

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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

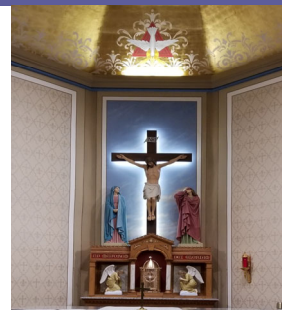
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

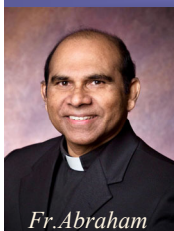


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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The Baptism of the Lord - January 9, 2022



Fr. Abraham

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All the three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, recorded the baptism of the Lord. But only Luke stated that while he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the bodily form of a dove. And a voice from heaven, “You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.” (Lk 3:21-22).

Jesus is indeed the beloved Son of God. God reassures us that He is well pleased with Jesus. These words, therefore, gave Jesus his power, his energy and his enthusiasm. Jesus knew once and for all that God was with him and he was with his Father. Hence, whatever Jesus said or did, wherever he went, whatever might happen to him, throughout his success and suffering, Jesus would always remember what he had heard that day at his baptism. It is just the preparatory stage of the Great Journey he is prepared to start off all the way to the Cross. It is the first public act of his ministry, and marks the divine manifestation of him to the world as the promised Messiah.

Like Jesus, we too became the beloved children of God by the power of our baptism. Some of us were baptized as infants, imagine that kind of innocence and purity of mind. And even those who were baptized as adults, we would appreciate the mystery of baptism washing away sins if we take some time to pay attention to the rites of baptism in the Catholic Church. The feast of the Baptism of our Lord serves to remind us of our own Baptisms, reminding us to renew the promises our parents and godparents made on our behalf, when they presented us to the Church, to make of us disciples of Jesus.

On the day of our baptism, as St. John Paul II explains, “We were anointed with the oil of catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. Blessed water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One.”

As for Jesus, so for each of us, our baptism sets us on the way of living God's life and doing God's will. Jesus' public life ministry begins with his baptism. Our baptism reminds us also of our mission to proclaim the good news of God's love and salvation, to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the divine presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them.

Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank him for the privilege of being joined to his mission of proclaiming the ‘Good News’ by our Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

I will be leaving 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.

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.

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.

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 pray for the repose of the soul of **Allan Schmitt** whose funeral was at Ascension on January 4th. May he rest in peace and may his soul and the souls of the faithfully departed, with the mercy of God, rest in peace. Pray for peace and comfort for Allan's family.

"There were thus two things which the Savior did for us by becoming Man. He banished death from us and made us anew; and, invisible and imperceptible as in Himself He is, He became visible through His works and revealed Himself as the Word of the Father, the Ruler and King of the whole creation."
—*St. Athanasius*

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.

Aluminum Can Recycling at St. Bernard. The cans have been collected, crushed and stored during Covid by Bob Symanitz and grandson, Austin Symanitz. The last two+ years of cans have been taken in with help from Wickenhauser Excavating. Proceeds were \$2124. Nice!! These funds are earmarked for youth activities here at St. Bernard. Thank you Bob, Austin, and Wickenhauser Excavating.

Now that the **Christmas season** is over, we will be taking down the decorations in church on January 9 after the 10 AM mass. Please come and join in the fun!

Sponsorship/Faith Formation Program Update:
Way to Go—we have exceeded our goal of \$5000 by \$1390! 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.

RESPECT LIFE BREAKFAST | JAN 23 ST. JOE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The KC's are serving breakfast in the school commons on Sunday, January 23 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm! Proceeds will go to support local Enkrateia: House of Hope and other Pro-Life causes! The menu includes Sausage, Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Fruit & a Beverage. The Respect Life Breakfast is an event co-sponsored by Waconia Knights of Columbus #2506 & Trinity Lutheran Church. Learn More online at stjosephwaco.org/respect-life-breakfast/!



The Baptism of the Lord
The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. We likely have an image in our minds (based on details from the Gospels and works of art) of what that scene looked like. We might wonder, "Who else was there and who wasn't?" No disciples were present because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. They would have to wait until the Transfiguration to hear a similar message. However, the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are accounted for: the Father (the voice from heaven), the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Luke alone notes that it was after Jesus had been baptized and while he was praying that the voice was heard. All of the Gospels show Jesus praying at turning points in his ministry; this is but the first example of Jesus' need to root himself in prayer throughout his life—a model for us to follow. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a "social influencer." People paid attention to what he had to say. And what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today's Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist's ultimate goal: "One mightier than I is coming." The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the "beloved Son." John the Baptist could be considered the "patron saint" of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn't John's teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people's attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

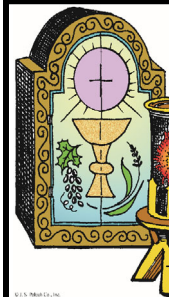
Won't you please consider following in John the Baptist's footsteps? We are in need of individuals at both parishes to help with all the Mass ministries. See the Stewardship booklet and contact the Ministry Leader to sign up for one of these ministries. You will be richly blessed!!

Mass Ministry Schedule - January 15-16, 2022

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Kathy Kloempken	Lori Kasel
Servers	Volunteer	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm
Reader	Jake Kooiman	Darlene Mondor	Helen Nicklaus
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Danny Hoen & Volunteer	Josh Gallus & Jeremy Friendshuh	Brian Vos & Leo Willems
Greeters	Eileen Fasching	Grace Cook	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim George & Steve Helget Paul & Corrine Proski	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Monday	Jan. 10	No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan. 11 6:15 pm	Ascension	Phero †
Wednesday	Jan. 12	No Mass	
Thursday	Jan. 13	No Mass	
Friday	Jan. 14	No Mass	
Saturday	Jan. 15 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Earl Peters †
Sunday	Jan. 16 8:00 am	Ascension	Leo G. Braunwarth †
Sunday	Jan. 16 10:00 am	St. Bernard	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 10-16, 2022

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11



St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,800.00
Contributions 12-22 through 12-28-21	2,517.50
Christmas Budget	13,295.00
Christmas Contributions	10,062.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	91,813.29
YTD Collection Over (Under) Budget	(3,338.41)
Forward in Faith Total 12-22-21 through 12-28-21	
Envelope Income	675.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	775.00
Forward in Faith YTD	53,605.10

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 12/26/2021

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Contributions:	1,065.01
E-Giving:	1,015.00
Christmas Collection	6,125.00
Weekly Budget YTD:	72,500.32
Actual Collection YTD:	79,306.46
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	6,806.24
Capital Improvement Offering:	310.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	5,760.00

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