

**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368



PASTOR
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE 952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

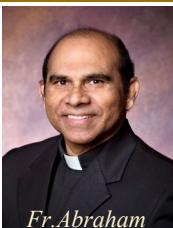
**ST. BERNARD
CHURCH**
212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



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:
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-856-1051
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-856-1052
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - November 21, 2021



Fr. Abraham

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend is the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We used to see the image of Jesus with a crown on his head, but also the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When we look at the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we might wonder about this image of Jesus with his heart exposed. Although Jesus didn't walk this earth with his heart exposed like that, he did walk the earth with his heart burning with love for us.

The kings of this earth demand of their subjects that they should be ready, if necessary, to lay down their lives to defend their king and kingdom. Men have always accepted this and millions have given their lives to defend their country and rulers. We have a king who laid down his life for us and set us an example unlike that of any earthly king.

This feast celebrates Christ's Kingship in an altogether non-worldly way. Jesus was anointed by the Father with the oil of gladness as the Eternal Priest and Universal King. As Priest He offered his life on the altar of the Cross and redeemed the human race by this one perfect sacrifice. As King he claims dominion over all creation that he may present to the almighty Father a Kingdom of truth, justice, peace, love and holiness.

Pilate asks Jesus if it is true that he is the king of the Jews. Jesus answers that his kingdom does not belong to this world. He says he came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth hears Jesus' voice. (Jn 18:33-37). We need to listen to Jesus voice. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." (Rev 1:5-8- second reading). Jesus is the King of our life, our homes, and our world. We have to dedicate ourselves to the eternal King of the universe.

When we consecrate our lives and our homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we simply acknowledge that Jesus is our king. Many who have enthroned an image of Jesus' Sacred Heart in their homes and accept Christ as King of their house have come to experience the changes in family life. We begin to allow Christ to take over our lives.

We are called to gather as God's family on Sundays and Holy Days, and to receive the Eucharist. When we hear the words, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," we are sent back to our homes to live with Christ as our king all week long. We are all called to submit ourselves to Christ the King of our lives! We can treat each other with great respect and reverence. We can continue to do Christ's work- testify to the truth- in our world.

In honoring Christ today as our King, let us especially thank him for all the humiliations and sufferings he endured on our behalf. If our Christian way of living makes some demands on us let us not forget how small they are when compared with what Christ's earthly life cost him. He made these severe sacrifices for us; we are asked to make our small offerings for ourselves. Let us promise to be grateful and loyal subjects of his for the rest of our days. He has made us members of his kingdom on earth -the Church- and is preparing a place for us in his everlasting kingdom. We come close to the end of the Liturgical Year with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King. Next Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent Season with a new Liturgical Cycle- C.

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

