

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

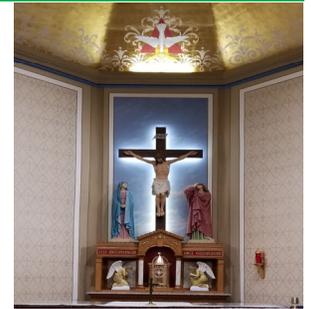
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

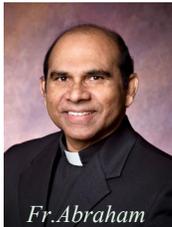


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm
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



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 4, 2022



Fr. Abraham

The Cost of Being a Christian

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Many Christians had physically sacrificed their lives for their faith in Christ. We call them martyrs. This Sunday's gospel is challenging: "If any one comes to me without hating his father or mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:26). Jesus really is not telling us to hate people. But he is telling us that nothing can get in the way of following him. I cannot love my family more than Jesus. I can't love wealth and esteem more than Jesus. I can't love material goods more than Jesus. We need to be committed to the path of discipleship. Discipleship requires putting Jesus over and above our family, job, money, career, and even our life. We find this when we look at its parallel passage in the gospel according to Matthew. It says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." (Mt 10:37-38).

Following Jesus requires that we bear our cross patiently. It includes what we do voluntarily, as a consequence of our commitment to Jesus Christ. Further, it is the spirit in which we freely and deliberately accept and endure the pain, difficulties and even the ridicule involved with these choices that transforms them into real cross-bearing. Bearing a cross is often equated with accepting illness, painful physical conditions, or trying family relationships.

Using the two parables of the tower-builder and the king defending his country, Jesus says: think long and hard about discipleship before a decision is made. Jesus reminds us to count the cost of being a disciple because the cost is high. When we first decide to follow Christ, we know simply that there will be a price to pay. Only as life unfolds can we begin to assess the full cost. Jesus warns us to expect significant cost overruns because the cost for him was the cross at Calvary. For being a disciple of Jesus, we must love Christ most of all, with everything else finding its meaning in relation to God. Jesus invites us to take up our cross and follow the way of sacrificial love.

Labor Day marks the end of summer vacation and the beginning of many regular parish and school activities. Our **Faith Formation** program for this school year begins on Wednesday, September 7^h with the celebration of Mass. Parents, students and staff are encouraged to participate in the Mass. Catholic Tradition has always emphasized that faith, both begins and is nurtured in the family. It is the great responsibility of the parents to provide their children balanced physical, intellectual and spiritual formation. Faith Formation is an important task of the parish community as well. The service of the catechists and volunteers is greatly appreciated. Thank you all, for your support and sacrifice for this important ministry.

Rosary Intention: *'For our Faith Formation'*

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor



CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Thurs. Sept 15 7:00pm Joint Mission Team Mtg @StB
 Sat. Sept 17 10:00am Care for Creation Retreat @ StB

Parish Picnic:

Our combined Parish Picnic is Saturday, September 10. Mass that day is 4pm at St. Bernard, with the picnic to follow at the Cologne Lions Park. We are returning to the Potluck tradition for this event, so dig out your favorite recipes! The main dish meat and beverages are provided. We request that families with names A-M bring a salad, N-Z bring a dessert. So, mark your calendar for September 10th, and come enjoy great food, and time visiting with your parish family. One last thing, if anyone is interested in organizing a Bean Bag Tournament for the picnic, please contact Doris Mielke.



Mark your calendars: Blest Art will be visiting in our parishes the week-end of **Sept. 17-18th** with hand carved religious olive wood art. Blest Art Inc. helps support Christian families from Bethlehem by marketing their artwork in the US. Please visit their display before or after Mass and consider purchasing a piece of art from the Holy Land. They make wonderful gifts!



Fun in the Sun

Hope you are making some wonderful God filled memories with your family and friends on this last summer holiday. May our Lord keep you safe in your gatherings and on your travels!

Parish Directory: The Ascension and St. Bernard's Joint Mission Team selected "Unique Church Solutions" for the creation of a new church directory. This single, new directory will include sections for each parish along with our unified ministry groups. "Unique Church Solutions" provides a dedicated consultant to work with our coordinators throughout the process. To move forward, we are in need of one coordinator and one assistant coordinator from each parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to build fellowship with our faith families while serving the church. For more information, and if you are interested in helping coordinate and/or help with check-ins on portrait days, please contact the Parish Office.

DOES YOUR FAITH NEED A JUMP START? Join us and say a resounding "YES!" to a weekend of renewal and time dedicated just to you. You won't regret this opportunity to grow closer to your family, your parish, and Christ. We are now accepting registrations for our fall Welcome retreats. Men's Retreat: September 24-25 & Women's Retreat: October 8-9. (Formerly called Christ Renews His Parish Retreats.) Learn more and register online by going to stjosephwaconia.org/crhp-registration/.



The only thing that remains eternal is love, the cause of every good work, which outlives us, which is our hope and our religion, because God is love. —*St. Giuseppe Moscati*
 A single act of love makes the soul return to life. —*St. Maximilian Kolbe*



Maintenance / "handy-person" needed.

St. Bernard is looking to hire a part-time maintenance/handy-person to perform routine maintenance in all buildings, as well as cleaning in the school building and to be backup to our lawn mowing volunteers. We anticipate approximately 40 hrs per month with starting wage of \$15.00/hr. Please contact the parish office (952-466-2031) if you are interested.

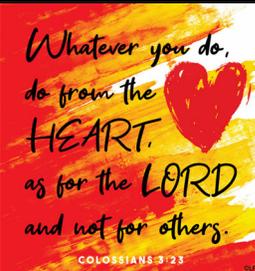
Volunteer Needed: Do you have a boiler's license or know of anyone who does? If so, we are seeking a volunteer to monitor the school boiler at St. Bernard during the months it is in operation. Please contact the parish office (952-466-2031) if you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping with this ministry.

"The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things."

-Pope Francis, Laudato Si: On care for our common home

Come to our "Care of our Common Home" Retreat, to be held at St. Bernard on September 17th 10:00am—6:00 pm., 5:00 pm. Mass included in the retreat.

St. Bernard's Chili Feed and Cash Raffle is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 1st from 3 - 7pm. Dine-in or take out available. Raffle tickets for cash prizes and quilt chances can be picked up after the weekend Masses or from committee members. Mass on the 1st will be at 5:00pm.



What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something

aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult. There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. "Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor)." "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

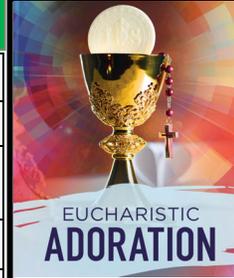
The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge. To walk this sacrificial journey means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta)." Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don't feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened. Believe in God's love and seek it above all other things! ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule - September 10—11

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 4:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Kathy Kloempken	Lori Kasel
Servers	Volunteers	Jack Lano, Callie Buckentin & Lacey Buckentin	Dan Worm, Luca Hoen & Gabby Remer
Reader	Lori Kasel	Ann Schwichtenberg	Julie Kleindl
EMHC	Vicki Arnst	Steve Lemmer	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Volunteers	Justin Buckentin & Tim George	Vern Elke & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Roger Storms	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions

Monday	Sept. 5	No Mass	
Tuesday	Sept. 6 6:15 pm	Ascension	Phero Nguyen †
Wednesday	Sept. 7 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Nancy Sinnen †
Wednesday	Sept. 7 6:30 pm	Ascension	Faith Formation Students
Thursday	Sept. 8 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Francis & Larry Zimmer ††
Friday	Sept. 9 8:00 am	Ascension	John & Dorothy Lewandowski ††
Saturday	Sept. 10 5:00pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	Sept. 11 8:00am	Ascension	Bernice & Dennis Wickenhauser ††
Sunday	Sept, 11 10:00am	St. Bernard	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.....952-484-9628

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

READINGS

for the week of September 4, 2022

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-1

**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 pqinn55322@hotmail.com

Ascension copy must be emailed

to:

busadmin@ascensionny.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

Budget for week 3,323.73

Contributions 08-17 through 08-23-2022 **2,507.00**

Total Actual Collection YTD 24,221.15

Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget **(828.79)**

Forward in Faith Envelope Income 225.00

Electronic Donations 100.00

Forward in Faith Total **325.00**

Forward in Faith YTD **5,864.35**

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 8/21/2022

Weekly Operating Budget: \$ 2,942.31

Weekly Envelopes/Plate: 2,187.00

Weekly E-Giving: 270.00

Collections Budget YTD: 23,538.48

Actual Collection YTD: 19,741.50

Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: **(3,796.98)**

Capital Improvement Offering: 100.00

Capital Improvement-E-Giving: 25.00

Capital Improvement YTD: 4,625.00

Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionny.org

Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for

more Information: 952-467-3351.