

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

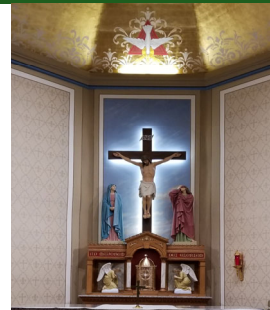
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

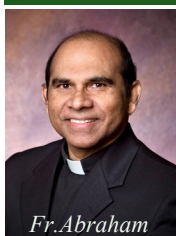


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
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Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 22, 2021



Fr. Abraham

“Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in you.” Then many of his disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, “Does this shock you?” It is then that Jesus turns to the Twelve. “Do you also wish to leave me?” Peter speaks for all: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6: 69)

For the five weeks, we have been reflecting on the theme of Jesus the **Bread of eternal life**. This Sunday we conclude our reflection of St John’s gospel chapter six, the basis for the belief about the **Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist**. Only with an unconditional trust in Jesus will we have that deeper insight into the real meaning of Jesus’ words. It requires an absolutely open mind ready to receive what is there, not what we put there. And this is a gift of God: “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of Jesus’ words many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him. Those words “turned back” are very sad. This is even worse, a turning back to their former ways of life. The word conversion means a turning towards God. To be a Christian is not an easy life. These are among the saddest words in the Gospel. This could happen to any of us. Perhaps we too will feel like leaving Jesus, leaving his Church. Perhaps we have had that experience already. It can be very painful. There are many reasons why this can happen: poorly instructed in the Christian faith so that we go around with a distorted understanding of the Gospel message, negative witness, scandalizing behavior from other Christians, be they clergy or lay people, the powerful attraction of a seductive world which is not compatible with the Christian values.

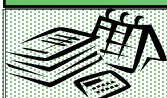
On the other hand, many have reflected that, in spite of the difficulties and doubts, there is really no viable alternative to the way of life that Jesus proposes. It is a way of life that is not invalidated by the words or actions of others. Faith in Jesus Christ is not simply a set of ideas to be held on to. It is a living relationship with Jesus Christ and his vision of life. It is a relationship that needs to grow and be deepened. It is a relationship that has constantly to be renewed in a constantly changing world. Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”

Jesus is inviting you to be with him. We have the opportunity for **Eucharistic Adoration** on every Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Ascension and on every Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at St. Bernard. Jesus is waiting for you to be with him at least a few minutes and experience his love and peace.

It is not enough for him to come to you; you also have to go all the way to him, with him. When the priest says, offering the Bread: “The Body of Christ”, you respond with ‘Amen’. That ‘Yes’ is not only just an act of faith in the Real Presence but also a total commitment of yourself to Jesus in the community of which you are a member. Jesus is inviting us to follow him, to be with him, to share totally and unconditionally in his mission. The special way in which we strengthen ourselves of this calling is through our **celebration of the Eucharist**, where we eat the Body and the drink the Blood. But we need to remember that this is a sacrament that points to the deeper reality, our ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ. In celebrating the Eucharist, we are saying that we want to **deepen that relationship with Jesus**, with his Gospel, and with the community. This life in Christ is the nourishment of our life. Without this Food and Drink, we will die of starvation; our bodies will keep going but in a very real sense, spiritually, we will have died.

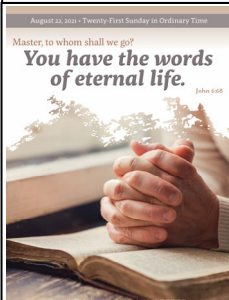
Every weekend Mass, more people are participating the Mass. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the church for the Mass since the most pandemic restrictions were lifted in Minnesota.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI, Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Faith Formation Volunteers Needed: As summer winds down, we are beginning to make plans for our faith formation program. Weekly classes will be held @ Ascension on Wednesday night. We are in need of several volunteers to help teach. There is one opening to co-teach in our confirmation program. We also need three volunteers in the middle school program--which is called the Edge. For middle school, you would be a small group leader and have some occasional teaching opportunities. **We need to fill these positions before classes can start.** You can make a difference by sharing your unique gifts! **Contact:** Julie Kleindl to learn more.



WE FACE THE SAME QUESTION: CAN WE STAY WITH JESUS? The people who were frenetically following Jesus, crossing the lake twice to pursue him, eating the bread he miraculously provided, are now puzzled by Jesus proclaiming himself as “the bread of life,” and they are incredulous. They can go with him no farther, so they gradually drift away. The Twelve, however, stay with Jesus. What else could

they do? Who else offers such a profound vision of human life? Peter expresses it well: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Not all of our life’s crossroads involve our faith, but some do. Perhaps there is someone in your parish who chose to become Catholic and is now alienated from their family; someone who is unhappy with a new pastor and wondering about looking for a different parish; someone who was especially distressed by the clergy sex abuse and prayed long and hard before deciding that she needed her parish to get through it. There may be many in your parish facing such choices, and they need our support and our prayers. In the meantime, we can hope that someday they will again experience Jesus as the Holy One of God, offering them words of eternal life. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THE WAY—

It’s hard to train a child in a way the parents don’t go themselves. —Anonymous

Mark your calendars for the annual Chili Feed & Cash Raffle. The date has been set for Saturday, November 6th. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Faith Formation Registration has been sent out. Registration forms are due back by September 8th or a late fee will apply. The first night of “class” - Family night/registration will be held on Sept. 8th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Ascension.

“Benefit Banquet for Relevant Radio 1330 AM and Catholic Schools

All are cordially invited to join Relevant Radio Executive Director Father Francis Hoffman (“Father Rocky”) and radio show hosts Patrick Madrid, Father Richard Simon, Glen Lewerenz, and Paul Sadek, as we honor Saint Joseph at the 10th Annual Christ Brings Hope Benefit Banquet. This festive evening will take place at the DoubleTree - Bloomington/ Minneapolis South on Thursday, September 16, 2021. Gifts made to Relevant Radio that evening will be matched to assist with tuition funds of participating Catholic schools. For details, visit the Events tab at www.relevantradio.com, or call Celine at 612-643-4117. Space is limited! Register today!”

Let us always keep it before our eyes that here on earth is a place of combat and the crown is received in heaven; that here is the proving ground and the prize is given up there; that here we are in a land of exile and our true homeland is heaven, to which we must continually aspire.
-- St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Word of Life—

“God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather whose we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“[How to Build a Culture of Life](#)”

Bulletin copy is due by Thursdays @ NOON

for the bulletin two weekends out;
St. Bernard copy must be emailed to:
bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org and
pquinn55322@hotmail.com

Ascension copy must be emailed to:
busadmin@ascensionnya.org

All inserts and weekend Mass announcements can be emailed or a paper copy brought to the Parish office at St. Bernard or Ascension.

Spiritual Resources!

TV: Diocese of St. Cloud: Sun., 11 AM. on KSTCTV/45;—Diocese of Winona-Rochester: Sun., 11:30 AM. on Fox 9+;— Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sun., 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 Sun. at noon, and 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

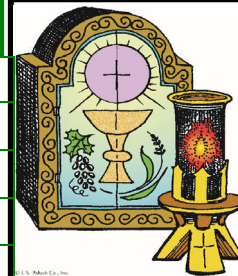
Radio: Revelant Radio 1330am: 7:00pm. “Family Rosary across America”

Mass Ministry Schedule - August 28-August 29, 2021

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Cheryl Coyle	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Paul Prosocki	Jack Lano	Dan Worm
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Brian Willems	Helen Nicklaus
Eucharistic Ministers	Jean Schmitz	Lisa Whitaker	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Eugene Dvorak	Don Whitaker & Justin Buckentin	Vern Elke & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Dave & Donnay	Renee Garfunkel	Julie & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Sue & Rich Tellers Grp B: Pat Johnson & Theresa Hartmann	Barb Knorr Connie Medenwaldt

Mass Times/Intentions

Monday	Aug. 23	No Mass	
Tuesday	Aug. 24 6:15 pm	Ascension	Pope Francis
Wednesday	Aug. 25 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Thursday	Aug. 26 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Fr. George Thoomkuzhy†
Friday	Aug. 27 8:00 am	Ascension	Living and deceased members of Mathias & Gertrude Fink Family
Saturday	Aug. 28 5:00 pm	Ascension	Del Lano †
Sunday	Aug. 29 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Aug. 29 10:00am	St. Bernard	Roy & Vera Arnst †† & All Parishioners



Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard
Every Wednesday
2:00 pm until 7:00 pm

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

Ascension: Tues. 5:45pm - 6:05pm

St. Bernard: Wed: 7:30am-7:50am

Saturday: 4:30pm—4:50pm

at parish hosting the Mass

By appointment with Father- Call 952-856-1050

Communion for Homebound

Ascension - Sue Tellers.....612-247-6881

St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-466-2447

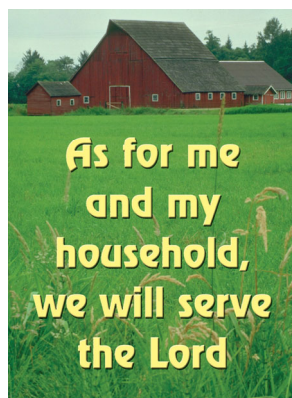
Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Aug 23-29, 2021

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22 **Tuesday:** Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51 **Wednesday:** 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32 **Thursday:** 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51 **Friday:** 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13 **Saturday:** 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30 **Sunday:** Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,930.47
Contributions 08-4 through 08-10-21	1,899.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	19,070.01
YTD 12-31 Collection Over (Under) Budget	1,146.07
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	450.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	550.00
Forward in Faith YTD	3,299.42

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

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 8/8/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	1,386.00
E-Giving:	1,090.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	16,730.82
Actual Collection YTD:	19,543.75
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	2,812.93
Capital Improvement Offering:	115.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	145.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	1,415.00

Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionmya.org
Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more information: 952-467-3351.