

# 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

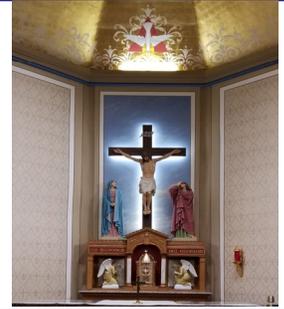
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

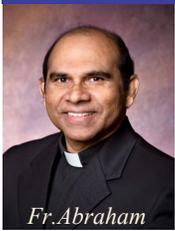


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**Website:** St-Bernard-Cologne.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm  
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busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-856-1052  
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - December 26, 2021



Fr. Abraham

### “Glory to God in the Highest”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“God so loved the world that he sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life.” (John 3: 16). This is the Good News. This is Christmas. God became man to save us from our sins and sickness. God became man to identify with us in our sufferings and pain. In the person of Jesus Christ, God decided to become a lowly human being. He decided to declare His love for us in a way that we would understand perfectly and respond to freely. St. Paul refers to this incredible love this way in his Letter to the Philippians: “Christ Jesus always had the nature of God, but he gave up all he had and took the nature of a servant, coming in human likeness...” (Phil 2:6-7).

The angels welcomed Jesus’ birth singing: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Lk 2:14). The song of the angels conveys the message that true peace on earth is available only to those with the good will. Christmas reminds us that God shared His love by giving us His Son. Hence, we also must share our love by sharing our gifts, wealth, talents and other blessings with others. Just as Jesus shared His love with all mankind we too are called to share our love with others, especially the less fortunate than us. Sharing love is the sign that one has the “good will” of which the angel spoke. The peace of Christmas is promised only to those who have good will.

Christmas is the feast of God’s sharing love with us. Jesus as our Savior brought the “Good News” that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful and rewarding God. Jesus demonstrated by his life, teaching and death how God our heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, and provides for us. Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian duty and that every time we do so, Jesus is reborn in our lives. There are so many experiencing pain, suffering, sickness, poverty, unhappiness and lack of peace around us. We may think that what I can do in such situations. No one can do everything, but, everyone can do something.

In this world I have a mission to complete, a task to fulfill. And this is only possible if I make a total response to God’s sharing and sacrificial love, that is Christmas. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something to bring peace and joy among our family and friends and glory to God. Let us sing together with the angels: “Glory to God in the highest”

**Feast of the Holy Family:** On the Sunday following Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Holy Family is the model for all the families of the world. A family is a Christian family if Jesus is at its center and love flourishes. A family is a Christian family where love is experienced, joy is shared and sorrow is eased. Let us entrust our families to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

December 27<sup>th</sup> is the **Anniversary of my Ordination** to the Priesthood. I request your prayers.

Christmas is God saying, “I love you so much that I gave you my Son. Love one another as I love you.” And because of this great gift of God, we can truly say to all: **‘Have a Merry Christmas.’**

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor



**CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

Dec 30 7:00pm Finance Council Meeting @ StB



**Merry Christmas**  
May the blessings, peace and joy of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you throughout this Christmas season.

**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 mo. 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.

**Gifts for Baby Jesus...**the Respect Life group will be collecting gifts for the Baby Jesus again this year. Donations will be taken to Birthright in Hutchinson. Items especially needed include diapers (larger sizes 5 & 6), sleepers, toddler clothing (18 mo. to size 2), socks, and winter clothing. Clothing may be gently used or new. Gifts can be placed by the nativity scene from Christmas through New Year's Day.

**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!

“It cost Mary something to have us as sons. She could beget Jesus in joy in a stable, but she could beget us only on Calvary, only in labors great enough to make her Queen of Martyrs.” — *Ven. Fulton J. Sheen*

**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.

**Linger Longer after the 10am Mass Today**

In celebration of Father Abraham's 30th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood, all are invited to "Linger Longer" after the 10am Mass today 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.

**On behalf of the family of Marcy Wickenhauser,** we would like to thank Father Abraham, Doris, home bound communion ministers, the choir, the people that served the lunch, and the clean up crew it was greatly appreciated. The church community support has been wonderful! God Bless.

**Thank you** to the family of Marcy Wickenhauser for the donation of the large White Poinsettia plant that is part of the Poinsettia flower arrangement in front of the Baptismal font. We appreciate your kind contribution.

**Adoration at St. Bernard** will be suspended during the months of January and February. Please watch the bulletin for an announcement as to when it will start up again. Thank you to all those who have come, prayed and spent time in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. Our parishes gain many blessings from your dedicated prayers.



**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.

**Crow River Habitat for Humanity**

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Veterans Build, Build28. This is a great opportunity for individuals, company's seeking a team building activity, church groups or those looking for service hours. If you aren't able to work as a crew member, but still want to assist the project, consider preparing a meal for the builders. Interested parties can visit our website - <https://www.crhfh.org/volunteer/> - for volunteer opportunities, just click on the volunteer button at top of page.

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**



It wasn't at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary's angelic annunciation; Joseph's strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph's annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn't totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy. Today's feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of "the Word made flesh" becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## Mass Ministry Schedule - January 1-2, 2022

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Rita Fahey	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteer	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm
Reader	Patricia Quinn	Darlene Mondor	Joyce Schwartz
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Irene Yaeck	Victoria Armst
Ushers	Danny Hoen	Jeremy Friendshuh & Paul Lano	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems
Greeters	Roger Storms	Leo Pouliot	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Curt Wilson & Steve Lemmer Rich & Sue Tellers	Barb Knorr & Connie Medenwaldt

### Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Dec 27	No Mass	
Tuesday	Dec 28 6:15 pm	Ascension	Edward Witte † Yolanda Sanchez & Virginia Ayala ††
Wednesday	Dec 29 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Thursday	Dec 30 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Paul Wickenhauser†
Friday	Dec 31 8:00am	Ascension	Veronica Braunwarth †
Saturday	Jan. 1 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Rita Peters †
Sunday	Jan. 2 8:00 am	Ascension	Patricia Prchal †
Sunday	Jan. 2 10:00 am	St. Bernard	All Parishioners



### 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

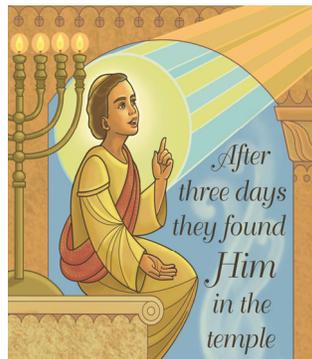
St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-466-2447

#### Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS Dec 27-Jan 2, 2021

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40 **Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18 **Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 **Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



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### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,800.00
<b>Contributions 12-08 through 12-14-21</b>	<b>4,508.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	73,729.62
<b>YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>( 527.08)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	350.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>22,066.68</b>
<b>Religious Retirement Collection</b>	<b>812.00</b>

**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](http://www.st-bernard-cologne.org)

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/12/2021

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,788.47
<b>Contributions:</b>	3,048.25
<b>E-Giving:</b>	1,166.80
<b>Weekly Budget YTD:</b>	66,923.28
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	67,659.45
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	736.17
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	70.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	125.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	5,320.00
<b>Religious Retirement Collection</b>	884.00

Sign up for electronic giving at [ascensionnya.org](http://ascensionnya.org)

Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.