

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

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

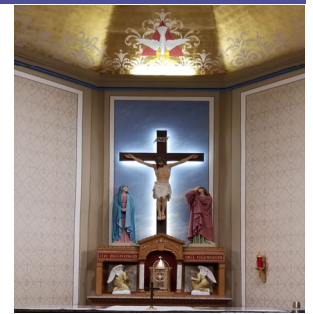
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

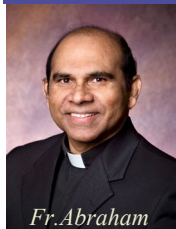


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**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  
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## The Second Sunday of Advent - December 3-4, 2022



Fr. Abraham

### Reform Your Lives

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During the time of Prophet Isaiah, many of Yahweh's loyal followers were in despair thinking that Yahweh had forgotten His promises. In this condition Isaiah dispels their fears and stir up hope by prophesying the coming of a Savior in definite words referring to Jesse. (Isaiah 11:1-10). He told them that the reign of peace and justice will be established by the arrival of a Savior. Bible scholars have estimated that there are 1,845 references to Christ's coming in the OT and 318 references in the NT. St. Paul instructed Jewish Christians of Rome to draw endurance and encouragement from the Old Testament Scripture.

As the last prophet to prepare the way for Emmanuel, John the Baptist began to preach repentance (Matthew 3:1-12). He referred the words of Isaiah linking the history of salvation, his mission and arrival of Jesus. He preached conversion, exposing pride, self-righteousness, and worldliness of people. The prophet told them to 'prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths'. The words in today's scripture readings are intended not just for the people of that time but also for the people of all times. They were spoken for you and me.

What do these words mean for you and me right now? They mean acknowledging our sins and reform our lives. They mean approaching God for forgiveness. They mean becoming reconciled with God, others and self. They mean a renewed life in the Holy Spirit. Only knowing and acknowledging the sins is like diagnosing the disease and taking no treatment for it. Jesus wants to enter our lives. Let us respond to John's call and open our hearts to Jesus. John the Baptist urges us to do the Savior's works of justice and peace and produce good fruit as evidence of repentance.

There are sickness and weakness in us. At the same time Jesus, the great healer is waiting for us to heal and strengthen us. Healing costs us nothing and gives us everything. After healing he tells us to grow in strength and remain healthy in spiritual life. Advent is the special season for us to make the preparation by repenting of our sins, and reform our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. Jesus gave us a special way to remove our sins. That way is the true repentance and Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have this opportunity every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday before the Mass and **Advent Reconciliation on December 14<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Ascension for both parishes. All are welcome to receive God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The whole history of Salvation speaks of God who calls us to repentance so that he can forgive us and fill us with his life. Sending his own son to the earth in human form is the ultimate expression of his love in forgiveness. Let us rejoice and thank Jesus for giving us a way to erase our past sinful elements and to reform our lives.

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, the Patronal Feast Day of our country. It is the **holy day of obligation**. Let us ask her intercession to be faithful disciples of her Son, as she was, and to say yes to God's will always.

**Rosary Intention:** 'For the grace to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus'

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
Pastor

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

Sun Dec 4 9:00am KC Donut Sunday @Asc  
 Wed. Dec 7 6:15pm HDO-Immaculate Conception @Asc  
 Thur Dec 8 8:00am HDO-Immaculate Conception @StB  
 Fri. Dec 9 10:00am Mass @ The Harbor  
 Wed Dec 14 6:30pm Reconciliation Service @Asc  
 Thur Dec 15 10:00am Early deadline for bulletin for Dec. 25th  
 Sat. Dec 17 6:00pm Linger Longer after Mass @StB  
 Sun. Dec 18 11:00am Linger Longer after Mass @StB  
*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.

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.

We are conducting an **Adopt-a-Senior** campaign from November 20 - December 11. We will be collecting small items such as socks, puzzle books, lotion, hard candies and other useful items to create care packages for the home bound and elderly of our parishes. Our Confirmation students will then be delivering the care packages! Please help us share the joy of Christmas with the elderly of our parishes by dropping off a donation in the box in the entrance! Contact Julie Kleindl for more information. Thank you.



**AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

CATHOLIC CHURCH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
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

The Virgin Mary was associated in a very special way with Christ's kingship. God asked her, a humble young woman of Nazareth, to become Mother of the Messiah and Mary responded to this request with her whole self, joining her unconditional "yes" to that of her Son, Jesus, and making herself obedient with him even in his sacrifice. This is why God exalted her above every other creature and Christ crowned her Queen of Heaven and earth. —Pope Benedict XVI

**Your Prayers are requested** for the repose of the soul of Irvn "Irv" Ole Grove, bonus dad of Shelly Machacek, who passed away recently. May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Please also pray for Irv's family.

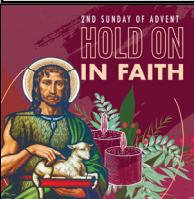
A second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** will be held on Dec. 10th-11th. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries—such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care and more. Please give generously.

**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.

**Word of Life**—“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”  
 \*Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
[respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)



**2nd Sunday of Advent**

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated.

Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her. ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—December 10 - 11

Mass Ministry	Imm. Concep.-Holy Day Ascension - 6:15pm	Imm. Concep.-Holy Day St. Bernard - 8:00 am	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Tamara Lemmer	Doris Mielke	Ann Dettmann	Brian Willems	Lori Kasel
Servers	Jacob & Lucas Johnson	Dan Worm	Jack Lano	Callie Buckentin & Caleb Michels	Dan Worm, Luca Hoen & Buckley Jones
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Roger Storms	Cathleen Williams	Jean Schmitz	Tom Kasel
EMHC	Steve Lemmer	Vicki Arnst	Jim Mulville	Irene Yaeck	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Tom Lano	Tom Dahl & Vern Elke	Dave Donnay & Rick Ulrich	Don Whitaker & Josh Gallus	Kieran Allison & Leo Willems
Greeters	Leo Pouliot	Andy Kleindl	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Justin & Amy Buckentin	Casey Jones & Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grp A-Rita & Tim Fahey Grp B-Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Dec 5	No Mass	
Tuesday	Dec 6 6:15 pm	Ascension	John & Dorothy Lewandowski ††
Wednesday	Dec 7 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marvin Cebulla †
Wednesday	Dec 7 6:15pm	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Thursday	Dec 8 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †
Friday	Dec 9 8:00 am	Ascension	Pope Francis
Saturday	Dec 10 5:00 pm	Ascension	John Worm †
Sunday	Dec 11 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec 11 10:00am	St. Bernard	All Parishioners



#### Eucharistic Adoration

**Ascension**  
Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm  
**St. Bernard**  
Every Wednesday through Dec.  
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 4, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/  
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12 **Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps  
85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26 **Tues-**  
**day:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12,  
13/Mt 18:12-14 **Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps  
103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30 **Thurs-**  
**day:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph  
1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 **Friday:** Is 48:17-19/  
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19 **Saturday:**  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13 **Next Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/  
Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

#### 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@ascensionny.org

**All inserts and weekend Mass an-**  
**ouncements** 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 11-16 through 11-22-2022</b>	<b>5,734.17</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	64,539.17
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>(3,847.92)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b> Envelope Income	215.00
Electronic Donations	493.42
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>708.42</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>11,400.11</b>
<b>Campaign for Human Development Collection</b>	<b>510.00</b>

**Did you know** you can have your contributions automati-  
cally 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 11/20/2022

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,942.31
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	839.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	270.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	61,788.51
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	58,217.62
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>(3,570.89)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	10.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	25.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	8,540.00

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