

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

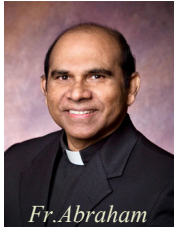


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time - January 28 & 29, 2023



Fr. Abraham

The Beatitudes: The Great Charter of Christianity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Beatitudes are a summary of the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes are called the Charter of Christianity and the Magna Carta for humanity. The eight Beatitudes in Matthew's gospel (5:1-12) can be arranged into two categories. The first reflect a longing for a deeper relationship with God: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn'. The second group reveal the transformation of our lives as fruits of that relationship: 'Blessed are the pure of heart, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, the persecuted'. The first group brings us into closer relationship with God which results in the transformation of our lives described in the second group.

The word beatitude literally means "happiness" or "blessedness". The beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. They teach us the final end to which God calls us, namely, entering into the joy of the Lord (Mt 25:21-23) and into his rest (Heb 4:7-11). The beatitudes, which Jesus offers us, are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of the spirit finds ample room for joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure. Hunger and thirst for righteousness seek nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joy of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world.

We imagine that certain things will make us happy like good health, financial security and a long life for our loved ones. But Jesus tells us something different. Not that those things are bad, but that we will never be happy unless we can find happiness in the midst of trials. In the beatitudes Jesus lists all the misfortunes, which can befall a person: hunger, loss of loved ones, rejections, misunderstandings, false accusations and political defeat. Jesus does tell us that we will never be happy unless we can find the hand of God in the face of such trials.

The Bible is filled with heroes who lived the Beatitudes, especially, the Apostles. Paul tells us about his persecutions. In his letter to Corinthians (2 Cor 11:24-27), he wrote "Five times I received forty lashes less one; three times I was beaten with rods, I was stoned once." "Blessed are they who are persecuted," Christ says. Peter was nailed to a cross, head down.

All through the history of the Church, we find great heroes and heroines who are beatitude people: Francis of Assisi, a peacemaker and a poor in spirit; St. Theresa of Calcutta, a heroine of mercy and charity; St. John Paul II, hungering and thirsting for righteousness. These and so many other great Christian heroes and heroines are beatitude people. After listing the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us, "Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven." Today's gospel is an invitation to ask ourselves to what extent do we qualify to be called "blessed" by Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: "For the Blessings upon all the volunteers at Ascension and St Bernard"

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Every Tue 9:00am—Noon Quilting Circle meets @St. Bernard

The **Daily Mass Schedule** through Feb 10th is as follows: There **will be** a Tues. 6:15pm Mass at Ascension on Jan 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. through 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.

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Thomas Fahey, nephew of Tim & Rita Fahey who passed away recently. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him and may the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. Pray also for peace and comfort for Tom's 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

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

Mass for God's Children: Lost by Stillborn, Miscarriage, or Infant Death **Monday, February 6, 6:30 pm** Have you experienced the loss of a baby before or after birth? Would you like to commemorate and honor your child's life in a beautiful healing Mass? Whether your loss is recent or was years ago, you are warmly invited to attend. Grandparents, siblings, other family members, and friends are also welcome. Please join us at St. Joseph Catholic Community (41 E First St, Waconia, MN 55387). **Questions?** Contact the Parish Office at 952-442-2384 or churchoffice@stjosephwaconia.org.

Bible Study: The Catholic Calendar is continuing on; before you know it will be Lent. Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 22nd. We invite you to participate in a Lenten walk to Merciful Love. On Sunday mornings for 6 weeks beginning Feb. 19th. Chris George and Dee Heille will be facilitating. Please watch the bulleting for further information.

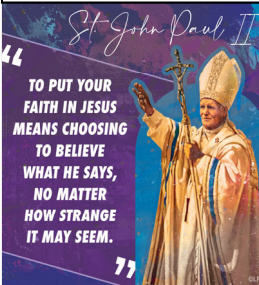
When you too have become a disciple of Jesus Christ and a living member of the Church, consecrate your life, transformed by grace, to prayer and to the gift of yourself in charity, and be an apostle. —*Élisabeth Leseur*

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

Word of Life— Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion": <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion>

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

The Jones kids are selling raffle tickets after Mass for the St. John the Baptist School as a part of the **Annual Cadillac Dinner fundraiser**. 1st prize is a 2023 Ford Bronco Sport from Wolf Motors or \$25,000 cash, 2nd prize \$5000, 3rd and 4th \$2,500. Tickets are \$100. Contact Brenda Buckley Jones 952-239-9436 for tickets.



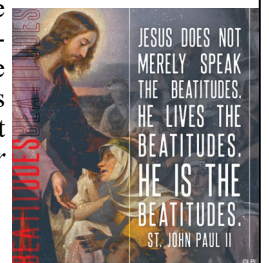
In my parents' bedroom there were on the wall two photos of my mom and dad from their early adulthoods. The photo of my mother entranced me when I was a boy. I loved looking at it, even though I saw her in daily life. Something about that picture captured her perfectly. It was an image of the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength that enveloped me from the start of my

life. It was an icon of the woman who fed, taught, and encouraged me. I felt a deep pride that I came from such beauty.

The beatitudes of Jesus are a kind of self-portrait. But it is a strange picture. At first, the blessings of being poor, mourning, and hungering and thirsting for righteousness may seem bizarre or, worse, a religious delusion. Who wants to look like that? But if we look again, we begin to see the characteristics of Jesus' form. He becomes poor and fills it with his riches for us, he weeps and mourns for us, and fills it with his joy, he hungers and thirsts for us to be righteous, and so satisfies us. And so on. It's the way he appears on the cross.

Perhaps we should put on our bedroom room walls the words of the beatitudes next to a crucifix of the Lord Jesus.

Then we can do what the beatitudes are designed for, to gaze at the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength of the one who is our origin, and who is with us every day. And little by little, we'll start to look like him. — *Father John Muir*
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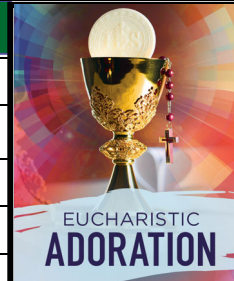


Mass Ministry Schedule—February 4– 5

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Kathy Kloempken	Lori Kasel
Servers	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison	Brianna Duenow & Nathan Duenow	Dan Worm
Reader	Roger Storms	Brian Willems	Julie Kleindl
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Tom Kasel
Ushers	Kieran Allison	Rick Ulrich & Josh Gallus	Andy Kleindl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Roger Storms	Steve Coyle	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A– Tim George & Steve Helget Grp B – Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Jan 30	No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan 31	6:15 pm	Ascension Angeline Abbott †
Wednesday	Feb 1	8:00 am	St. Bernard Communion Service Only
Thursday	Feb 2	8:00 am	St. Bernard NO MASS
Friday	Feb 3	8:00 am	Ascension NO MASS
Saturday	Feb 4	5:00 pm	St. Bernard Gerald Mohrbacher †
Sunday	Feb 5	8:00 am	Ascension Dick Lano †
Sunday	Feb 6	10:00am	St. Bernard Adrian 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. 29 2023

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
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20 **Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43 **Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6 **Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32 **Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29 **Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34 **Next Sunday:** Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-1

Feast Days this week

Jan 31- St. John Bosco
Feb 2– Presentation of the Lord
Feb 3– St. Blaise, St. Ansgar

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	2,440.67
Contributions 01-11– through 1-17-2023	2,289.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	99,225.01
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(9,807.99)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	695.92
Forward in Faith Total	745.92
Forward in Faith YTD	15,492.95

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 1/15/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,162.00
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	85,326.99
Actual Collection YTD:	100,549.67
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	15,222.68
Capital Improvement Offering:	250.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	13,280.00

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