

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

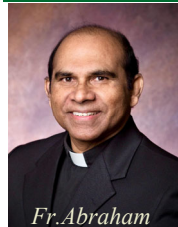


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time - February 11 & 12, 2023



Fr. Abraham

Joyful Observance of the Commandments

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Bible scholars teach us that St. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus as new Moses. In today's gospel Jesus said, "I came not to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them". And he invited us, his disciples to a righteousness that surpasses that of Pharisees and Scribes.

In today's gospel (Mt 5: 17-37), Jesus provides new interpretation and real meaning of three Commandments, concerning murder, adultery and false oaths. By this new interpretation, Jesus teaches to respect human life in all its stages by honoring others in thoughts, words and deeds.

Jesus explains the **fifth Commandment**, "*You shall not kill*" by saying, "Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." There can be three stages of anger: anger in the heart, in speech and action. There are appropriate (righteous anger) and inappropriate expressions of anger. After all, Jesus himself showed anger when he chased the money changers out of the Temple.

St. Paul advises us "Be angry but do not sin, do not let the sun set on your anger." (Eph 4: 26). When we keep anger in our mind, we are inviting physical illnesses- like hypertension and mental illnesses- like depression. Learning to handle anger is one of the most important lessons in life, and it has real consequences for our mental and spiritual well-being.

Christian morality involves right relationships with others. "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Reconciliation with one's neighbor even takes priority over worship of God. We cannot be rightly related to God unless we are rightly related to our neighbor. "I desire mercy not sacrifice." (Mt 9:13).

By the interpretation of the **sixth commandment**, Jesus gives new meaning and purpose of human sexuality and morality. Human sexuality is the gift of God with definite purposes: *to love, to give life and to serve*. Jesus teaches that sexual thoughts, desires, words and actions without love and respect for human person and life are sinful and immoral.

In obeying God's Commandments, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based, namely, the principle of *reverence* and the principle of *respect*. In the first three of the Ten Commandments, we are asked to give reverence to God. The next seven set of commandments instructs us to respect human person and life. Our obedience to these laws must be prompted by love of God and love of neighbor.

In the eyes of the Lord merely trying to keep the law was not enough. Today's scripture reading makes us to ask ourselves: How much love is there in our observance of the commandments? The scripture challenges us to choose freely to observe the Commandments with love of God and neighbor.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: "For the grace to fall more deeply in love with Jesus."

Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

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

Thurs, Feb 16	7:00pm	JMT Meeting @ StB
Sat. Feb. 18	6:00pm	After Mass "Linger Longer" @ StB
Sun. Feb. 19	11:00am	After Mass "Linger Longer" @ StB
Sun, Feb 19	1:00pm	KC Bingo @ Asc
Tues. Feb 21	4:00pm	Finance Council @ Asc
Thurs, Feb 23	7:00pm	Finance Council @ StB

Help Save a Life—DONATE BLOOD. The third annual "Faith In Action Blood Drive" is scheduled for Monday, February 13th, 2023 from 9:30A-4:00P at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Center in Waconia. This event is sponsored by the Waconia Knights of Columbus, 12 area churches and the Memorial Blood Centers. The scheduling link is: mbc.org/searchdrives. Use sponsor code 4940.



Jesus wants to fill us with his love!! Open your heart and let his love flow in. Will you let him be your Valentine!

Bible Study: Come join us for a Lenten time of growth and a refreshing walk in our Faith with St. Theresa of Lisieux and her writings of the Little Way. We will begin on Feb. 19th, at 9:00am after the 8:00am Mass for six (6) Sundays. If you are interested, contact Dee Heille, text or phone at 952-388-8819 to get your book and retreat companion workbook. Cost is \$35.00-we need to order soon. Please make checks payable to Ascension.



The **Knights of Columbus Bingo** will be returning this Spring! The dates are February 19, March 19, and April 16 from 1-3 p.m. at Ascension Social Hall. Each afternoon will include 12 games - cost is \$6 per card. The winner receives \$20, and the last game will be a coverall where the winner receives \$100. There will also be two meat raffles each month. Please come and join in an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

2023 Investment Conference

Wednesday, February 15, 7:15-10:15 a.m., University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul and virtual event. **Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota** designed this event for people who want to better understand the world of Catholic investing and philanthropy. This event is for donors who wish to live their faith through philanthropy, as well as for pastors, parish business administrators, finance council members, or trustees responsible for stewarding the gifts of parishioners, as well as professional advisors who want to provide additional value to philanthropic Catholic clients. There is an option to attend via livestream. Learn more at ccf-mn.org.



Save the Date!! Friday, March 3rd. Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at Ascension. Watch for details.

Word of Life—"Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together."

USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*

"Asking Jesus to be the Lord of your life changes everything; every aspect of your life is now defined by your complete loyalty to him." -- Curtis Martin *Made for More*

Church of St. Bernard Cologne, MN

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

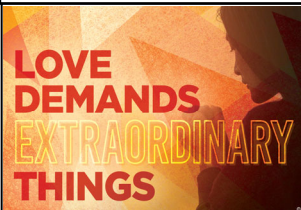
Your Prayers are requested: for the repose of the soul of Clarice Van Sloun, mother of Mary Meuwissen who passed away January 22nd. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Please also pray for Clarice's family.

We are in need of a **Minister Leader for Adoration** and also a contact person for the Email portion of the Prayer Chain. If you are interested please contact Julie Clemenson at 612-419-0505. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The Jones kids are selling raffle tickets 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.

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.



He wants to fill us with His Love!!

It's often said that the Catholic Church lays heavy rules on her members, rules that can almost seem impossible. Mass every Sunday? No lying ever? Sexual purity all the time? I recently said to some non-Catholic friends that more than fifty adults were baptized at my parish at the Easter Vigil. One responded spontaneously with shock, "Why would anyone do that?" In other words, why would someone willingly place themselves in a system with such demanding and rigorous rules?

Of course, no one in the history of religions is more demanding and rigorous than Jesus himself. In the Sermon on the Mount, he says you have to be holier than pharisees or you're out. He says if you call someone a fool, you go to fiery Gehenna. He says you can't even look at a woman with lust or you're guilty of adultery (which was punishable by death). To top it all off, he says you can't even get divorced and re-married. Doesn't he know these are basically impossible demands? What world is he living in?

The new one, actually. He is the new world. Jesus' words aren't meant to condemn. They are meant to signal something new, a restored humanity. Jesus doesn't just give external laws; he gives us his Holy Spirit to internalize the law through love. He wants to fill us with his love. That's what the Church exists to do. Love demands extraordinary things. The "demands" of the Church only make sense because she is filled with Jesus' love. That wildly demanding love is why we are Catholic.

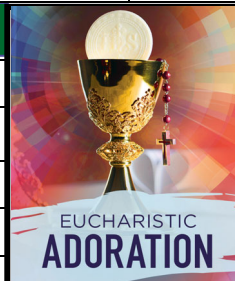
— Father John Muir ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—February 18–19

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers Needed	Gabriel Michels & Jayden Michels	Volunteer & Marshall Panning
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Darlene Mondor	Helen Nicklaus
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Kathy Kloempken	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Volunteers Needed	Josh Gallus Jeremy Friendshuh	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Grace Cook	Andy & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B – Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Feb 13	No Mass	
Tuesday	Feb 14 6:15 pm	Ascension	Allan Schmitt †
Wednesday	Feb 15 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Harriet Meuleners †
Thursday	Feb 16 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Robert G. Fritz †
Friday	Feb 17 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simmons †
Saturday	Feb 18 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Gerald & Delora Meuleners ††
Sunday	Feb 19 8:00 am	Ascension	John G. Worm †
Sunday	Feb 19 10:00am	St. Bernard	Bob & LaVonne Arnst ††



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 February, 12 2023

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 (1b)/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37 **Monday:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13 **Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21 **Wednesday:** Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26 **Thursday:** Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33 **Friday:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 8:34—9:1 **Saturday:** Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145: 2-3, 4-5, 10-11/Mk 9:2-13 **Next Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a)/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Feast Days this week

Feb 14-Sts. Cyril & Methodius
Feb 17—The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Feb 11-Blessed Virgin Mary

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 01-25– through 1-31-2023	6,234.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	108,473.51
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(5,470.83)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	570.00
Electronic Donations	25.00
Forward in Faith Total	595.00
Forward in Faith YTD	16,437.95

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 1/29/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,353.86
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	91,211.61
Actual Collection YTD:	105,561.53
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	14,349.92
Capital Improvement Offering:	175.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	13,890.00

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