

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

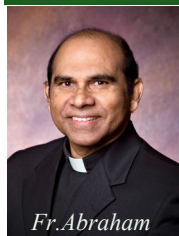


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 12, 2021



Fr. Abraham

Love Makes Suffering Redemptive

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Who is Jesus Christ to each of us? Who is Jesus to me personally? We believe that Jesus is to us the “Messiah”, the Savior who is the “Way” to life. His way is the way of the cross. Jesus says, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” (Mark 8:35). Jesus teaches his disciples that he must suffer greatly and be killed, and rise after three days. But it is hard for the disciple to accept the suffering of Jesus.

St. Therese's of Lisieux had intense sufferings and hardships in her life. For her the meaning of suffering is grounded in its unity with love. Suffering is an integral part of love, as God's grace and privilege of love. They are inseparable because suffering is also an expression of the divine love of Jesus Christ to love and save all souls. She embraced suffering as a means to participate in Jesus' redemptive works to save souls. St. Therese integrated her suffering with her simple and childlike desires to love Christ and make him loved on earth and in heaven.

The fact is that no one escapes the cross. Every one suffers in some way. The personal cross that Jesus asks each of us to carry may not be the same for all. It may be personal sickness, pain, worry, rejection of love, humiliations, the loss of loved ones, joblessness, and old age. Through suffering we come to glory. The Cross led to Christ's glory and it will lead to ours as well.

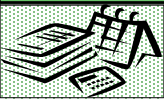
The greatest tragedy in the world is not that there is suffering, but that so much of it is wasted. Our suffering must be borne with love. It is not suffering that redeems but only love redeems. It is only love that makes suffering redemptive. The important thing in life is not the sorrow and suffering that befall us. The important thing is how we respond to them. The important thing is what we do about them. May be we can't avoid sorrow and suffering, but we can do something with them. We can turn them into something constructive, not destructive. We can turn them into something that is life-giving, not death dealing. We can turn them into something that makes us better, not bitter.

At the height of his writing career, Oscar Wilde (Irish poet and playwright) was convicted of a charge against morals. After he returned from the prison, he could no longer write superficial comedies. He wrote, in what has to be one of the most beautiful lines of poetry ever written, “Where sorrow is, there is holy ground.” (*De Profundis* - a long letter which discusses his spiritual journey through his trials.) And in another beautiful line, he wrote, “How else but through the broken heart may the Lord enter in?” (*The Ballad of Reading Gaol*). Oscar Wilde used his humiliating experience as an occasion to grow and became better. In the spirit of the gospel, he turned it into an experience that was life-giving, not death-dealing.

Sooner or later we also realize that sorrow and suffering are not necessarily death-dealing. God often uses sorrow and suffering to fashion into better people, more understanding people, warmer people, humbler people, and more compassionate people. Sorrow and suffering can open our eyes to a richer and more beautiful life than we ever dreamed possible.

Life is a tough proposition, for suffering is part of it. The Lord does not ask us to submit ourselves to sufferings in fatalistic spirit. We must take all legitimate steps to remove and prevent all unnecessary sufferings. But if, in spite of that, we have still to suffer especially along our journey in faith towards full Christian maturity, we are asked to take them on willingly. To deny oneself, may be needed to resist temptations of life. Pain and suffering shatter the illusion of man's self-sufficiency, breaking through the deception that we are in control of our life, and compelling us to look towards God, the source of all comforts. God invites us to take up our cross with decision and with faith. Our life should be a continuous and permanent offering to God. Only in this way we can follow him as he asks.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sept 16 7:00pm Joint Mission Team (JMT) Mtg @ StB
 Sept 21 4:00pm Finance Council Mtg @ Asc
 Sept 23 7:00pm Finance Council Mtg @ StB

Faith Formation Volunteers Needed: Weekly classes started on **Wed., Sept. 8th**. We are still in need of two volunteers to help teach. There is one opening to *co-teach in our confirmation program*. We also need another volunteer in the *middle school Edge program*-- you would be a small group leader and have some occasional teaching opportunities. **We need to fill these positions before classes can start.** Please pray about sharing your unique gifts and experiences with our FF students. **Contact:** Julie Kleindl to learn more.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Francis Green whose funeral was held at Ascension on Thurs. Sept. 9th. May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, with the mercy of God, rest in peace. Also pray for peace and comfort for Francis's family.

Mark your Calendars! It is Ascension's turn to host the **Parish Picnic** this year. It is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 25th and will be held at the Legion Park in NYA. Mass that day will be at 4:00pm with the picnic to follow.

St. Bernard's Chili feed is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 6th. Mass that day will be at 5:00pm followed by the Chili Feed.

Synod Small Group Meetings—Update on meeting times—we will have two instead of three. We will have two opportunities to join a Synod small group. Sunday mornings at 9:15am at Ascension, and on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at St. Bernard. There will be six weekly sessions starting Sun, Sept 26th and Tues. Sept 28th. We will not meet during MEA break. You may participate in any of these sessions at whichever meeting time works best for your schedule. This is our opportunity to give Archbishop Hebda feedback on the priorities we would like to see as focus areas in our parishes and Archdiocese.

“Ask Him to give you a sprit of complete surrender so that He can do His will-His plan through you.”
 —Jane Trufant Harvey.

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.

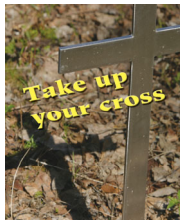
Spiritual Resources! **TV:** Diocese of St. Cloud: Sun., 11 AM. on KSTCTV/45; —Diocese of Winona-Rochester: Sun., 11:30 AM. on Fox 9+; — Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sun., Noon on Fox 9+ (Dish/Direct 29, Comcast 10/807; Over Air 9.2); —EWTN: 7:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM. **Radio:** Relevant Radio 1330am: 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”

IS THE HONEYMOON OVER? It doesn't have to be! A Marriage Encounter weekend can rekindle the excitement and romance in your relationship. This is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Oct 8-10, 2021 in Buffalo, MN and Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-756-8720.

Missionary Appeal Collection: Sept. 11-12 at all Masses
Sister Carolyn Puccio, CSJ wishes to thank everyone on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who were able to give to support their missionary work in Peru. Currently, the Sisters of St. Joseph are using donations to provide food for families that have nothing to eat; oxygen to those with Covid-19, and funds to assist families with funeral expenses for those who have died from the coronavirus. Your prayers are requested for the sisters in Peru and your generosity in the special collection for Peru is greatly appreciated.

Archdiocesan Candlelight Rosary Procession
 Friday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.

at the Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul
 Join in praying the rosary as we process from the State Capitol to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Gather at the MN State Capitol approach at 6:30 p.m., for the procession which will begin at 7 p.m. We will conclude with Marian prayers, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction at the Cathedral. See more information at minnesotarosaryprocessions.org.



IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTROL
 From toddlerhood to old age, we grow in mastery of our own lives, our bodies, and our destiny. This mastery is hard won, and we don't let go of autonomy easily. Much of this self-mastery involves the avoidance of pain or discomfort, so when we hear things like “take up your cross” and “lose your life,” we tend to resist the message.

James says that faith without works is dead. Ouch! That is really a direct message! One way to look at this, as well as the part about losing our life to find it, is that faith is a process of more and more openness to God's direction of our lives. It is very hard for us to give up control, but perhaps what we are being asked to do is not to become passive and babyish, but to allow God to direct where our self-mastery will lead and what it will accomplish. We are asked to relinquish the need to control the results of our efforts; to risk, as Jesus did, the loss of everything we are working to achieve. We are asked to let God take the lead and to control the results, even though we may never see those results.
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Mass Ministry Schedule - September 18-September 19, 2021

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteer	Paul Prosocki	Dan Worm
Reader	Patricia Quinn	Cheryl Coyle	Helen Nicklaus
Eucharistic Ministers	Irene Drees	Steve Coyle	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Danny Hoen & Volunteer	Gary Widmer & Tim George	Bob Symanitz & Volunteer
Greeters	Roger Storms	Grace Cook	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Anita & Michael Harrison Grp B: Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	Doris Mielke Patricia Quinn

Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Sept. 13	No Mass	
Tuesday	Sept. 14 6:15 pm	Ascension	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Wednesday	Sept. 15 8:00 am	St. Bernard	R. M. Family
Thursday	Sept. 16 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Friday	Sept. 17 8:00 am	Ascension	For respect for ALL Life
Saturday	Sept. 18 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	Sept. 19 8:00 am	Ascension	Del Lano †
Sunday	Sept. 19 10:00am	St. Bernard	Living & deceased members of the Albert & Clara Wickenhauser fam.



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 Sept 13-19, 2021

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-8; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME



September 12, 2021

IF YOU WISH TO COME AFTER ME
YOU MUST DENY YOURSELF,
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS,
and follow me.

MARK 8:34

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,930.47
Contributions 08-25 through 08-31-21	2,817.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	29,473.18
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	2,757.83
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	75.00
Electronic Donations	00.00
Forward in Faith Total	75.00
Forward in Faith YTD	4,852.84
Haiti Emergency Fund Collection	341.00

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 8/29/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	2,438.00
E-Giving:	240.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	25,096.23
Actual Collection YTD:	26,545.60
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	1,449.37
Capital Improvement Offering:	220.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	1,995.00

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