

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



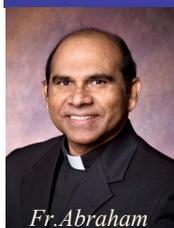
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues—Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
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



The Epiphany of the Lord - January 2, 2022

A Spiritual Journey Guided by the Star



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today we celebrate *Epiphany*, the “manifestation” or “the revelation” of Christ in the world. In Matthew’s Gospel, we read how the Magi saw a star and they interpreted that the long-awaited King of the Jews had been born. So, they set out from their own country to find this newborn King. The Gospel goes on to say that, after meeting with Herod, the Magi allowed the star to lead them to the place where Jesus was born.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star. They saw the Child, and did him homage. They not only found the Christ-child but also to enter into the stable, there to worship the Child as they offered him gifts.

The gifts symbolize the mission God the Father entrusted to his Son: gold to acknowledge his universal kingship; frankincense to acknowledge his divinity; and myrrh to acknowledge his humanity. What the religious and political leaders of Israel missed the Wise Men from East found, and in a very unlikely place, in the poorest and most humble of situations. These wise men left their comfortable lives in order to see Jesus. The journey they undertook was neither easy nor free of danger. It was a physical journey, but it was also a spiritual journey guided by the star, letting go of familiar settings, comfort zone and recognizing the presence of God in places smaller and humble, more human and more intimate than the places the ego journey takes us. Writers through the ages saw the magi’s journey as a symbol of conversion and the journey of faith that each of us is traveling.

Christ Jesus comes to us Sunday after Sunday in the humility of the Eucharist. Like Magi, let us truly worship our Eucharistic Lord, offering not gold or frankincense, or myrrh, but rather offering our hearts in praise, thanksgiving, and adoration, the gifts which, in the Lord’s sight are the most precious of all. After worshipping Jesus, the Magi would return home by a different way. It means they would be changed. Our worship and adoration of the Lord may lead us to conversion and a change of heart.

The heavenly light that guided the Magi still shines in the Gospel, which continues to guide us along our pilgrim way. This great feast reminds us that every person of faith has been entrusted with that same light and we are called to carry that light into the dark places of the world in our prayer, words, and acts of charity.

Let us, like the Magi, be alert to finding the light of Christ in the most hidden, the most unlikely, the neglected and the poorest of situations. Let us also keep in mind that the Lord chose to be born not in a palace but in a stable. Let us keep in mind that the Wise Men were not disappointed to find the Messiah in simplicity and in poverty. Thus, we ask the Holy Spirit to keep our eyes open not just to the problems that we may see on every side but also to the goodness that is all around us.

When we, like the Magi, see the light of Christ shining in our midst, then our light will shine ever more brightly, and each of us and our community of faith will indeed become more and more ‘a light brightly shining’ with truth and love of Christ, shining with the joy of the Gospel!

I will leave my parish family of Ascension and St. Bernard on January 9th to visit my family in India. I will return on the first week of February. In my absence, visiting priests will celebrate the Weekend Masses. Please pray for me for a safe journey. I keep you in my prayers.

I wish each of you and your family a Blessed and a **Happy New Year 2022**.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Jan. 1st. Happy New Year!
Jan. 9th 9:00am. Donut Sunday at Ascension

Catholic Women's Conference - "Called by Name"
WINE: Women In the New Evangelization invites women of all ages to the *WINE: Catholic Women's Conference* on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Holy Family Catholic Church in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Join women from across the country for a conference filled with inspiration, faith, fellowship, and fun! Keynote speakers include Kelly Wahlquist, Liz Kelly, Leah Jacobson, Alicia Donovan, Alyssa Bormes, and Allison Gringas. Along with inspirational talks, the day will include motivational entertainment, shopping, personal time to pray with prayer teams, confession, adoration, tons of laughter, a fabulous lunch, shopping, CHOCOLATE, door prizes, and a fun raffle! Additional information and registration available at www.wineconference.org.

Prayer Service for Life
Saturday, January 22, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul
This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. Saint John Paul II Champions for Life Awardees will be recognized during the prayer service. This event is sponsored by the Office of Marriage, Family and Life. For more information visit archspm.org/prayer-service-life or call 651.291.4488.

Please Join in Welcoming Bishop-elect Joseph Williams
On December 10, Pope Francis named Father Joseph Williams, a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. **The ordination of Joseph Williams to the Episcopacy will take place Tuesday, January 25**, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The ordination will be livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis' Facebook page. Time to be announced.
Learn more about Bishop-elect Williams, watch video interviews, and find details on the ordination at archspm.org/newbishop. Please join us in praying for our new auxiliary bishop!

The knotting **Quilting Group** from Church of the Ascension is meeting in the lower level of the Narthex at St. Bernard Church on 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

"As we look at the face of our Heavenly Father, we realize: I am precious, I am worth dying for. What's my net worth? God the Son to God the Father. What is my value? The Body of Christ. That's what God thinks of you!" —Chris Stefanick

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 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.

Sponsorship/Faith Formation Program Update:
Whoo-hoo-we have exceeded our goal of \$5000 by \$890! Thank you!! In addition the Sponsorship donations, we have had an additional \$5,100 in donations to support overall expenses. Again, thank you all for supporting our Faith Formation program and enriching the faith lives of our children.

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 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.

Dear Ladies of the Church of the Ascension and St. Bernard... Give yourself a gift! You are warmly invited to nurture your relationship with Jesus by attending the **6th Annual Women's Retreat - Deeper Love** on Friday evening, January 14 & Saturday, January 15 at the Church of St. Therese in Deephaven. Take time out to come rest in His love during this time of learning & sharing, prayer, music, sacraments & sisterhood! We will welcome Minnesota author and national speaker, Liz Kelly, who will guide us to encounter a deeper love with Jesus Christ, as she shares insights from her award-winning book, *Jesus Approaches*. Register online at www.st-therese.org/events.



The Epiphany of the Lord
Gifts are everywhere at this time of year. Christmas gifts. Hostess gifts. Hidden gifts. Wrong-size gifts. Unexpected gifts. Unwanted gifts. Unreciprocated gifts. And in today's readings we hear about even more gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But we know intuitively (or, one hopes, eventually!) that gifts are symbols of something much deeper and less tangible. The gift of God's Son is, of course, at the heart of our Christmas festivities. We are not--and never--alone, because "God is with us." (Thus the name Emmanuel.) But wait, that's not all! The liturgy reminds us over and over that this is a "holy exchange." As Christ came to share in our humanity, we come to share in his divinity. The full significance of that mystery is a gift we have yet to unwrap completely. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Spiritual Resources! **TV:** Diocese of St. Cloud: Sun., 11 AM. on KSTCTV/45; —Diocese of Winona-Rochester: Sun., 11:30 AM. on Fox 9+; — Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sun., Noon on Fox 9+ (Dish/Direct 29, Comcast 10/807; Over Air 9.2); —EWTN: 7:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM. **Radio:** Relevant Radio 1330am: Weekdays and Sun. at noon, and at 9 a.m. — EWTN: ewtn.com/radio/listen-live
Please pray the Rosary daily for our nation, our world, an end to Abortion and an end to the Coronavirus. The following is a list of a few TV and Radio stations that air the Rosary. **TV:** EWTN: 6:30am, After the TV Mass at Approximately 8:00am.; 2:30pm.; 8:30pm.; — Catholic TV Network: 2:00 am; 9:00am; 5:30pm Nuvera Nu Tel Cable TV Ch. 21; **Radio:** Relevant Radio 1330am: 7:00pm. "Family Rosary across America"

Mass Ministry Schedule - January 8-9, 2022

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Kathy Kloempken	Lori Kasel
Servers	Steve Lemmer	Don Whitaker	Dan Worm
Reader	Ann Schwichtenberg	Jean Schmitz	Tom Kasel
EMHC	Cathleen Williams	Steve Helget	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Rich Ulrich & Tom Lano	Eugene Dvorak & Paul Lano	Vern Elke & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Steve Coyle	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson Paul & Corrine Proski	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Jan. 3		No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan. 4	6:15 pm	Ascension	Debbie Rose †
Wednesday	Jan. 5	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Thursday	Jan. 6	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Souls in Purgatory
Friday	Jan. 7	8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Jan. 8	5:00 pm	Ascension	Clarence H. Green †
Sunday	Jan. 9	8:00 am	Ascension	Larry Whitaker †
Sunday	Jan. 9	10:00 am	St. Bernard	Duane Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners



Eucharistic Adoration
Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard
Suspended for the
Months of January and February
Watch the bulletin
for the return of Adoration.

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

Jan 3 - 9, 2022

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a **Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30 **Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**WE HAVE
COME TO
WORSHIP
THE KING**



St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,800.00
Contributions 12-15 through 12-21-21	5,504.17
Total Actual Collection YTD	79,233.79
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	1,177.09
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	30,220.00
Electronic Donations	543.42
Forward in Faith Total	30,763.42
Forward in Faith YTD	52,830.10
Tornado Victims Collection	576.00

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 12/19/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	3,212.00
E-Giving:	230.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	69,711.75
Actual Collection YTD:	71,101.45
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	1,389.70
Capital Improvement Offering:	10.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	20.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	5,350.00

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