

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



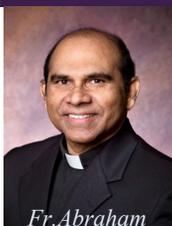
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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:
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The Fourth Sunday In Lent - March 27, 2022

We are a Eucharistic People



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Ignatius, the bishop of Antioch wrote, “The Church is the place of sacrifice; the **Eucharist** is the **medicine of immortality**, the antidote against death, and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, who suffered for our sins, and whom the Father in His loving-kindness raised from the dead.”

Eucharist is a celebration of **thanksgiving**, so we come to thank God for our life and love. We pray during the Mass in the Eucharistic prayer: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise. It is our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.* This thanksgiving, this worship, this sacrifice, does not depend on any particular priest or bishop. It is the expression of my loving gratitude towards the loving God who gave me life, love, forgiveness, and everything I have.

We are a Eucharistic people. We celebrate Jesus’ Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. We receive Holy Communion. We adore his Presence in our tabernacle and during Eucharistic adoration. To be a Eucharistic people, our celebration of the Eucharist must encompass the love and the service of the people.

According to **CARA** (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) survey report, 74% of the Catholics in US were regularly **attending Sunday Mass** in 1950s. Decline in regular Sunday Mass attendance started in US from 1960s. In 1970, 55% of American Catholics attended Mass. Between 2000 and 2004 it remained more or less unchanged with 40% attendance and by 2019 that number had dropped to little over 20%. The **CARA** recently released its figures regarding Mass attendance in 2020. Starting in March (during the pandemic), the percentage of Catholics attending Mass dropped from its already-pathetic 20% to around 5%.

The **number of priests** in US is also declining. In 1970 the total number of Catholic priests in US was 59,192 where as in 2020, it was 35,513. In 1970 the number of priestly ordinations was 805, whereas in 2020 it was 495. In 1970, the number of Parishes without a resident priest pastor was 571, whereas in 2020 it was 3,544.

This survey results tell a sad reality that majority of our catholic brothers and sisters are remaining away from regular Church practices. Catholic faith, Eucharist and other sacraments are taken so lightly. For many the Eucharist became a social celebration rather than sacrifice and thanksgiving. The most common reason given for not attending Mass is lack of time, followed by not believing that missing Mass is a sin. The most self-identifying Catholics don’t think it’s obligatory, or even beneficial, to participate in the “source and summit” of the Catholic Faith on a regular basis.

It is a right time for us also to evaluate the attendance of Sunday Mass. Do I find time to participate in the Eucharist? Is it my first priority or the last? Do I bring my children to the Mass and other sacraments? As the primary educators of their children, parents have the first and most important influence on the faith development of their children. God has given us seven days. We have to spend at least an hour in worshipping God with the community. This parish church is your spiritual home. God is waiting for you here. Jesus invites you to offer the sacrifice with him to his heavenly Father. Our greeters are at the entrance of the church for hospitality. As a social being we need to welcome and entertain each other. But that is not the main purpose to come for Sunday celebration. The main purpose is **to give thanks to God, to worship him**, through and with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Eucharistic celebration is a real source of spiritual energy, healing, forgiveness, peace and joy. Lack of this experience leads us to depression, loneliness, violence, un-forgiveness, pride, absence of peace, family break down and so on.

We **pray Rosary** twenty minutes before every weekend Mass with special intentions. You are welcome to join us.

Rosary intention: For all expectant parents, especially, struggling with difficult pregnancies.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Thurs Mar 31 7:00pm Finance Council @StB
 Thurs. Mar 31 Noon—Early deadline for the bulletin for April 10th.
 Fri Apr 1 6:00pm Stations of the Cross @ Asc

Shipping & Inventory Issues—Cathedral Corp.

Our contribution envelope vendor, Cathedral Corporation, has let us know that they are having supply issues with some of the inventory they need to produce our envelopes. So when you receive your envelopes, they may look different—they may be the dollar bill size instead of the self-mailers we normally get. There have also been delivery issues with the USPS (post office). Be aware that Cathedral is actively working these issues and apologize for these difficulties. If you experience any problems please contact either parish office and we will try to rectify them. Thank you for your patience.

Helping Ukraine

Because the situation in Ukraine is so fluid, one of the fastest and best ways to contribute is directly to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which has teams on the ground. Funds directed to Ukraine will go there. Please go to archspm.org/helping-ukraine to donate and to see the CRS Emergency Factsheet for more information about relief efforts already underway. And please pray for our sisters and brothers in need and for peace.

Global Solidarity Sunday

This weekend is Global Solidarity Sunday as we celebrate “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.” (Psalm34). This is an invitation to share God’s love in solidarity with your brothers and sisters overseas. We are invited to offer gifts of support, an expression of Lenten almsgiving, by contributing to this collection for four global initiatives designated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops: the Church in Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and share the love of God with your bothers and sisters overseas.

Class of St. Michael the Archangel

Put on the Shield of Faith, Embrace the Sword of Spirit, and Join the Class of St. Michael the Archangel !

This fall the **Catechetical Institute** will offer the tow-year Pillars Program in-person at Epiphany in **Coon Rapids** and via live stream at various satellite sites around the Archdiocese. Classes will be held **on Monday evenings from 7PM—9PM**. The classes are divided into four eleven-week modules with two Saturday morning formative sessions per module. Applications are now being accepted through August 1, 2022. More Info & Applications go to www.cistudent.com/pillars/

Two quotes from Mother Angelica

“We waste a lot of time trying to determine whether our cross is from our neighbor or from the Lord, or from ourselves - what difference does it make? If you’ve got it, carry it.

It’s to make **you** holy. “

“Did Jesus go on a mountaintop and yell, ‘I love you, I love you’? No, He got on a cross, stretched out His hands, was nailed to that cross, and said, ‘I thirst’ (John 19:28).

For what? Water? No. **He thirsted for your love.** “



Lenten Services
Stations of the Cross
 Friday's 6:00 pm
 Apr 1, 8 @ Asc

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, 7:00pm @ Asc
 Living Stations of the Cross, 3:00pm @ Asc
 Good Friday, Passion of the Lord, 7:00pm @ StB
 Easter Vigil, **8:00pm @ StB**
 Easter Sunday, 8:00am @ Asc
 Easter Sunday, 10:00am @ StB

Area Reconciliation Services

Catholic Church	Location	Date	Time
St. Victoria	Victoria	Mar-29	6:30 PM
St. Bernard & Ascension	Ascension	Mar-30	6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Sts Joachim & Anne St. Mark	Shakopee	Mar-30	8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Guardian Angels	Chaska	Apr-03	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
St. Mary	Waverly	Apr-04	7:00 PM
Holy Name of Jesus	Wayzata	Apr-07	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
St. Joseph	Waconia	Apr-10	4:00 PM

Catholic United Financial Scholarships

Catholic United Financial scholarship application period is open from March 1st – April 30th of each year. These scholarships are a one-time benefit awarded to any member (any age) who is pursuing a degree, diploma or certification.

Applicants must have been a member for at least 2 years by the application deadline. **Awards of \$300 to members attending a non-Catholic institution, or \$500 for those attending a Catholic college, university or institution.**

Applications are done online through our Member Portal at www.catholicunitedfinancial.org/scholarships.

Youth Mass Servers: We will be bringing back the youth Mass servers. Both boys and girls, 3rd grade and up are eligible. Parents, please let Kara Wickenhauser at 952-250-3620 know if your child/children are interested in participating in this wonderful opportunity to show Jesus how much they love Him. We will be letting you know when training will occur once we know how many youth are interested



LOST AND FOUND

The parable of the father and his sons is one of the most familiar of all of Jesus’ stories. The father in the parable is lavish in forgiveness and revels in the return of his young son, who was lost and now is found. The older son is also lost—lost in his refusal to forgive, lost in his failure to grasp his father’s generous spirit.

The Israelites spent many years lost in the desert, seeking the land of milk and honey, yet often failing to seek the God who delivered and fed them. We are sometimes lost as well. We lose sight of the Lord and the Lord’s ways. God never loses sight of us, however. God waits, ready for us to come to our senses, ready to welcome us back with open arms. *Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

Mass Ministry Schedule –April 2-3, 2022

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteer	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm
Reader	Roger Storms	Darlene Mondor	Ally Kunkel
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Steve Helget	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Danny Hoen & Volunteer	Steve Coyle & Don Whitaker	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Eileen Fasching	Justin & Amy Buckentin	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson Grp B: Tim George & Steve Helget	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Monday	Mar. 28	No Mass	
Tuesday	Mar. 29 6:15 pm	Ascension	For Elected Officials
Wednesday	Mar. 30 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Stanley Guettler †
Thursday	Mar. 31 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Denann Karels†
Friday	April 1 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	April 2 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	April 3 8:00 am	Ascension	Respect for All Life
Sunday	April 3 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 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 Mar 28-Apr 3, 2022

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54 **Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16 **Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30 **Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47 **Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53 **Sunday:** Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

January Budget for week	3,649.58
Contributions 03-09 through 3-15-2022	2,335.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	131,874.18
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	4,717.79

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	85.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	85.00
Forward in Faith YTD	58,049.14

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 3/13/2022

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,989.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,120.00

Collections Budget YTD:	103,173.39
Actual Collection YTD:	111,754.16
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	8,580.77

Capital Improvement Offering:	80.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	175.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	8,230.00

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