

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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

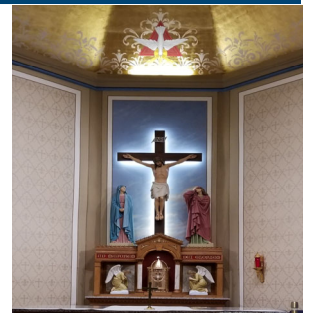
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



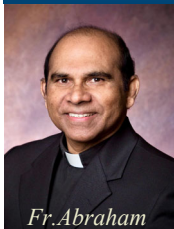
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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:
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The Epiphany of the Lord - January 7 & 8, 2023

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation. There are really three epiphanies recognized by the Church: the manifestation of the Lord to the Magi, the baptism of the Lord, and the first public miracle in the Gospel of John, the changing of water into wine. The Eastern Catholic Churches and the Orthodox Churches celebrate all three Epiphanies together. The Western Catholic Church divides up these celebrations.

Today we focus is on the manifestation of the Lord to the Magi. We do not know a whole lot about them. The Magi are popularly referred to as wise men and kings. According to the tradition, their names were Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior. The Magi may actually have been Persian priests or Babylonian astronomers. The main thing we know is that they were not Jewish. They were pictured as representatives of different nationality, culture and races. They offered three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All three gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: *gold* as a symbol of *kingship of Jesus*, *frankincense* as a symbol of *priesthood*, and *myrrh* as a symbol of salvation through the suffering and *death of Jesus*.

Why would rich gentiles be interested in the Jewish Messiah? That the gentiles could be part of God's plan for His people was beyond the consideration of the Jews. But the mystery, hidden for generations was now revealed: the gentiles were to be co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body, co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ, as St. Paul proclaims in today's second reading (Ephesians 3:2-6).

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the manifestation of God in Christ and the extension of God's saving plan for all people. The first reading, from Isaiah (60:1-6), mentions non-Jews bringing gifts in homage to the God of Israel. The passage also celebrates the divine light emanating from Jerusalem. It foresees all the nations acknowledging and enjoying that light of the God of Israel and walking by it.

Today's gospel (Mt 2:1-12) teaches us how Christ enriches those who came to him. Since the Magi came with joy in their hearts to visit the Christ child, God allowed them to see wondrous things. Jesus Christ came for all people. None were to be excluded from the Grace of God that He would bring. On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we ask the Lord to free us from pride and prejudices. We ask Jesus to allow us to be what we call ourselves, Catholics, people of a universal Church.

I want to thank all of you who sent me greeting cards and gifts this Christmas season. Even though I can't thank each of you individually, please know that I appreciate your kindness and support. I also want to thank all of my brother priests who will be saying Mass here during my absence. Please welcome them and show them the wonderful hospitality. I will be leaving on January 9th to visit my family in India, and will be returning on February 9th, please keep me in your prayers and for a safe journey. I keep you in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: 'For the safety of Father Abraham as he travels to India'

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sun Jan 8 9:00am KC Donut Sunday @ Asc
 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** for the next month is as follows:
 There **will be** a Tues. 6:15pm Mass at Ascension on Jan 10th, 24th and 31st with confession starting at 5:45pm.
No Mass or Confession on Tues, Jan 17th or Tues, Feb 7th.
 There **will be** a Communion Service at St. Bernard at 8:00am on Wed. Jan 11th, 18th, 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.

STBAFF Sponsorship Program for 2022-23

YEAH!!! We have exceeded our goal. The GOAL was to raise \$5000. Through your generous donations, we have collected **\$6,420. Thank you!** 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.

Christmas Decorations at St. Bernard will be taken down after Mass on Sunday, January 8th (TODAY). Help is needed to remove the Christmas Decorations. Thank you in advance for your help !

Word of Life— "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him. ..Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

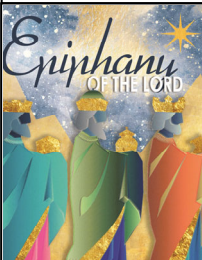
The offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh were carried by the magi over many miles of hard travel to be laid at the feet of Jesus. What gifts do we bear through the journey of life to lay at the feet of the King? Do we protect them as we should? ©LPi

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

Are you craving peace and solitude? Let God meet you at our beautiful retreat location in Lake Elmo, MN. Join us for a Men's Silent Retreat at the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House **January 19 – January 22**. The retreat begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information, see our website www.demontrevilleretreat.com or call 651-777-1311.

"My husband and I belong to different churches, and this has caused tension between us sometimes. We found out on our weekend that God is in our marriage no matter what and we can work out our differences with respect and love. I feel so relieved that this issue doesn't pull us apart any longer." - Barbara & Peter.

The next available Worldwide Marriage Encounter 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.



Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? "

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

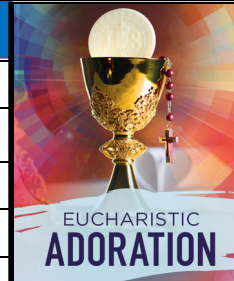
We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2 ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 14 - 15

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Alex Urness & Bryce Urness	Florian Schindler	Dan Worm, Buckley Jones & Marshall Panning
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Darlene Mondor	Ally Kunkel
EMHC	Brenda Seifert	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Tom Lano	Gary Widmer Eugene Dvorak	Kieran Allison & Brian Vos
Greeters	Cathleen Williams	Grace Cook	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A– Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B– Steve Helget & Steve Coyle	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Jan 9	No Mass	
Tuesday	Jan 10	6:15 pm	Ascension Pope Benedict
Wednesday	Jan 11	8:00 am	St. Bernard Communion Service Only
Thursday	Jan 12	8:00 am	St. Bernard NO Mass
Friday	Jan 13	8:00 am	Ascension NO Mass
Saturday	Jan 14	5:00 pm	Ascension John G, Worm †
Sunday	Jan 15	8:00 am	Ascension John & Dorothy Lewandowski ††
Sunday	Jan 15	10:00am	St. Bernard Gerald & Delora 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. 8 2023

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

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

**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 pqinn55322@hotmail.com

Ascension copy must be emailed

to:

busadmin@ascensionny.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 12-21 through 12-27-2022	4,167.00
Christmas Budget	13,295.00
Christmas Contributions	7,695.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	91,044.26
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(10,696.72)
Forward in Faith Total 12-21 through 12-27	
Envelope Income	175.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	275.00
Forward in Faith YTD	13,994.03

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 12/25/2022

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	9,884.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,255.00
Collections Budget YTD:	76,500.06
Actual Collection YTD:	88,810.12
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	12,310.06
Capital Improvement Offering:	850.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	145.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	11,945.00

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