

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

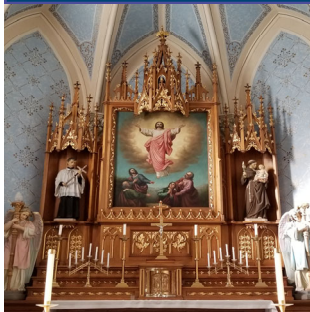
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
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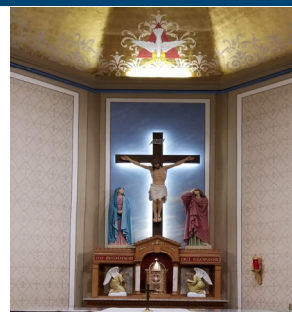
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

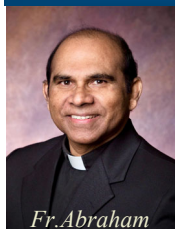


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Dec. 31, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023



Fr. Abraham

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The celebration of the Feast of “Mary, the holy Mother of God” is a very appropriate way to begin New Year 2023. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our heavenly Mother. Hence our ideal motto for the New Year should be “Through Mary to Jesus!”

Why do we honor Mary? Non-Christians sometimes say that we Catholics worship Mary as a goddess. Non-Catholic Christians may argue that there is no Biblical basis for honoring Mary, and that Catholics worship her and make her equal to God. The truth is that we Catholics do not worship Mary as we worship God. We honor her, respect her, love her and seek her intercession, praying, “Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners.” We do not, ever, equate her with God nor replace God with her. Rather, we honor her primarily because God honored her by choosing her to become the mother of Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, when He took on our flesh and became Man.

We learn the great truth that Mary is the Mother of God from St. Luke’s gospel, in the message given by the angel to Mary: “You are going to be the mother of a Son and you will call Him Jesus, and He will be called the Son of the Most High.” (Lk 1: 31-32). When the Blessed Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth, after the angel had appeared to her and told her that she would be the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth said, “How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Lk. 1:43). The Holy Scriptures teach us that Jesus was both God and man. St. John writes: “The Word became flesh and lived among us” (Jn. 1:14). The Apostle Paul refers to this event when he writes to the Galatians, “God sent his Son, born of a woman” and as “eternally begotten of the Father.”

Based on these references in the New Testament and on the traditional belief of the early Church, the **Council of Ephesus** affirmed in AD 431 that Mary was truly the Mother of God (*Theotokos*, the God bearer) because “according to the flesh” she gave birth to Jesus, who was truly God as well as truly man from the first moment of His conception by Mary. Twenty years later, in AD 451, the **Council of Chalcedon** affirmed the Motherhood of Mary as a dogma, an official doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church. The title ‘Mother of God’ is one of Mary’s most exalted titles. Since Jesus is God and Mary is his mother, she is the Mother of God, Mother of the Messiah and the Mother of Christ, our Divine Savior. As He was dying on the cross, Jesus gave us the precious gift of His own Mother to be our heavenly Mother.

The best way of celebrating this feast and honoring our heavenly Mother would be to promise her that we will practice her virtues of faith, obedience, purity and humble service. In this way, we will be trying to become the holy sons and daughters of our heavenly Mother, the holy Mother of God.

The Lord Jesus and his Mother Mary, may enrich your lives with an abundance of blessings during the New Year 2023.

Happy New Year.

Rosary Intention: ‘In Thanksgiving for the graces of this past year and in 2023’

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sun Jan 8 9:00am KC Donut Sunday @ Asc

Gifts for Baby Jesus - The Ascension Respect Life Committee is accepting donations for Birthright in Hutchinson again this year. Baby items, diapers, bottles, cloths (gently used are ok) and winter items are needed. Items can be placed up by the Mary altar though January 8th. Thank you for your generosity!!

STBAFF Sponsorship Program for 2022-23

The sponsorship program is coming to a close. Our GOAL is to raise \$5000. Collections so far are: \$3320 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.

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.

Respect Life Mass

Sunday, January 22, noon, Cathedral of Saint Paul . This Mass commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. It is also an opportunity to recognize those who exemplify pro-life work in our local communities with the Saint John Paul II Champion for Life Award

Help for Struggling Couples

February 3-5, Best Western Hotel, Eagan Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages. Since 1977, over 40,000 marriages saved worldwide. Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential. For more information, visit helpourmarriage.org.

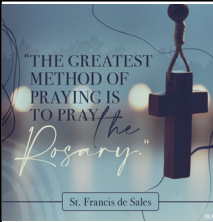
Word of Life— “O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers.”

Start the year off right by refreshing your marriage with a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next available Weekends are Feb 10-12, 2023 in Buffalo, MN and May 5-7, 2023 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org <<mailto:wmandbethnickles@hotmail.com>> or 612-234-7440.

If Jesus is Life, Mary is the Mother of Life. If Jesus is Hope, Mary is the Mother of Hope. If Jesus is Peace, Mary is the Mother of Peace, Mother of the Prince of Peace. —*St. John Paul II*

Your Prayers are requested—for the repose of the soul of Gerald “Jerry” Mohrbacher, brother of July Glander, who passed away on December 19th. Jerry’s funeral was on December 28th .May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Please pray for peace and comfort for Jerry’s family.



History of the Rosary

What is the history of the rosary? Where did this prayer come from?

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means “garland of roses”) was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 “Our Fathers” to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Mary's (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Mary's) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: “The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary’s prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love” (no. 1). ©LPi



She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

“What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?”

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her “origin story,” as they say in the movies.

I’ve got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it’s a detail that wasn’t scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it’s a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I’m the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

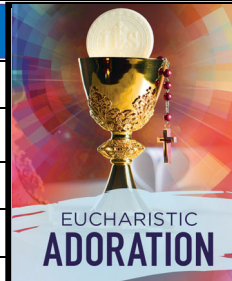
In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask. *Mary kept all of these things in her heart.*- Luke 2:19 ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 7 - 8

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Cheryl Coyle	Lori Kasel
Servers	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison	Callie Buckentin & Lacey Buckentin	Dan Worm, Marshall Panning, Logan Pellegrino
Reader	Jake Kooiman	Cheryl Coyle	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Kathy Kloempken	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Kieran Allison & Volunteer	Justin Buckentin & Eugene Dvorak	Vern Elke & Brian Vos
Greeters	Roger Storms	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones & Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A— Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B— Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Jan 2	No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan 3 6:15 pm	Ascension	Jeff Boesche †
Wednesday	Jan 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †
Thursday	Jan 5 8:00 am	St. Bernard	John & Elizabeth Knauer ††
Friday	Jan 6 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Jan 7 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Rita Peters †
Sunday	Jan 8 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan 8 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

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 Jan. 1 2023

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 **Monday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5 -6/Jn 1:29-34 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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@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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	4,205.71
Contributions 12-14 through 12-20-2022	4,222.17
Total Actual Collection YTD	79,182.26
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(5,057.52)
Forward in Faith Envelope Income	75.00
Electronic Donations	493.42
Forward in Faith Total	568.42
Forward in Faith YTD	12,719.03
Retirement For Religious Collection	153.00

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,

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/18/2022

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,227.00
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	73,557.75
Actual Collection YTD:	77,671.12
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	4,113 37
Capital Improvement Offering:	1,300.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	10,950.00

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