

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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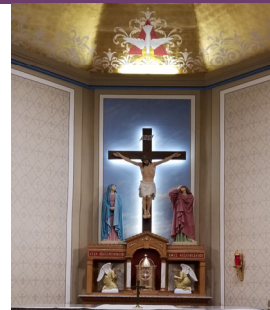
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



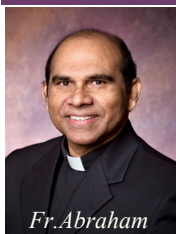
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-856-1051
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
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The First Sunday of Advent - November 28, 2021

Be Watchful and Pray



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Advent season is about preparing for the comings of Christ. The term Advent comes from a Latin word *adventus* meaning ‘coming or arrival’. We immediately think it refers to the coming of Jesus at Christmas time and that is correct. But it is not the whole story. In fact, we can speak of three comings of the Lord and all are referred to in the Scripture readings today.

We prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the Coming of Christ on the first Christmas Day and we look back into history and acquaint ourselves with the stories of how Jesus came to be born. We could call this his First Coming. We also look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time and that’s what our Gospel text today points to. And we are encouraged to put our lives in order and be ready to face that day. But there is another coming and that is the coming of Christ each day into our hearts. This depends upon our personal disposition, whether we are open to Christ and improve our relation with others each day or not.

Each day as we rise in the morning we ought to take a brief moment to pray, to pause and to consciously invite the Lord into our hearts. And from time to time during the day we can turn to him reminding ourselves of his constant presence in our brothers and sisters. It is in these simple ways that we prepare ourselves to be ready to meet Christ when our hour eventually comes. A good life consists not so much in the kind of work we do or how “successful” we are but how we have related with God and with people – with family, relatives, friends, colleagues and total strangers.

On the First Sunday of Advent, our scriptural readings invite us to ask ourselves: Are we so caught up with material things in life that we are giving a back seat to spiritual things? Are we so busy making a living that we are forgetting the purpose of life? Are we so taken up with life that we are forgetting why God gave us life?

Jesus warns us in today’s gospel: “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.” So, Jesus tells us be vigilant and pray.

The greatest Christmas gift that we can give and receive is the gift of the Presence of Christ. During this Advent season prepare to welcome Jesus into our life, especially through the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** restores the gift of God’s grace after it has been lost through a mortal sin. For those who are not guilty of a mortal sin, the sacrament strengthens and intensifies the life of God in them. This sacrament also helps all to develop a sense of sin and helps in the proper formation of conscience. This is good news for all of us, because we all are sinners and in need of God’s forgiveness. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after our sin. We have a great opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 15th Wednesday 6:30 pm at Ascension**. Advent is also a proper time to choose an hour for Eucharistic adoration. We have Eucharistic adoration on every Tuesday from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm at Ascension, and every Wednesday 2:00pm- 7:00pm at St. Bernard.

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



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Dec 8	8:00am	Immaculate Conception Mass @ StB
Dec 8	6:45pm	Immaculate Conception Mass @ Asc
Dec 9	Noon	Early deadline for Dec. 19th bulletin.
Dec. 15	Noon	Early deadline for Dec. 26th bulletin
Dec 15	6:30-8:00pm	Combined Reconciliation @ Asc



JMT Members Needed!! The JMT is our joint parish council and assists Father with the pastoral needs/direction of our parishes. We have two positions open **at each parish** on the Joint Mission Team (JMT) committee. One position will be for a two year term and the second position will be for a three year term. We did not have elections last year due to Covid so that is why there are two positions open at each parish this year. Elections are held in November with the winning candidate taking office at the January 2022 meeting. Interested persons should contact Father, any of the current JMT members or the parish office.



Stewardship Commitment Forms/Cards
If you haven't yet, please return your Commitment Form and Card by 1) placing them in the collection basket at Mass, 2) bringing them in to the office, or 3) mailing them in the self-addressed envelope in your packet. All volunteers are greatly appreciated!!

Advent/Christmas/New Years Schedule

Immaculate Conception Masses—Holy Day of Obligation
Dec. 8 **8:00am @ StB** and **6:45pm @Asc**
Combined Reconciliation Service
Dec. 15 **6:30—8:00pm @ Asc**
Christmas Schedule
Dec. 24 **4:00pm @ Asc** and **6:30pm @ StB**
Dec. 25 **8:00am @ Asc** and **10:00am @ StB**
Feast of the Holy Family (3rd weekend of month schedule)
Dec. 25 **5:00pm @ Asc**
Dec. 26 **8:00am @ Asc** and **10:00am @ StB**
NOTE: Mass attendance at Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family are required. Attending one Mass on Dec 25th will NOT fulfill both obligations.

New Year's and Solemnity of Mary/Epiphany

Jan 1 **5:00pm @ StB**
Jan 2 **8:00am @ Asc** and **10:00am @ StB**
Note: The Solemnity of Mary Holy Day obligation has been suspended this year as it falls on a Saturday and Sunday is the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord.

“Asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness—which is likewise an obligation, since everyone is included in the Lord’s admonition: ‘Let whoever is without sin cast the first stone!’—are indispensable elements for peace.” — *Pope Benedict XVI*

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration will continue through December from 2 pm to 6 pm every Wednesday. You can sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or just drop in to spend some time with Jesus. He loves surprise visitors! He loves YOU! Adoration is suspended during January and February, and possibly into March depending on our winter weather. Thank you!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE--

We are ready to give an update on the donations collected for our faith formation sponsorship program.

Our **GOAL** is \$5000 and we have taken in \$2000 at this time. If you missed the flyer about the program--they are available at both parishes.

At Ascension--on the back entry table. At St Bernard--in the yellow folder on the kiosk. Thank you to those who have already donated. Your gift helps strengthen our faith formation programs.

Leave a Message for Bishop Cozzens

Now-December 6

On October 18, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Andrew Cozzens as the bishop of Crookston, Minnesota. If you'd like to leave a brief message of encouragement, "thank you" or prayer for Bishop Cozzens before he leaves for Crookston, Practicing Catholic on Relevant Radio 1330AM has set up a voicemail box for you to do so. Leave your first name and a brief voicemail at (651)251-7737, and your message may be featured on the air!

*Please note, this voicemail box does not go directly to Bishop Cozzens.

The Year of Saint Joseph: Engage. Pray. Celebrate.

Now-December 8, various locations

The Year of Saint Joseph continues with these upcoming opportunities. The **December 7 Cuppa Joe** will feature Fr. Jon Vander Ploeg speaking on the saint in his title as Terror of Demons. **Prayer intentions** on the Year of Saint Joseph can be submitted at archspm.org/stjoseph. These will be sent to the Carmelite Monastery in Lake Elmo who will include them in their intercession for the Church. Save the date for the **Year of Saint Joseph Closing Mass, December 8, 2021, 7 p.m.** at Cathedral of Saint Paul. For details on these events as well as additional opportunities visit archspm.org/stjoseph.



First Sunday of Advent

Today, whether at evening, morning, or midday, in many communities of different churches around the world, the first candle lit in each Advent wreath silently but beautifully announces the beginning of a new liturgical year. This new beginning presents a grace-filled opportunity for us to resolve to live not simply according to the secular calendar of our commercialized society, but according to the spirit of the liturgy. There's nothing wrong—indeed there can be something quite holy—about planning to celebrate God's surprising gift of the Son by surprising our loved ones with thoughtful gifts at Christmas. But how important, amid the rush of holiday preparations, to take the time and to make the effort to appreciate Advent's early twilights and later sunrises, awash in the purples, deep blues, and even the dusky rose colors we associate with Advent. Thus we let nature's own "Advent" prompt reflections on the "Advent" that Jeremiah saw coming. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

Mass Ministry Schedule - Dec. 4-5, 2021 & Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am	St. Bernard—Dec. 8 Imm. Conc.-8am	Ascension—Dec. 8 Imm. Conc.- 6:45pm
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn	Doris Mielke	Sherry Witte
Servers	Volunteer	Paul Prosocki	Daniel Worm	Daniel Worm	Florian Schindler
Reader	Jake Kooiman	Darlene Mondor	Ally Kunkel	Lori Kasel	Ann Schwichtenberg
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Jean Schmitz	Andy Kleindl	Victoria Arnst	Steve Lemmer
Ushers	Danny Hoen & Volunteer	Paul Lano & Curt Wilson	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos	Vern Elke & Leo Willems	Steve Schrupp & Jeremy Friendshuh
Greeters	Eileen Fasching	Grace Cook	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl	Roger Storms	Sue Schultz
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim & Rita Fahey Paul & Corrine Prosocki	Barb Knorr & Connie Medenwaldt	N/A	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Monday	Nov. 29	No Mass	
Tuesday	Nov. 30 6:15 pm	Ascension	Bernice & Dennis Wickenhuser ††
Wednesday	Dec. 1 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Thursday	Dec. 2 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Bernice Wickenhauser †
Friday	Dec. 3 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Dec. 4 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Sunday	Dec. 5 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 5 10:00am	St. Bernard	Alex, Clara, Ronald & Donald Storms & Judy Pjahn †††††

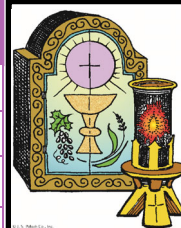
SCRIPTURE READINGS Nov 29-Dec 5, 2021

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,183.50
Contributions 11-10 through 11-16-21	4,917.17
Total Actual Collection YTD	60,759.45
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	469.75
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	825.00
Electronic Donations	643.42
Forward in Faith Total	1,468.42
Forward in Faith YTD	10,710.18

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 11/14/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	1,660.00
E-Giving:	246.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	55,769.40
Actual Collection YTD:	54,655.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(1,245.53)
Capital Improvement Offering:	70.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	4,355.00

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