

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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

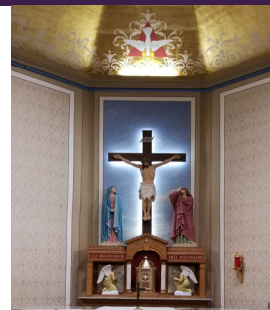
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



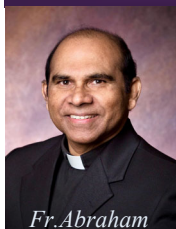
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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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 Fifth Sunday In Lent - April 3, 2022

Christ Came to Reconcile Us



Fr. Abraham

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The central theme of the fifth Sunday of Lent is God's unconditional love and mercy. The gospel presents the story of a woman caught in adultery. The focus is on what Jesus does for her. What feelings of anger, fear, guilt and lostness she must experience as she stood in the midst of the crowd. Everyone condemns her. But Jesus does not condemn her, instead he forgives her. What Jesus did for her was to restore her dignity, her self-esteem. No one had ever believed in her before, so she could not believe in herself. But Jesus believed in her. That is always the way it is with him and the Father. God's forgiving love never degrades us as persons. On the contrary it lifts us up and assures us that we are extremely loved, even when we think we are unlovable. Her life can never be what it used to be. This is conversion in its best and most beautiful sense.

When a sinner repents and turns to God, the whole family is healed from the wounds caused by the sin of that sinner. When we repent from our sins we are reconciled with God and reunited with others that we disconnected from by our sins. Sin weakens our bonds within the Christian community but repentance and reconciliation heal and strengthen it. Christ came to heal the wounds of our brokenness.

This gospel story reveals the mercy and love of a compassionate God who invites everyone to receive it in abundance. It reminds us the need to repent of our own sins and pray for God's mercy in our day to day lives. Again, it reminds us to be merciful towards others, especially those who live away from God. Why didn't the Pharisees and Scribes throw stones at her? Perhaps each examined himself and realized that he has been a sinner. "Stones" here in our modern time are all the gossips, judgements, and all unkind attitudes and words we throw at others. If God should expose each of us, who would even raise his or her heads high.

We should strive to heal each other by our compassionate and merciful hearts. When we show mercy and love, we heal our brokenness. The Church is an agent of healing in the world. The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals and restores us. Be an agent of healing and forgiveness, and not of condemnation; that is what our Christian calling requires. Every time we pray the 'Lord's Prayer' we make a conditional request to God saying, 'forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. Therefore, to receive forgiveness for our sins, we have to forgive others. It is not an option, but a mandate and commitment.

In the gospels, we never see Jesus turning away any sinner. Even on the Cross he forgave the sins of a repenting thief and offered him salvation. The same Jesus forgives the sins of all who approach him with a repentant heart and a desire for conversion. The Church has given us the great Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). As we are preparing to celebrate the Easter joy, let us look at ourselves and clean our hearts with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our loving, compassionate, merciful Jesus, is waiting for us to give his grace, so that our spiritual life will be rejuvenated and renewed during this Lenten Season.

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

Rosary Intention: *'For our family members, to hear God's Word and love each other.'*

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



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sun Apr 3 9:00am KC Donut Sunday @ Asc
 Thurs. Apr 7 Noon—Early bulletin deadline for Apr 17th.
 Fri Apr 8 6:00pm Stations of the Cross @ Asc

Mass time change

Change of date for April Mass at The Harbor and The Haven. The Mass will be Friday, April 22 (instead of 2nd Fri of April 8th). It will be at The Harbor at 10:00 a.m.



Meals On Wheels is seeking volunteers

The CAP Agency Senior Nutrition Meal Program (Meals on Wheels) is looking for volunteers in the NYA/Hamburg area to help deliver meals on a daily basis. The four churches assisting with this in our area each sponsor one week a month. If interested, call Karen at 952-442-5478 or the Ascension contact, Sue Tellers at 612-247-6881.

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.



The Living Stations of the Cross are back!!

Ascension's Catholic United Financial group, along with this year's Confirmation Class and the Choir, invite you to come on Good Friday, April 15th at 3:00pm at Ascension to participate in the Living Stations of the Cross. Come experience God's love for you through this powerful, prayerful portrayal of the passion and death of our Lord.

Pontifical Good Friday Collection

The Holy Land collection is taken in parishes on Good Friday, April 15. Contributions help the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land as they serve as a bridge between the Holy Land and Catholics all over the world. They support sacred shrines, minister to parishes, provide formation and education to communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of the people. With your help, the Franciscans can continue to be a light of hope to those living in darkness in the Holy Land. Please contribute what you are able to on April 15. Thank you.

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

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 two-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 Mon. evenings from 7PM—9PM**. The classes are divided into four eleven-week modules with two Sat. morning formative sessions per module. Applications are now being accepted through August 1, 2022. More Info & Applications go to www.cistudent.com/pillars/

“Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux



Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross
 Fri. Apr 8 - 6:00 pm @ Asc

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, Apr 14, 7:00pm @ Asc
 Living Stations of the Cross, Apr 15, 3:00pm @ Asc
 Good Friday, Passion of the Lord, 7:00pm @ StB
 Easter Vigil, Apr 16, 8:00pm @ StB
 Easter Sunday, Apr 17, 8:00am @ Asc
 Easter Sunday, Apr 17, 10:00am @ StB

Area Reconciliation Services

Catholic Church	Location	Date	Time
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

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Denise Storms, who passed away on March 19th**. Denise is the Sister-in-law of JoAnne Wickenhauser and James & Judy Storms. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Pray also for peace and comfort for Denise's family.

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.



AN AGE-OLD STORY OF JUDGEMENT

In our Gospel today we hear an ancient story, but one that feels like it could be taken out of the headlines today. We can be very quick to pass judgment on others. Jesus was teaching in the temple, and the scribes and Pharisees did not like the message that he was proclaiming or the popularity he was gaining. When a nearby woman was caught in adultery, they thought it was the perfect chance to trip Jesus up, wondering how he would respond when the Mosaic Law provided clear consequences for such behavior. Many would be able to quote instantly chapter and verse of the law pertaining to the infraction. Instead of answering their question, Jesus turned it back on the accusers: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Awaiting the response of those challenging him, Jesus bent over and wrote in the sand. According to scripture scholar John Pilch, this was a simple technique that peasants used to buy time in a discussion or argument. Instead of looking the scribes and pharisees in the eye, he looked down and did his own thing while they all slipped away. The scriptures do not tell us what the woman was doing during this time. But by not looking at her, Jesus gave her a chance to restore her own dignity. He didn't comment on her innocence or guilt. Rather, he instructed her to go forth and sin no more. It is not our past that matters as much as the choices we make now and in the future. Again and again, God gives us the chance to start our life over. This is our challenge this Lent, to continue to use the opportunities we are given to repent and grow. *Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

Mass Ministry Schedule –April 9-10, 2022

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Tamara Lemmer	Lori Kasel
Servers	Steve Lemmer	Paul Prosocki	Dan Worm
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Brian Willems	Judy Glander & Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Brenda Seifert	Kathy Kloempken	Tom Kasel
Ushers	Tom Lano & Curt Wilson	Eugene Dvorak & Jeremy Friendshuh	Brian Vos & Leo Willems
Greeters	Cathleen Williams	Sue Schultz	Julie & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Steve & Cheryl Coyle Grp B: Paul & Corrine Prosocki	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Day	Date	Mass Time	Intention
Monday	April 4	No Mass	
Tuesday	April 5	6:15 pm	Ascension Phero †
Wednesday	April 6	8:00 am	St. Bernard John & Elizabeth Knauer ††
Thursday	April 7	8:00 am	St. Bernard John & Mary McCormick Family
Friday	April 8	8:00 am	Ascension Bernice & Dennis Wickenhauser ††
Saturday	April 9	5:00 pm	Ascension Ben Vanderlinde †
Sunday	April 10	8:00 am	Ascension John Worm †
Sunday	April 10	10:00 am	St. Bernard Jason Quinn† & All Parishioners



Eucharistic Adoration
Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
St. Bernard
Every Wednesday
2:00 until 7:00 pm

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Apr 4-10, 2022

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20 **Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42 **Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59 **Friday:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42 **Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-12abcd, 13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 [23:1-49]

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.

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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

January Budget for week	3,649.58
Contributions 03-16 through 3-22-2022	4,818.17
Total Actual Collection YTD	136,692.35
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	5,886.38

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	240.00
Electronic Donations	643.20
Forward in Faith Total	883.42
Forward in Faith YTD	58,932.56

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 3/20/2022

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,788.47
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,021.00
Weekly E-Giving:	250.00

Collections Budget YTD: 105,961.86
Actual Collection YTD: 113,045.16
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: 7,083.30

Capital Improvement Offering: 50.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving: 25.00
Capital Improvement YTD: 8,300.00

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