

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

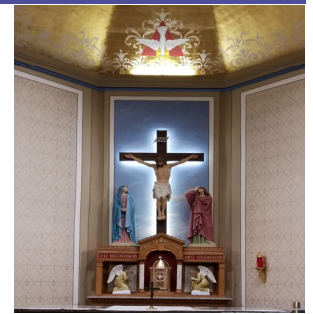
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

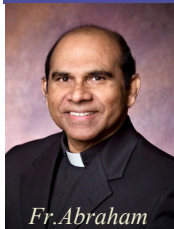


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**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



## The First Sunday of Advent - November 26-27, 2022



Fr. Abraham

### Stay Awake

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, meaning “coming.” Not “he came” but “the coming.” It has an idea of a constancy in it and not just arrival at one time and not at another. There are three comings of Christ. The First Coming is the coming of the Savior in Bethlehem, and this is an historical coming. The Second Coming is the end of the world. The Third Coming, of course, his coming into our hearts each day. One way of really enriching our Advent journey is to keep in mind these three comings of Jesus, and how they relate to one another. Our preparation to celebrate his birth is the occasion for deepening our relationship with our Lord and to experience his presence with us.

The gospel passage (Matthew 24:37-44) says that the end will come in an unexpected time, with people eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and working in their homes or businesses. In this routine normal life, it might be easy to forget the “coming of the Son of Man.” In the days of Noah, the people placed too much emphasis on the normal cares and necessities of life. They were too concerned with eating and drinking. Jesus reminds us that there is something more important than the worldly affairs. We must not slip into the routine of ordinary life and miss the opportunity of life itself. Jesus warns us six times in today’s gospel that we do not know what day or hour he is coming for us. Therefore, stay awake, and be prepared at all times.

How can we stay awake and be prepared at all times? The first step is **Prayer**. Each day as we rise in the morning, we ought to take a brief moment to pray, consciously invite the Lord into our hearts. During the day, from time to time, we can turn to him reminding ourselves of his constant presence in our brothers and sisters. Every night when we go to bed, give thanks to God for that day, and let us ask ourselves, “Where have I found Christ today?” Praying the rosary daily is one of the best prayers for individuals and families. Reflective reading of the Bible is an excellent way to focus our thoughts and deepen our understanding of the meaning of Advent.

Secondly, prepare to welcome Jesus into our life, especially through the reception of the Sacraments of **Reconciliation and the Eucharist**. In this Advent season, experience Christ’s mercy in the Sacrament of Confession and prepare well for His coming again. Thirdly, if you are not a weekday Mass participant, consider participating in at least one **weekday Mass** in a week during this Advent season. Advent is also a proper time to choose an hour for **Eucharistic Adoration**. Doing some **works of charity**: It might be an encouraging word, a phone call, and a note of appreciation or a little act of kindness, giving food to hungry, ministering the sick etc.

These are some of the simple ways that we prepare ourselves to be ready to meet Christ. A good life consists not so much in the kind of work we do or how “successful” we are, but how we have related with God and with people. We are so future-oriented that we frequently forget the present entirely. We spend too much time trying to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. But we need to be more spiritually awake to prepare for our eternal life. Advent is a special season of preparation of our hearts and homes through prayers, Scripture readings, reception of Sacraments and good deeds for the coming of Christ.

**Rosary Intention:** “For all suffering from addiction and depression.”

**Have a Blessed Advent Season**

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
Pastor

**Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN**

**CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

Thur Dec 8 8:00am HDO-Immaculate Conception @StB  
 Thur Dec 8 6:45pm HDO-Immaculate Conception @Asc  
 Fri Dec 9 10:00am Mass @ The Harbor  
 Wed. Dec 21 through Wed., Feb. 1st. Eucharistic Adoration hours at St. Bernard will be from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

**November Food Drive for the West Carver County Food Shelf:**

For the entire month of November, Food and monetary donations may be dropped off anytime between 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. On Tuesdays at the Food Shelf. **Or** Bring donations to the box in the entrance at Ascension and the box in the narthex at St. Bernard. **Items needed:** Juice, Cereal, Crackers, Peanut butter, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soups, Canned fruit, Tuna, Canned meats, Meals in one, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissues, Toothpaste, Laundry Soap, Dish washing soap, etc. Thank you !

**Retirement Fund for Religious - Lighten the Load**

An abbot writes "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously. There will be a second collection on Dec. 10-11 for this fund.

**STBAFF Sponsorship Program for 2022-23**

The sponsorship program is in full swing. Our GOAL is to raise \$5000. Your support helps create a strong environment to share our Catholic faith with the children of Ascension & St Bernard parishes. Any questions, contact Julie Kleindl or Julie Clemensen.



CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Our Lady of the Lake	Mound	Dec 3	9:00 - 11:00 am
Immaculate Conception	Watertown	Dec 3	11:00 am -12:00 pm
Guardian Angel's	Victoria	Dec 4	4:00 - 600 pm
St. Hubert	Chanhassen	Dec 5	6:30 - 8:30 pm
St. Therese	Deephaven	Dec 10	7:00 - 9:00 pm
St. Victoria	Victoria	Dec 13	6:30 pm
Holy Name of Jesus	Wayzata	Dec 14	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Ascension & St. Bernard	NYA	Dec 14	6:30 pm
St. Joseph	Waconia	Dec 18	4:00 pm

God's love can only unleash its power when it is allowed to change us from within. We have to let it break through the hard crust of our indifference, our spiritual weariness, our blind conformity to the spirit of this age. Only then can we let it ignite our imagination and shape our deepest desires.

—Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

**Church of St. Bernard Cologne, MN**

**Your Prayers are requested**—for the repose of the soul of Angeline Abbott, Mother of our former pastor Fr. Gregory Abbott. Angeline passed away on Saturday, November 12th. Her funeral was on Thursday, November 17th. Please also pray for peace and comfort for Angeline's family. 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. Amen.



**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. **Starting wage is negotiable.** Please contact the parish office (952-466-2031) if you are interested.

**Word of Life**—"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
 "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

**St. Gertrude's Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory**

Eternal Father I offer you the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.



**1st Sunday of Advent**

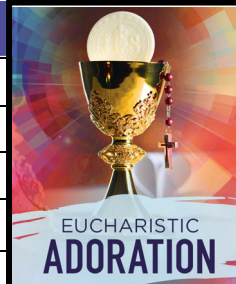
We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away." While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come. Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness. ©LPI

## Mass Ministry Schedule—December 3 - 4

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn & Ella Wickenhauser
Servers	Volunteers	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm, Cohen & Lily Starkey
Reader	Jake Kooiman	Cheryl Coyle	Julie Kleindl, Jim Monsen & Zach Wickenhauser
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Brenda Seifert	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Kieran Allison & Volunteer	Paul Lano & Richard Tellers	Bob Symanitz, Andy Kleindl & Ryiah Sobiech
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Steve Coyle	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A Stacy Sullivan & Cheryl Coyle Grp B Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Nov. 28	No Mass	
Tuesday	Nov. 29 6:15 pm	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Wednesday	Nov. 30 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Paul Bovy †
Thursday	Dec. 1 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Bernice Wickenhauser †
Friday	Dec. 2 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Dec. 3 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Jerry, Dolores & Linda Schrempp †††
Sunday	Dec. 4 8:00 am	Ascension	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Sunday	Dec. 4 10:00am	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.....952-484-9628

#### Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

### READINGS

for the week of November 27, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44 **Monday:** Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11 **Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24 **Wednesday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22 **Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27 **Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31 **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 **Next Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

**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

Budget for week	3,235.58
<b>Contributions 11-09 through 11-15-2022</b>	<b>1,280.75</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	58,805.00
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>(6,346.51)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b> Envelope Income	0.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>10,691.69</b>

**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](http://www.st-bernard-cologne.org)

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 11/13/2022

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,942.31
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	2,427.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	1,140.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	58,846.20
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	57,108.62
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>(1,737.58)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	710.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	175.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	8,505.00

**Sign up** for electronic giving at [ascensionnya.org](http://ascensionnya.org) Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more information: 952-467-3351.