

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

ST. BERNARD CHURCH



323 Reform St. North
Norwood Young America, MN 55368

Contact Information

Rectory & Parish Office-952-467-3351
Websitewww.ascensionnya.org

Parish Office Hours: Mon., Tues.,
Wed., & Fri. 10:00 am—2:00pm.

Business Administrator

Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
E-mail:BusAdmin@ascensionNYA.org

Safe Environment Coordinator

Sarah Smith952-777-0111
Bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Trustees

David Donnay.....952-201-1942
John (Jack) Lano952-467-3765

Finance Council Chairperson

John (Jack) Lano.....952-467-3765

Communion for Homebound

Sue Tellers612-247-6881

Prayer Chain

Carol Donnay952-467-2183
Lucy Kostecka952-467-2576
E-mail: Ascensionprays@aol.com

Adoration Coordinator

Tamara Lemmer.....612-790-5720
E-mail:tamaralemmer7@gmail.com

Music Liturgy

Marilee Widmer952-467-3082

Social Hall Bookings

Parish Office952-467-3351

Knights of Columbus-Grand

Knight Kevin Raether... 952-467-2633

Catholic United Financial

Dennis Stoks952-240-5001

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: By appointment.

Marriage Arrangements

The couple should contact the priest as soon as they become engaged. They must meet with the priest twice before setting a marriage date. These two meetings need to be completed 6 months before the proposed date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment with Father.
Call 952-856-1050

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

MASS SCHEDULE

Ascension-Weekend-Saturday 5:00pm.
Tuesday & Friday 6:15 pm.

St. Bernard-Weekend-Sunday 10:00am.
Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am.

Pastor

Fr. Abraham George Kochupurackal CMI
Office952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

Joint Mission Team Chairperson

Steve Lemmer.....952-913-0790

Faith Formation

DRE for Pre-k-5th Grades

Kara Wickenhauser.....952-466-4719

DRE Middle School Grades

Melanie Kleindl.....763-645-7602

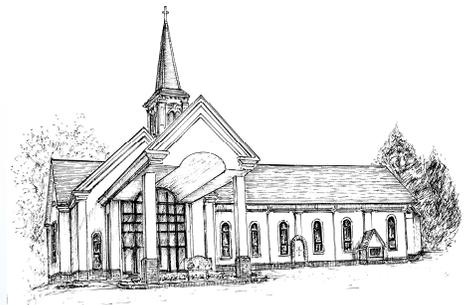
DRE Confirmation Class

Julie Kleindl.....952-807-3522

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www.st-bernard-cologne.org



212 Church St. East
Cologne, MN 55322

Contact Information

Office952-466-2031
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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday thru
Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm.

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Trustees

Andrew Kleindl.....952-442-9282
Thomas Monsen.....507-514-7654

Finance Council Chairperson

Ralph Laumann 952-466-3331

Communion for Homebound

Barb Knorr.....952-466-2447

Prayer Chain

Patsy Quinn.....952-466-3304
Lori Kaselkasel.lori@gmail.com

Adoration Coordinator

Marcy Wickenhauser.....952-466-2593

Funeral Lunch Contact

Sandy Bengston612-240-4977

Ladies Guild President

Monica Kooiman952-466-5769

Catholic United Financial

Carol Hoen952-466-2456

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 13, 2020

“Recognize the One among you”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A young fish said to an older fish, “Excuse me, you are older than I, so can you tell me where to find the thing they call the ocean?” “The ocean is the ‘thing’ you are in now”, replied the older one. “Oh, this? But this is water. What I am seeking is the ocean”, said the disappointed fish, as it swam away to search elsewhere.

How many of us are looking elsewhere for a better, joyful life, when we are actually living in the ocean of God’s loving presence. We hear people saying that we must put God in our lives, but God is already here among us. Our job is to recognize him. The gold necklace we wish to acquire is around our neck. “*There is One among you, whom you do not recognize*” (John 1: 26), said John the Baptist, pointing to the then physical presence of Jesus Christ. The same Lord is now present in our hearts and in our midst in a mysterious way. It is his continued presence, though invisible, that gladdens our hearts, even in the midst of shady sadness.

Jesus, ever present, enters into our hearts in the silence of **prayers**, provided we do not resist him by hiding behind layers of distractions, drowning his voice with worldly noises. He comes to us through his words in the **Scriptures**. If we listen to his words, his words will come alive, questioning and enlightening our minds, challenging and testing our wills, moving and inspiring our hearts. He comes through the **Sacraments**, especially through the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist which are those intense moments of grace and peak experience of God. God is present in our **fellow human beings**. God created us in his own image and likeness. When God became man, human nature was raised to a divine dignity. As children of God, we are called to recognize God’s presence in our brothers and sisters.

In spite of all these spiritual exercises, many do not experience God’s loving and joyful presence in their lives and in their families. Here is the need of real examination of our conscience. Do I recognize God’s presence in my family, in my spouse, in my children? How do I consider them? Is my spouse a problem for me? Are my children a problem for me? Is my neighbor a problem for me?

If I see the other person as a problem, then I try to solve it by various unkind and selfish means. On the other hand, if I see another person as a mystery, then my attempt must be to understand that person more and more with respect. I have to remember an unquestionable fact that he or she was not created in my image and likeness but in God’s image and likeness. So, my prayer comes from the depth of my heart to understand the mystery of that person with the grace of God. Such prayer should be sacrificial and life related.

(Continued in the column to the right) > > > > > >

SCRIPTURE READINGS—Dec. 13-Dec. 19, 2020

12/13 Third Sunday of Advent: Is 61:1-2a,10-11*Lk 1:46-50,53-54*1 Thes 5:16-24*Jn 1:6-8,19-28. **12/14 St. John of the Cross:** Nm 24:2-7,15-17a*Ps 25:4-9*Mt 21:23-27. **12/15 Advent Week-day:** Zep 3:1-2,9-13*Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23*Mt 21:28-32. **12/16 Advent Weekday:** Is 45:6b-8,18,21c-25*Ps 85:9-14*Lk 7:18b-23. **12/17 Late Advent Weekday:** Gn 49:2,8-10*Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17*Mt 1:1-17. **12/18 Late Advent Weekday:** Jer 23:5-8*Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19*Mt 1:18-25. **12/19 Late Advent Weekday:** Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a*Ps 71:3-6,16-17*Lk 1:5-25.



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS’ PARISHES

Tuesdays — NOON; All copy must be in to the bulletin: e-mail address & e-mail to pquinn55322@hotmail.com
Fridays — NOON; All inserts and announcements must be in to the bulletin e-mail address or a paper copy in the Parish office at St. Bernard.

Early Bulletin Deadlines: All copy for the December 27th bulletin must be sent in to the bulletin e-mail address & e-mailed to pquinn55322@hotmail.com **by noon on Wednesday, December 16th. Due to the Christmas seasons’ Holiday.** All copy for the January 3rd, 2021 bulletin must be sent in to the bulletin e-mail address & e-mailed to pquinn55322@hotmail.com **by noon on Tuesday, December 22nd. Due to the New Years Holiday.**

All events cancelled until further notice.

<<<<<<< *(Continued from the column on the left)*
That prayer and the reception of sacraments do not have to be mechanical and verbal in style.

What are the blocks that obstruct us to see God in others? One sure way that obstructs us is pride. Pride is a psychological inflation, more disastrous than the economic inflation. The latter deprives us, only of adequate purchasing power, but the former deprives Jesus of any space in a human heart. St. John the Baptist was so humble that he felt unworthy “even to untie his sandal strap” (John1: 27). Pride and grace never dwelt in one place. Of course, the most common stumbling block that hinders us to see Christ in others is selfishness.

John the Baptist came “to make straight the way of the Lord” and to bear witness to him. Our mission as followers of Christ is to reflect Christ’s light to others and bear witness to him. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ’s sharing love and unconditional forgiveness. There are so many people who live in poverty and in sickness. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI
Pastor

Church of the Ascension Norwood Young America, MN



Every Tuesday & Friday
Eucharistic Adoration
3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Mass Times

The Mass schedule going forward will be as follows:

Ascension: Saturday at 5:00 pm; Tues. and Fri. at 6:15 pm

Communion for those over 65 or with health concerns on Tues at 6:45pm

St. Bernard: Sunday at 10:00 am; Wed. and Thurs. at 8am

Communion for those over 65 or with health concerns on Wed at 8:30am

Because of the limited seating, we are asking you to sign up for one of the weekly Masses. Please go to your parish's website and sign up there. If you don't have internet access, call the parish office for assistance signing up.

General Absolution and Confession Opportunities

General Absolution: Dec. 19th and 20th after the regularly scheduled weekend Masses on Saturday, 5pm at Ascension and Sunday, 10am at St. Bernard.

Individual Confession: Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 5:30pm until the start of Mass at Ascension and on Thursday, Dec. 17th

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Beverly Feltmann** whose funeral was on Tuesday, Dec. 1st at Ascension. May she rest in peace and may her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of our Lord, rest in peace. Please pray for her family.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Masses,

4 PM at Ascension and **6:30 PM** at St. Bernard.

Christmas day Masses,

8 AM at Ascension and **10 AM** at St. Bernard.

Mary Mother of God Holy Day

Thurs., December 31, **6:30pm** at St. Bernard

Fri., January 1, **9:00am** at Ascension

We strongly recommend you sign up in advance for these services as they could fill up quickly. Sign up at ascensionya.org or st-bernard-cologne.org.

Retirement Fund for Religious

There will be a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be as generous as you can. For more information go to: retiredreligious.org

Church of St. Bernard

Cologne, MN



All Wednesday's of the Month
Eucharistic Adoration
2:00pm until 7:00pm.
Until further notice.

Spiritual Resources!

TV ___ Diocese of St. Cloud: Sundays, 11 AM. on KSTCTV/45;—Diocese of Winona-Rochester: Sun., 11:30 AM. on Fox 9+;— Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sunday, Noon on Fox 9+ (Dish/Direct 29, Comcast 10/807; Over Air 9.2);—EWTN: 7:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM.

Radio: ___ Relevant Radio 1330am: Weekdays and Sundays at noon, and Sundays at 9 a.m.

___ EWTN: ewtn.com/radio/listen-live

Please pray the Rosary daily for our nation, our world, an end to Abortion and an end to the Coronavirus.

The following is a list of a few TV and Radio stations that air the Rosary.

TV ___ EWTN: 6:30am, After the TV Mass at Approximately 8:00am.; 2:30pm.; 8:30pm.

___ Catholic TV Network: 2:00 am; 9:00am; 5:30pm Nuvera Nu Tel Cable TV Ch. 21

Radio: ___ Revelant Radio 1330am: 7:00pm. "Family Rosary across America"



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Bernice Wickenhauser**, who passed away on Tuesday, December 1st. Her funeral was on Monday, December

7th. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Pray also for comfort for her family.

Attention Chili Feed Cash Raffle winners—To those of you who have not as yet received your winnings, please pick up your prize winnings at school on Thursday, December 17th from 5:00pm until 6:00pm.

Again **THANK YOU** to all for your participation.

Open Positions—Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have need of a **Buildings and Grounds chairperson**. This person oversees the Building and Grounds committee and coordinates the upkeep and maintenance of all the buildings on our campus. Please contact Leo Willems for more information.

There are also 3 open positions on the **Finance Council** with only 2 voting members remaining. The Finance Council oversees the financial aspects of the parish. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Father, Ralph Laumann or the parish office.

Word of Life—"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB , "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

CHURCH OF ST. BERNARD
STEWARDSHIP OF TIME
December 14 through December 20, 2020

SERVERS:

Sat. 8:00pm No Mass
Sun. 10:00am. Suspended until further notice

LECTORS:

Sat. 8:00 pm. No Mass
Sun. 10:00 am Volunteers Welcome

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Sat. 8:00pm No Mass
Sun. 10:00am Fr. Abraham

GREETERS:

Saturday 8:00pm No Mass
Sunday 10:00am Volunteers Welcome

USHERS

Sat. 8:00pm No Mass
Sun. 10:00am Volunteers Welcome

CHURCH CLEAN: Judy Glander & Peggy Eiden

NARTHEX CLEANING: Hammers

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Dec. 12 8:00pm. No Mass
Sun. Dec. 13 10:00am. †Dennis Wickenhauser
Gilbert Rademacher & All Parishioners
Mon. Dec. 14 No Mass
Tues. Dec. 15 6:15pm Mass at Ascension
Wed. Dec. 16 8:00am †Bernadette Notermann
Thurs. Dec. 17 8:00am †Pamela Stelten
Fri. Dec. 18 6:15pm Mass at Ascension
Sat. Dec. 19 8:00 pm No Mass
Sun. Dec. 20 10:00am. †Art Hilgers, Clarence
& Muriel Wickenhauser & All Parishioners

Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	4,205.71
Contributions 12-01 through 12-8-2020	3,789.92
Total Actual Collection YTD	70,795.87
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	(4,708.49)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	400.00
Electronic Donations	190.50
Forward in Faith Total	560.50
Forward in Faith YTD	10,234.10

Did you know you can have your contributions automatically deducted from your checking or savings account? For more information call the parish office 952-466-2031, or visit www.st-bernard-cologne.org

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
STEWARSHIP OF TIME**

SERVERS:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Suspended until further notice

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

READERS:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Volunteers Welcome

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Volunteers Welcome

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Team A:

Team B:

USHERS:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Volunteers Welcome

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

SACRISTAN:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Father Abraham

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

GREETERS:

Sat. 5:00 pm: Volunteers Welcome

Sun. 8:00 am: No Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.	Dec. 14		No Mass
Tues.	Dec. 15	6:15 pm	For Respect for all Life
Wed.	Dec. 16	8:00 am	Mass at St. Bernard
Thurs.	Dec. 17	8:00 am	Mass at St. Bernard
Fri.	Dec. 18	6:15 pm	For All Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	Dec. 19	5:00 pm	All Parishioner
Sun.	Dec. 20	8:00 am	No Mass

**Weekly Collection Report
Totals for 12/6/2020**

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$3,115.38
Contributions:	\$4,328.40
E-Giving:	\$270.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	\$71,653.74
Actual Collection YTD:	\$58,548.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	(\$13,105.74)
Capital Improvement Offering:	\$20.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	\$45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$3,965.00