at St. Bernard's!



ESM Christmas and New Year Masses

Monday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

All Saints 22:00 Midnight Mass
St. Bernard's 19:30 Nativity play, 20:00 Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday Dec. 25 Christmas Day

St. Thomas von Aquin (Kath. Akademie) 10:30 (Mass)
St. Bernard's 11:00 (Mass)
St. Elisabeth's 14:00 (Mass)

Tuesday Dec. 26

St. Bernard's 11:00 (Mass), 13:30 (Wedding Mass)

Sunday Dec. 30

All Saints 10:00 (Mass)
St. Thomas von Aquin (Kath. Akademie) 10:30 (Mass)
St. Bernard's 11:00 (Mass), 19:00 (Mass)
St. Elisabeth's 14:00 (Mass)

Tuesday January 1, 2018 (New Year)

St. Bernard's 11:00 (New Year Mass)
St. Elisabeth's 14:00 (New Year Mass)

General Information about the English-speaking Mission

- Our mission offers pastoral care for immigrants, religious education, catechism classes for 1st Holy Communion and confirmation, preparation for baptism (infants and adults) and marriage courses. Hospital and home visits can be arranged through the mission's office or the priests. For weddings please contact Father Sylvester Ajunwa 3 months in advance.
- Sunday Masses: St. Bernard's 11.00, 19.00; St. Elisabeth's 14.00; All Saints 10.00; Catholic Academy 10.30
- Confession: Sundays at St. Bernard's - 12.00, 18.30-19.00; at St. Elisabeth - 14.00; Fridays at All Saints 17.30
- Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's 1st and 3rd Mondays 20.00-21.00

For more information see our website: www.english-mission-berlin.de