

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

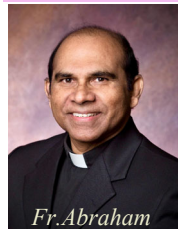


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 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 Third Sunday of Advent - December 10-11, 2022



Fr. Abraham

Jesus Keeps Coming to Us

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The third Sunday of Advent is one of joy and encouragement. It is known as *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday. We have so many reasons to be unhappy and disappointed in the world. There is so much negativity around us. But let us open our eyes, ears and mind to the positive things and spread the positive attitude.

John the Baptist and his disciples had hoped and prayed years for the coming of Messiah. They hoped that he would defeat the Roman power, conquer all enemies and establish a great kingdom of peace and prosperity. In times past, John had come to believe that the prayers had been answered. The Messiah was none other than his own cousin, Jesus of Nazareth. John proclaimed the power of the coming Messiah to bring in a new age. But he found himself imprisoned by Herod. He may have been wondering why the expected Messiah was not setting him free as Isaiah (61:1) had predicted. This may have been why John sent his disciples to clarify his doubt, asking: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11: 3)

John the Baptist may have had his doubts, but he was open to hear Jesus. Instead of criticizing Jesus or breaking away from him, John approached Jesus through his disciples to get the right answer. We can be sure that if he were not locked up in prison he would have gone straight to Jesus. John preached a God of divine retribution and Jesus preached a God of divine love. Jesus could have rebuked John for his doubts, but instead offered him a blessing. Jesus had not lived up to John's expectations, but John did not allow that to be a stumbling block. Here we have two wonderful examples of two cousins, Jesus and John, of how to treat others who have different expectations or opinions. John had different expectation of Jesus. But he didn't claim that he was absolutely right. He was confused. So, he sent his disciples to Jesus to get the answer. Jesus corrected John's expectations about the Messiah with a compliment.

Like John we too sometimes feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. In moments of doubt and despair, we are, indeed to go to Jesus, the real sources of truth and life. We find that truth in the Scripture, in the teachings of the Church, in Sacraments and in prayers. In the moments of disagreement or confusion or different expectations, we should have the humility like John, to look for the right source and to accept corrections. It is very important for us to notice the answer that Jesus gave to the disciples of John. "Go and tell John what you hear and see." The disciples have heard and seen the blind, the lame, the deaf, the dead and the poor who have regained their life and happiness from Jesus.

What Jesus commanded John's disciples, he commands us as well. Look around us and see the presence of God despite the difficulty we are in. When our hopes are shattered let us turn to Jesus. He is the answer to all our hopes and dreams. He will not let us down. Keep sending messengers through prayer to Jesus looking for an answer to the problem. And we will get an answer, even if not what we expected. But let us keep trusting in God. Let us continue to pray and not lose faith in Jesus. Jesus keeps coming to us in the midst of our daily struggles and difficulties in order to lead us to everlasting joy.

Advent reconciliation on December 14th, Wednesday, 6:30 pm at Ascension for both parishes.

Rosary Intention: 'For Peace in our world, in our homes and families'

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Wed Dec 14 6:30pm Reconciliation Service @Asc
 Thur Dec 15 10:00am Early deadline for bulletin for Dec. 25th
 Sat. Dec 17 5:00pm Linger Longer after Mass @StB
 Sun. Dec 18 10:00am Linger Longer after Mass @StB
 Tues Dec 20 4:00pm Finance Council Mtg @ Asc
Wed. Dec 21 until further notice Eucharistic Adoration hours at St. Bernard will be from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
 Thur Dec 22 10:00am Early deadline for bulletin for Jan. 1st.
 Thur Dec 22 7:00pm Finance Council Mtg @ StB

The Ascension Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the **Keep Christ in Christmas** contest. Age groups are: 5-7 yr old, 8-10 yr old, and 11-14 yr old. There will be a local winner for each age group and each winner will receive \$25. Every participant will receive a coupon for ONE free Bingo card which can be used during one of the upcoming KC Bingo's events on Feb. 19th, March 19th or April 16th. Registration forms have been handed out, but they can also be picked up at Wednesday at Faith Formation classes. Questions please talk to Kara Wickenhauser, Julie Kleindl, or Donald Whitaker.

STBAFF Sponsorship Program for 2022-23

The sponsorship program is in full swing. Our GOAL is to raise \$5000. Collections so far are: \$2220. 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.



AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICES

CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
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

Catholic Charities Giving Tree at Mall of America

December 17-18, Mall of America, Bloomington
 For 30 years, the Giving Tree has brought people together during Advent to ensure their neighbors have access to essential items as they receive supportive services from Catholic Charities. Visitors can shop for someone in need, participate in a quick volunteer activity, and learn a little bit about Catholic Charities.

Word of Life—"Oh St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

The devil is a great liar, as Jesus warns, which means that his primary target is our intelligence. His effort is to work his whisper within the quiet of the mind without detection, unknown until the damage is done.
 —Fr. Donald Haggerty

Church of St. Bernard Cologne, MN



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sat. Dec. 24th 4:00pm @Asc
 Sat. Dec 24th 6:30pm @StB
 Sun. Dec 25th 8:00am @Asc
 Sun. Dec 25th 10:00am @StB

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

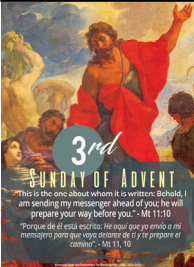
Sat. Dec 31st 5:00pm @Asc
 Sun Jan 1st 8:00am @Asc
 Sun Jan 1st 10:00am @StB

Thank You! Thank you to all who have offered your prayers, presence, gifts, flowers, and support during this time of our mother/grandmother's decline and return to God. Your kindness and thoughtfulness has blessed us in this time of sorrow, mystery, and beauty, as God has called our beloved Angeline back to Himself. May God be always close to you!- *The Angeline Abbott Family*

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Sr. Elizabeth Willems SSND, sister of Norman and Leo Willems. Sr. Elizabeth passed away on Monday, November 28th. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in may. Amen. Please pray for peace and comfort for her family and her SSND family.

Thank You ! To all who donated food and/or cash to the Thanksgiving Day collection. The Southwest Carver County Food Shelf gratefully acknowledges our gift of 278 lbs. of food and a Total of \$283.00. Your contribution is appreciated on behalf of those that are served by the Southwest Carver County Food shelf.

Decorating for Christmas. Your help is needed as the church will be decorated **TODAY**, Sunday, December 11th after the 10am Mass. Help decorate to make the church ready to receive the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would

marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this? ©LPI

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 17 - 18

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Rita Fahey	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Kieran Allison	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm, Cohen & Lily Starkey
Reader	Judy Glander	Brian Willems	Sarah Foley
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Curt Wilson	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Volunteers	Jeremy Friendshuh & Eugene Dvorak	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Roger Storms	Grace Cook	Andy & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A Steve Coyle & Steve Helget Grp B Cheryl Coyle & Stacy Sullivan	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Dec. 12	No Mass	
Tuesday	Dec. 13 6:15 pm	Ascension	Patricia Prchal †
Wednesday	Dec. 14 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †
Thursday	Dec. 15 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Harriet Meuleners †
Friday	Dec. 16 8:00 am	Ascension	Jeff Boesche †
Saturday	Dec. 17 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 18 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 18 10:00am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †



Eucharistic Adoration
Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
St. Bernard
Every Wednesday through
December 14th
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 December 11, 2022

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 **Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32 **Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23 **Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30 **Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36 **Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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
Contributions 11-23 through 11-29-2022	2,204.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	66,743.17
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(4,879.50)
Forward in Faith Envelope Income	75.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	175.00
Forward in Faith YTD	11,400.11
Thanksgiving collection for the Food Shelf	233.00

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 11/27/2022

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,027.50
Weekly E-Giving:	985.00
Collections Budget YTD:	64,730.82
Actual Collection YTD:	62,230.12
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(2,500.70)
Capital Improvement Offering:	200.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	8,840.00

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