

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

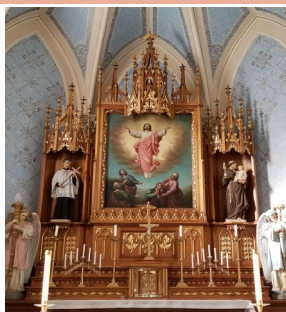
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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

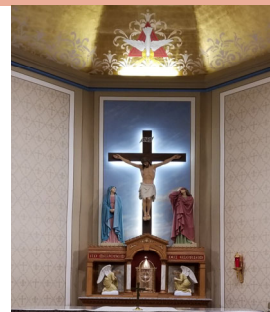
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

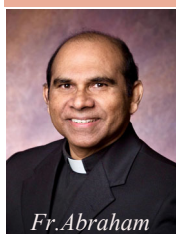


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-856-1052
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The Third Sunday of Advent - December 12, 2021



Fr. Abraham

“What should we do?”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The people who heard John the Baptist could feel the dynamism of his words. They asked the prophet, “What should we do?” He told them two things they should do. First, they should *share* and second, they should *be honest* in word and deed. In other words, they should be *charitable and gentle*.

John the Baptist was a radical. He called people to make a radical change in their lives. He challenged the people to be lovable. He also challenges us. He challenges us to adopt a whole new attitude in life, an attitude of sacrificial love. This is the love that others will witness in us as a sign that the Kingdom of God is near. St. Paul put it this way to the Philippians. “Let your gentleness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.”

What should I do? What should we do to prepare for the Lord? *First*, we should not think or act as if worshipping God is a routine job that had to be completed to get into heaven. We worship God because He loves us and we *love Him*. We are united to Him because we really love the Lord. We are united to him to protect us from the physical as well as the moral diseases of our fallen world.

The *second* thing we should do is to develop and nurture our *prayer* lives. We need to make the time to speak to the Lord and listen Him, at least fifteen minutes a day. Actually, we are not giving the Lord anything. But, we need to be with the Lord every day.

The *third* thing we should do is to look at *how we treat others* and then try to be kind, considerate and lovable. We need to treat others with justice and dignity because God loves us and loves them. We need to love in a Christian way, a sacrificial way. We become Christ-like when we put the needs of others before our wants and even before our needs.

The *fourth* thing we should do is to ask for God’s *forgiveness*. We must admit that we are sinners. We are all lovable people, but we are also vulnerable people. All of us have areas in our lives that need to be presented to Jesus for healing and forgiveness. And closely connected with seeking forgiveness we should offer forgiveness. We should live our lives in the joy and peace of the Lord. St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord, always, I shall say it again, rejoice!” We are people of joy. We need to provide others with examples of our joy and peace. May our immediate preparations for Christmas be a reflection of our continued preparation for the eternal joy.

Advent Reconciliation on December 15th Wednesday 6:30 pm at Ascension. 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. It is a sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after our sin. You are invited to join for the Sacrament Reconciliation.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Dec. 15 Noon Early deadline for Dec. 26th bulletin
 Dec 15 6:30-8:00pm Combined Reconciliation @ Asc
 Dec 16 7:00pm Joint Mission Team Meeting @ StB
 Dec. 22 Noon Early deadline for Jan. 2nd, 2022 bulletin

Advent/Christmas/New Years Schedule

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 (4th 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

Dec 31 **6:15pm @ Asc** (Solemnity of Mary)

Jan 1 **5:00pm @ StB** (Epiphany)

Jan 2 **8:00am @ Asc** and **10:00am @ StB** (Epiphany)

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.

The knotting **Quilting Group** from Church of the Ascension have plans to start meeting in the lower level of the Narthex at St. Bernard Church. We will be meeting Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00, come when you are available. Please bring a scissors for cutting yarn and a pliers. Prior knowledge NOT necessary. We would like to see more members from both parishes as we have many quilt tops to knot off. Questions - please call Irene Yaeck: 612-716-7063

CSAF Update: Contributions for the **Catholic Services Appeal Foundation** campaign need to be postmarked by Dec. 31st in order to qualify for the Parish Sharing Incentive. CSAF is currently \$852,434 short of meeting their annual goal of \$9 million. Ascension's goal is \$9,290. Received so far is \$12,690. St. Bernard's goal is \$11,549. Received so far is \$10,795. Just short by \$754. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to bring us up to goal. Contact the office for extra envelopes. Thank you to everyone who has supported this campaign and the 20 designated ministries supported by CSAF.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Worm whose funeral was held at Ascension on Mon., Dec 6th. 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 John's family.

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.

Your help is needed:

The church will be decorated today Sunday, December 12th after the 10am Mass.

Help decorate to make the church ready to receive the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE--We have another update on the donations collected for our faith formation sponsorship program. Our GOAL is \$5000 and we have taken in \$4220 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. [Julie Kleindl](#)



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.

Envelopes for **Christmas Flower memorials** are in your envelop packets for December. Please designate who the memorial is for and place them in the Sunday collection. These memorials are used to purchase the Christmas flowers for the altar.

Linger Longer

Sunday, December 26th after the 10am Mass:

In celebration of Father Abraham's 30th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood, all are invited to "Linger Longer" after the 10am Mass on Sunday, December 26th in the narthex of the church. Please come to celebrate this special occasion with Father Abraham. The "Linger Longer" is being hosted by the St. Bernard Branch of Catholic United Financial.

Advent 2021: Area Reconciliation Services

CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Holy Name of Jesus	Wayzata	Tuesdays	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
St. Bernard & Ascension	NYA	Dec 15	8:00 pm
Our Lady of the Lake	Mound	Dec 15	6:30 pm
St. Hubert	Chanhassen	Dec. 16	6:30pm
St. Joseph	Waconia	Dec 19	4:00 pm

ADVENT



Third Sunday of Advent

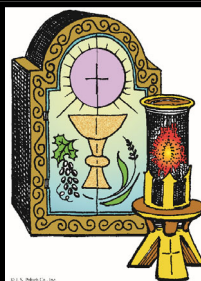
Today is known as Gaudete—Rejoice—Sunday, the day's Latin nickname is taken from today's ancient official Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." The optional rose vestments—reminiscent of winter's early morning skies as the solstice draws near, the festal organ music, the floral arrangements, all these ancient traditions together with the antiphon are meant to anticipate, in sight and sound, the soon-to-break-upon-us Christmas joy. How well today's scriptures illustrate the struggle between Advent's contrasting moods: "joyful expectation" in light of Christ's nativity, and "serious repentance" inspired by John the Baptist's preaching, reminding us that Christ's next coming—at death or at the end of time—will be for judgment as well as redemption. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

Mass Ministry Schedule - Dec. 18-19, 2021

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Cheryl Coyle	Lori Kasel
Servers	Volunteer	Don Whitaker	Dan Worm
Reader	Judy Glander	Ann Schwichtenberg	Lori Kasel
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Lisa Whitaker	Tom Kasel
Ushers	Danny Hoen & volunteer	Tom Lano & Steve Coyle	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos
Greeters	Roger Storms	Matt & Jamie Smith	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim & Rita Fahey Rich & Sue Tellers	Barb Knorr & Connie Medenwaldt

Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Location	Minister
Monday	Dec 13	No Mass		
Tuesday	Dec 14	6:15 pm	Ascension	Spencer Schindler †
Wednesday	Dec 15	8:00 am	St. Bernard	R. M. Family
Thursday	Dec 16	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Stanley Guettler †
Friday	Dec 17	8:00 am	Ascension	John Schindler †
Saturday	Dec 18	5:00 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec 19	8:00 am	Ascension	Debbie Rose †
Sunday	Dec 19	10:00 am	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††



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

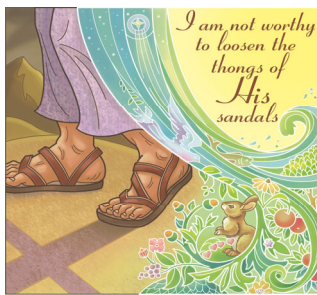
St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-466-2447

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Dec 6-12, 2021

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27 **Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32 **Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23 **Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30 **Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17 **Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25 **Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



"There is, among more people all the time, a sense of the horror of the waste of food, of the waste of life. But the common denominator of all this wastefulness is the waste of grace. Our Lady is the only one who in her complete sinlessness never wasted grace. This, I believe, should be our goal this Advent: that we will not waste grace." — *Mother Mary Francis, PPC*

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,183.50
Contributions 11-24 through 11-30-21	1,760.25
Total Actual Collection YTD	65,398.70
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	(1,258.00)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	150.00
Forward in Faith YTD	11,085.18

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 11/28/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	1,442.00
E-Giving:	1,105.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	61,346.34
Actual Collection YTD:	60,880.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(465.94)
Capital Improvement Offering:	160.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	4,660.00

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