

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

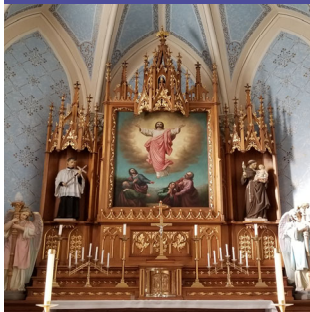
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NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



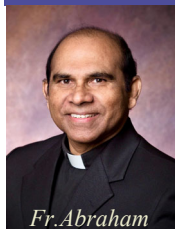
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 17-18, 2022

‘God Is With Us...Do Not Be Afraid’



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During this 4th week of Advent, we make an intense preparation to commemorate the great event of God’s coming to us in Person of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Kingdom of Peace, love and joy. Today’s Gospel reminds us that God takes charge of our life and that we are asked to surrender to divine will. The angel appeared to Joseph and said, “Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife into your home.”

Do not be afraid. These words occur over and over in scripture. The angel, Gabriel, told Zechariah not to be afraid. Those were also Gabriel’s words to Mary. The shepherds were told by angels not to be afraid. Jesus told Simon Peter and other disciples not to be afraid after they almost broke their fishing nets when they listened to Jesus’ instructions. The disciples were told not to be afraid when they heard the voice of the Father during the Transfiguration. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were told not to be afraid when they came upon the empty tomb. Joseph is told “Do not be afraid,” because the son of the Virgin Mary is *Emmanuel*, “God is with us.”

St. Paul shared his own experience with strong conviction: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life...nor present things, nor future things, nor powers...nor other creatures will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31, 38). If “God is with us,” whom shall we fear? Joseph was confused and afraid, as we often are, but he trusted God’s mysterious ways and found incredible blessings in what he had not planned. We have to trust the Lord to remove the fear. So many of us are afraid; afraid to trust, afraid to love, afraid to live and afraid to help. Although we may face financial problems, job insecurity, family problems, health concerns and sickness of dear ones, let us trust in Emmanuel, “God is with us,” like St. Joseph. God is with us and working in our lives. When we are aware of this, when we behold His Presence, we can then bring His presence to others.

We have to trust God in order to overcome fear and anxiety and to experience peace and joy. Joseph heard an angel say, “Do not be afraid.” When Joseph took the step from fear to trust, the world has seen its Savior. There could hardly be a better way to prepare for Christmas on this fourth Sunday of Advent than to imitate Joseph and Mary in their willingness to obey God, to be positive and hopeful at those times when life does not seem to be hopeful. Let us prepare for Christmas in its real spirit so that we will keep Jesus with us throughout the year.

Rosary Intention: ‘For Comfort and Hope to all the sick and suffering’

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

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

Knight of Columbus Free Throw Championship: all boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Free throw Contest on Sunday, January 15th at 6pm at St. Joes' School in Waconia.

STBAFF Sponsorship Program for 2022-23

The sponsorship program is in full swing. Our GOAL is to raise \$5000. Collections so far are: \$2,220. 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.

******Local Drives This Holiday Season**

Pro Auto located here in NYA is hosting a **coat drive** this holiday season - Help them fill their sled! December 1st - 27th will be their annual coat drive. They will be collecting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves and mittens to keep those in our community warm this winter season.

Old National Bank

Is collecting **warm gloves and mittens** for Central Elementary and St. John's in addition to the toy collection box for the fire departments.

Eucharistic Revival

"Learn How to Embrace the Gift of the Eucharist" is a FREE online course by Bishop Cozzens! Bishop Andrew Cozzens presents the incredible reality of the Real Presence, unpacks "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church" as published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and invites you to respond to this radical gift. Discover practical ways you can spread a love for the Eucharist in your parish community! Sign up and learn more at reviveparishes.com/eucharist



CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
St. Joseph	Waconia	Dec 18	4:00 pm

Last chance for reconciliation service prior to Christmas!!

Word of Life -"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

The spirit of Advent is like an anticipation of the spirit of Lent and Passiontide. The crucial point of Advent lies, not in the season itself, but in the time before Easter —*Adrienne von Speyr*

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

Christmas Hymns will be sung at 6:15pm. On Christmas Eve (before the 6:30pm Mass) and at 9:45am. Christmas Day (before the 10:00am Mass) at St. Bernard.

Our Christmas collections usually go a long way in closing any gaps we experience between weekly collections and budgets. With Christmas being on Sunday this year, we will not have the extra collection opportunities for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary (Jan. 1). Please keep this in mind in your giving plan for the end of the year. Blessings to you all!

Gifted and Belonging, a Catholic Fellowship for young adults with disabilities, seen and unseen, invites you to join GAB for our Annual Advent Celebration, December 18, 6-8 Pm, hosted at St. Matthew's Parish, 510 Hall Avenue, Saint Paul. Bring an Advent or Christmas Craft to work on and Christmas cookies to share.

For more information contact Megan at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com



4th Sunday of Advent

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially

change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart? Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPI

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 24 - 25

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. Dec. 24—4:00 pm	St. Bernard Sat. Dec. 24—6:30 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Patricia Quinn	Tamara Lemmer	Lori Kasel
Servers	Payton Stender & Hailey Stender	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison	Nathan & Brianna Duenow	Dan Worm, Marshall Panning & Logan Pellegrino
Reader	Stacy Sullivan	Rob Wickenhauser	Cheryl Coyle	Joyce Schwartz
EMHC	Cathleen Williams (Host) - Benda Seifert & Pat Johnson (Cup)	Sarah Foley & Bernie Shambour	Irene Yaeck	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Steve Schrupp, Tom Lano, Gary Widmer, Eugene Dvorak	Kieran Allison & Tom Dahl	Steve Coyle & Josh Gallus	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos
Greeters	Jim Mulville	Volunteer	Julie Gesinger	Casey Jones & Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	Grp A-Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B-Steve & Cheryl Coyle	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Dec. 19	No Mass	
Tuesday	Dec. 20 6:15pm	Ascension	Living & Deceased members of the Mathais & Gertrude Fick Family
Wednesday	Dec. 21 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Gerald & Delora Meuleners ††
Thursday	Dec. 22 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Friday	Dec. 23 8:00 am	Ascension	Allan Schmitt †
Saturday	Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Saturday	Dec. 24 6:30 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 25 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 25 10:00am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †



Eucharistic Adoration
Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
St. Bernard
Every Wednesday until
Further notice
3:00 until 6:00 pm

READINGS for the week of December 18, 2022
Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 **Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25 **Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38 **Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45 **Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 **Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 **Saturday: Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79 **Next Sunday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3j]/Heb 1:1-2/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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@ascensionnva.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.....952-484-9628

Anointing of the Sick
Call the parish office at any time.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure	
Budget for week	4,205.71
Contributions 11-30 through 12-06-2022	5,340.92
Total Actual Collection YTD	72,084.09
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(3,744.27)
Forward in Faith Envelope Income	160.00
Electronic Donations	165.50
Forward in Faith Total	325.50
Forward in Faith YTD	11,900.61
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 12/04/2022	
Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	7,307.00
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	67,673.13
Actual Collection YTD:	69,807.12
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	2,133 99
Capital Improvement Offering:	170.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	9,055.00
Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionnva.org Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.	