

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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

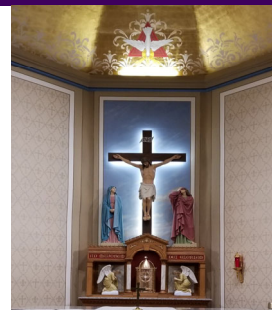
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

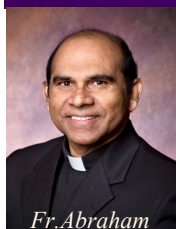


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
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The Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 19, 2021



Fr. Abraham

The Visitation, a Meeting of Joy and Faith

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading (Lk 1:39-45) recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary, filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, hurried to the house of Elizabeth, her cousin. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

This story also teaches us the importance of mutual ministry. Each of us has a unique call in the plan of God. Mary brought the Savior, John recognized and identified Him, and Elizabeth gave prophecy mediating God's word by interpreting this event. Further, the Visitation is a meeting of joy and faith. Once Mary greeted her, Elizabeth recognized and praised Mary for her faith. I am sure, Mary also complimented her cousin's faith.

Mary and Elizabeth's meeting and sharing of faith had a lot to do with the future events particularly John's and Jesus' work of salvation. John and Jesus were faithful to their mission even unto death. Certainly, they had inherited part if not most of it from their mothers. Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith to their children. How have we shared our faith to our children?

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Let us find time to visit those who are in need during these days of Advent and Christmas to bring some inspiration into their lives with hope and joy. Let us share with them the Spirit of service, faith, peace and joy just as Mary did.

As we journey with Mary we shall continue to contemplate of our own life's journey, its joys and sorrows, its success and its tragedies. Our Christian journey began in Christ at the baptismal font where he joined himself to us forever. Our journey continues with Christ as He nourishes us along the way with the food, which is His own Body and Word. Let us make our life the most pleasant and fruitful by spending our lives glorifying God in serving others with love, faith and commitment.

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



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Dec. 22 Noon Early deadline for Jan. 2nd, 2022 bulletin
 Dec. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Advent/Christmas/New Years Schedule

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.

View the new Icon, representing the Archdiocese's relationship with Archdiocese of Damascus, Syria on pilgrimage at local parishes and institutions

Now-January 20, various locations
 A new Icon of the Conversion of St. Paul was commissioned to represent this patronal feast of the Archdiocese and witness to our partnership with the Church in Damascus. It is meant to inspire prayer and meditation. The Icon is beginning a six-month pilgrimage around the Archdiocese stopping in Catholic parishes and institutions. To view the schedule, visit archspm.org/icon-tour.

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.

Advent 2021: Area Reconciliation Services

CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Holy Name of Jesus Wayzata	Tuesdays	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
St. Joseph	Waconia	Dec 19	4:00 pm

"Pray to the angel God has appointed to guard you when you are tempted. Only important people in this world get bodyguards, but each of us is so important to God that He has given each of us a Heavenly soul-guard." — *Peter Kreeft*

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.

Welcome Wyatt Anthony Buesgens !

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of St. Bernard Church who was baptized on December 5th, 2021. Wyatt is the son of Dustin and Krista Buesgens. Many blessings to Wyatt and his family.

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 .



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.

Year-End Contributions: To count for your 2021 contribution, donations must be received in the office by Dec. 31st OR if mailed, they must be postmarked by Dec. 31st. Thank you all for the support you have given to our parishes this year!

Serve as a Totus Tuus Missionary!

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is in need of college-age men and women with missionary hearts who are committed to their Catholic faith and feel called to share it with the youth around the Archdiocese. This is a two-month commitment (June 3 – July 30), which includes one week of training and one week break for Independence Day. Missionaries receive a \$2,520 stipend for the summer, and meals and lodging are provided. Apply through the careers page at the Archdiocesan website careers.archspm.org/jobs or contact the Totus Tuus Coordinator at 651.291.4489 - totustuus@archspm.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent

For years, Catholic spiritual writers have drawn our attention to the Christmas liturgy's subtle—and not-so-subtle—linking of Christ's incarnation

with his paschal mystery. In the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, there are countless intimations of the Passion and cross. The saints of the Christmas octave, dubbed "comites Christi," Christ's companions in suffering, form a royal honor guard of martyrs and others who bore witness at great personal sacrifice to the Child we hail as "Prince of Peace," while the wood of the manger evokes the wood of the cross. But these days, sadly, in the wake of seemingly endless mass shootings at schools, we need no reminders of how close in real life are the cradle and the cross. May our hearts find, if not answers, at least comfort in the prophet Micah's reminder that, from the pain of a woman's labor came forth the Child who is our incarnate peace.

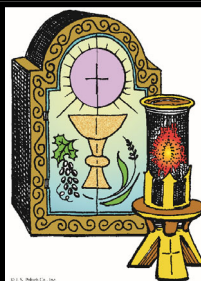
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Mass Ministry Schedule - December 25 & 26, 2021

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Cheryl Coyle	Rita Fahey	Lori Kasel
Servers	Volunteer	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Darlene Mondor	Ally Kunkel
EMHC	Jean Schmitz	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Tom Lano & volunteer	Jeremy Friendshuh & Paul Lano	Vern Elke & Leo Willems
Greeters	Steve Coyle	Leo Pouliot	Andy Kleindl & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Curt Wilson & Steve Lemmer Rich & Sue Tellers	Patricia Quinn & Barb Knorr

Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Dec 20	No Mass		
Tuesday	Dec 21	6:15 pm	Ascension	All Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	Dec 22	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Denise Vieth †
Thursday	Dec 23	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Allen Storms †
Friday	Dec 24	4:00pm 6:30 pm	Ascension St. Bernard	For the Unborn Robert Nicklaus †
Saturday	Dec 25	8:00 pm 10:00am	Ascension St. Bernard	Pope Frances George, Ethel & Richard Worm †††
Sunday	Dec 26	8:00 am	Ascension	Brian Bluemke †
Sunday	Dec 26	10:00 am	St. Bernard	30th Anniversary of Fr. Abrahams' ordination to the priesthood.



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 20-26, 2021

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38 **Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] **Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14] **Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,800.00
Contributions 12-01 through 12-7-21	3,822.92
Total Actual Collection YTD	69,221.62
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	(1,235.00)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	10,366.00
Electronic Donations	165.50
Forward in Faith Total	10,531.50
Forward in Faith YTD	21,616.68

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 12/05/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	2,314.00
E-Giving:	250.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	64,134.81
Actual Collection YTD:	63,444.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(690.41)
Capital Improvement Offering:	420.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	5,125.00

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