

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



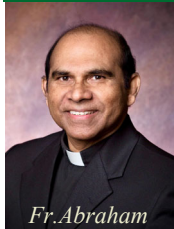
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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
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Third Sunday In Ordinary Time - January 21 & 22, 2023

Fishers for Christ



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter (on 30 September 2019), *“Aperuit illis”*, declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the ‘Sunday of the Word of God’. It is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. The title of the document, *“Aperuit illis”* (he opened their), are its opening words, taken from St. Luke’s Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, and how “he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”. The Pope uses the scene to demonstrate what he calls “the unbreakable bond between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist”.

Pope Francis continues, “A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event, but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.” He reminds us never to take God’s Word for granted, “but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters”.

Today’s Gospel (Mt 4:12-23) describes the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), Jesus’ public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today’s Gospel places Jesus’ ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah (8:23-9:3). Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah. Isaiah’s prophecy that the people who walk in darkness have seen a great light will be fulfilled in Jesus who, when he comes, announces: “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12). It is significant that Mathew quotes Isaiah’s prophecy, and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in a Gentile (non-Jewish) land. This is an indication that the gospel presents Jesus as a Savior of the whole world-not just of the chosen people.

It is true that the light of Christ is first shown in Galilee but it was meant to bring light to everyone who comes into the world. Hence, Jesus chose some to be his apostles, telling them: “Come after me, I will make you fishers of men.” ‘Fishers’ is not just a metaphor but a mission, a mission to bring light of Christ to fill the world, to carry the faith to the doubting, to bring hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, and comfort to the sorrowful. It is a mission entrusted, not just to the apostles, bishops and priests, but also to the laity who serve the Church as altar servers, lectors and Communion ministers, as well as to those who serve outside it, such as the parish councils, the catechists, the teachers and the parents. In fact, the entire community of the baptized and confirmed are called to be “fishers” for Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: “For the hungry and homeless helped thru our generosity”

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Wed Jan 18-Wed Jan 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 Sat Jan 21 6:00pm "Linger Longer" after Mass @ St. B
 Sun Jan 22 11:00am "Linger Longer" after Mass @ St. B

The **Daily Mass Schedule** through Feb 10th is as follows:
 There **will be** a Tues. 6:15pm Mass at Ascension on Jan 24th and 31st with confession starting at 5:45pm.
No Mass or Confession on Tues, Feb 7th.
 There **will be** a Communion Service at St. Bernard at 8:00am on Wed. Jan 25th and Feb 8th. No Confessions.
 There **will not be** a daily Mass on Thursdays or Fridays between Jan 12th and Feb 10th.
 Regular daily Masses will resume on Tues., Feb 14th.

Pews: We have 2 of the pews left from when the new ones were installed a while back at Ascension. If anyone would like one or both, please contact Jack Lano.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ellen May Paul** who passed away on January 3rd. She and her husband Ken were the owners of Paul Funeral Home in NYA and Lester Prairie. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Also pray for peace and comfort for the Paul family.

Ascension/St. Bernard's quilting circle will be starting January 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex basement at St. Bernard's. The plan is to meet every Tuesday at 9:00 - noon. Please join us for knotting blankets for area organizations or if you know of a need, please let us know. We are always looking for new members to join on Tuesdays or if you are interested in sewing some quilt tops or help binding blankets, please let me know. Thank you to Ascension KC's for money for batting. We are always looking for usable flat sheets, yarn, material, batting or donations, drop off at the parish offices or call for pickup.
 Irene Yaeck 612-716-7063

No Appointment Annulment Consultations On Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 23, 7 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul, Saint Paul. The Tribunal will be staffing tables at the Cathedral of Saint Paul for walk-in meetings with Tribunal Staff to talk about the annulment process and to assist people in initiating the process. No appointments needed.

WINE: Women In the New Evangelization invites women of all ages to the **WINE: Catholic Women's Conference** on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in Wayzata, Minnesota. The theme of this year's conference, inspired by John 4:10 and John 7:37-39 is **A Spiritual Spa**, and the invitation is to be renewed and refreshed in the Living Waters. Join women from across the country for a conference filled with inspiration, faith, fellowship, and fun! Flyer is posted in back of church. For more information or to register, visit www.cathoicvinyard.com. Registration deadline is Feb 11.

You are beauty, you are gentleness, you are our shelter, our guard and our defender, you are strength, you are refreshment, you are our hope. You are our faith, you are our love, you are our complete consolation, you are our life everlasting, great and wonderful Lord, all-powerful God, merciful Savior. Amen.

—**St. Francis of Assisi**

It is not man who is on the quest for God. It is God who is on the quest for man. He leaves us restless. —**Ven. Fulton J. Sheen**

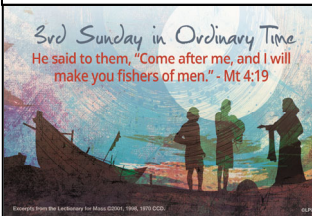
The Church of the Ascension, NYA, MN and St. Bernard Church, Cologne, MN has an opening for a full time shared **Parish Business Administrator**. The Administrator works closely with the Pastor to manage the business of the parishes including the areas of finance, human resources, facility management, staff management, strategic planning and communication. The administrator reports to the Pastor and is an active participant in parish leadership councils as well as community and Diocesan Forums. A BA degree or equivalent work experience including budgeting, asset management, Human Resources and supervisory experience. Candidate must be task oriented with strong interpersonal skills who can cultivate collaborative, team-based relationships among staff, parish leaders and parishioners. Please send resume and cover letter including salary requirements to Sherry at: busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Respect Life Breakfast January 22nd— The KC's are serving breakfast at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia on Sunday, January 22nd from 8:00 am to 12:30pm. Proceeds will go to support local Enkrateia: House of Hope and other Pro-Life causes. The Respect Life Breakfast is an event co-sponsored by the Waconia Knights of Columbus #2506 & Trinity Lutheran Church. Learn more online at stjosephwaconia.org/respect-life-breakfast/

Save the Date for the Waconia Knights of Columbus and Memorial Blood Centers third annual **"Faith In Action Blood Drive"**. The blood drive is scheduled for Monday, February 13th, 2023 from 9:30A-4:00P at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waconia. The scheduling link is: https://www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/70789

Word of Life— "There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, uninformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem. In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "Living the Gospel of Life," © 1998 USCCB



When I was a young seminarian, I asked a wise old priest how to pray better. He said simply, "Don't lie when you pray." He helped me to see how much energy I waste in trying to appear acceptable to God when I pray. For me, prayer was showing off for God and hiding

what was ugly.

It's stunning that the Gospel of Matthew tells us of Jesus, "**He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulon and Naphtali...**" This isn't just the Lord's relocation up north. It's his moving into places of shame and defeat. This region was where the enemy invasion of Israel began centuries before. Jesus left the comfortable confines of Nazareth and sought out a place of darkness, not to bring shame, but to announce the dawning of his light.

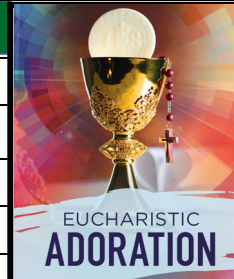
When we pray, we usually prefer Jesus to stay put in our little Nazareths — where we feel comfortable, successful, and in control. But he moves. He re-locates into the Zebulons and Naphtalis of our shame, embarrassment, fear, and sense of being defeated. The question for us is: will we allow him to take up residence in those places in our prayer time? Will we talk to him honestly about our places of darkness? If we do, we're no longer lying when we pray. — **Father John Muir** ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 28- 29

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Tamara Lemmer	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Steve Lemmer	Jack Lano	Dan Worm, Logan Pellegrino & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Jean Schmitz	Lori Kasel
EMHC	Pat Johnson	Sieve Helget	Tom Kasel
Ushers	Jim Mulville & Curt Wilson	Don Whitaker & Gary Widmer	Kieran Allison & Vern Elke
Greeters	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Leo Pouliot	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A– Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B – Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Jan 23	No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan 24 6:15 pm	Ascension	Larry Noeldner †
Wednesday	Jan 25 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service Only
Thursday	Jan 26 8:00 am	St. Bernard	NO MASS
Friday	Jan 27 8:00 am	Ascension	NO MASS
Saturday	Jan 28 5:00 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan 29 8:00 am	Ascension	Lawrence & Lorraine Hartmann ††
Sunday	Jan 29 10:00am	St. Bernard	Luke Meuleners †



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. 22 2023

Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17 **Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 708a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35 **Wednesday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18 **Thursday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/12/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25 **Friday:** Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34 **Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41 **Next Sunday:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (Matthew 5:3)/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Feast Days this week

Jan 23- St. Vincent

Jan 24- St. Francis de Sales

Jan 25- The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Jan 26- Sts. Timothy and Titus

Jan 27- St. Angela Merici

Jan 28- St. Thomas Aquinas

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 2,440.67

Contributions 01-04- through 1-10-2023 1,676.00

Total Actual Collection YTD 96,966.01

Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget (9,656.32)

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income 335.00

Electronic Donations 100.00

Forward in Faith Total 435.00

Forward in Faith YTD 14,747.03

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 1/08/2023

Weekly Operating Budget: \$ 2,942.31

Weekly Envelopes/Plate: 3,313.00

Weekly E-Giving: 390.00

Collections Budget YTD: 82,384.68

Actual Collection YTD: 97,087.67

Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: 14,702.99

Capital Improvement Offering: 750.00

Capital Improvement-E-Giving: 150.00

Capital Improvement YTD: 12,995.00

Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionnya.org

Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for

more Information: 952-467-3351.