

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

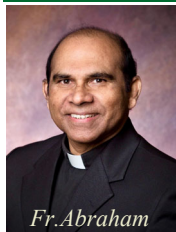


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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
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Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time - February 18 & 19, 2023



Fr. Abraham

We are Called to be Holy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday, the Ordinary Time is halted for the seasons of Lent and Easter. Ordinary time resumes Monday following Pentecost with the 8th week. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. Just before we begin the Lenten season, this Sunday readings invite us to be holy and be perfect as the heavenly Father is. *“Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy”* (Leviticus 19: 1-2), is the basis of Jewish and Christian morality. As God’s children, we are expected to be holy sharing God’s holiness by expressing his love, mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount rejects even the mild form of the “Law of retaliation. Instead of retaliation, Jesus urges his disciples to practice his new law of love, forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus wants his disciples to repay evil with kindness. Jesus illustrates his new teachings by giving three examples: When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you to take away your tunic let him have your cloak also. If someone asks your service for one mile, go for two miles.

The second part of today’s gospel passage is the central part of the Sermon on the Mount. It tells us uniqueness of the Christian morality: “love one’s enemies”. It was never heard of before or after Jesus. Loving enemies is not passionate love which the Greeks called *eros*. It is not the kind of love towards family members or love of close friends which they called *philia*. But it is the purest form of love and the word used in the N T is *agape* which is often translated into English as charity. It is the good will for another’s highest good. Since *agape* is not natural, practicing it is possible only with God’s grace. *Agape* love is a choice more than a feeling. We choose to love, not because our enemies deserve our love, but because Jesus loves them so much that he died for them.

Jesus commands that we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us to prove that we are children of a merciful heavenly Father. Jesus places those acts of love in an extraordinary context, “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Mt 5: 48). How can we be perfect like God? Let’s take a closer look at the perfection Jesus requires. It is not so much that people will look at us and exclaim, “Wow, how did he become so good?” Jesus wants us to step out of ourselves and see things from God’s perspective. “He makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and unjust.” We are commanded to practice a perfection which imitates the perfection of the Father in Heaven. God cares for each person he created and Jesus gave his life even for the enemies.

When Jesus tells us to “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”, we are asked to do good not only to lovable people, but even to enemies and unlovable. Jesus is not only to teach us to love our enemies but he himself loved and prayed for his enemies. We see that care in Jesus who forgives those responsible for humiliating and torturing him. (Lk 23:34). And we are also asked to love and to pray for our enemies. We have in the Acts of the Apostles the example of St. Stephen, the first martyr who prayed for those who were putting him to death. (Acts 7:60). We become perfect when we try to love as God loves us, and to forgive as God forgives us.


Rosary Intention: “Through prayer and fasting this Lent, may we come to know Jesus better.”

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI Pastor


CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

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

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 overall 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.



The **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** will be on Friday, March 3rd at Ascension from 11:00am to 7:00pm (or until fish is gone). **Meal pick up is drive-thru only.** Inside seating is available for eating. Crispy Alaskan Pollock, baked potato, bread, coleslaw, baked beans, water & cookies. Mmmm. Cost per meal - \$15.00.

Freedom to Love, Fathers and Mentors Course
 Sundays, February 26-March 26, 8:30-9:30 p.m., virtual event
 Attention fathers with sons 10-17 years old: Our sons need someone to guide them in living lives free of pornography. Freedom to Love wants to help you be that person for your son. Freedom to Love is offering a 5-week, online course to share practical strategies and methods to guide your sons to live a life free of pornography and the sexual sin that comes with it. Register for free today at freedomtolove.org. Free will offerings to support this ministry are welcome.

February 25th- 26th is our commitment weekend for the **Catholic Services Appeal**. Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal supports an array of ministries that include pro-life, seminarian support, Catholic education, services to those most in need and Synod evangelistic priorities in the building up of our local church. Please prayerfully consider making a gift that will impact the lives of so many people throughout the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis through your abundant generosity. To learn more about the **Catholic Services Appeal** please visit the CSAF website [CSAF | Catholic Services Appeal Foundation \(csafspm.org\)](http://CSAF | Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (csafspm.org)).

Word of Life- “We often assume parenthood happens easily after ‘I do,’ but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.”
 USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 “Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility”
respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

Carry out God’s commandments in what you do every day. Embrace chastity. Hate no one. Do not be jealous or give in to feelings of envy. Do not take pleasure in disputes. Avoid pride, respect your elders and care for those younger than yourself. Pray for your enemies in the love of Christ. Before the day’s end be reconciled with anyone with whom you have a disagreement. Never despair of God’s mercy. - **St. Benedict of Nursia** from *The Rule of St. Benedict*

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.

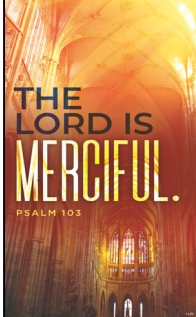
Please send resume and cover letter including salary requirements to Sherry at: busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Ash Wednesday Services will be on **February 22nd 5:00 pm at St. Bernard and 6:45pm at Ascension Lenten Fasting and Abstinence**

Abstinence – Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. It is only on other Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, that a Catholic may substitute another form of penance instead of abstinence.
Fasting – Catholics between the age of 18 and 59 inclusive are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days one full meal is allowed if necessary. Food may be taken at two other times, two smaller meals, in order to maintain strength according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. Liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed, however.

Please come for a **Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, following the 5 pm mass at St. Bernard.** This is an evening to celebrate our community of volunteers who serve the parish in any way. Supper will be served. Hosted by the Joint Stewardship Committee.

We are in need of a **Minister Leader for Adoration** If you are interested please contact Julie Clemenson at 612-419-0505. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: **“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”** An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren’t you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God’s love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can’t be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return. That’s why it is so precious and rare. “What is unusual about that?” asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

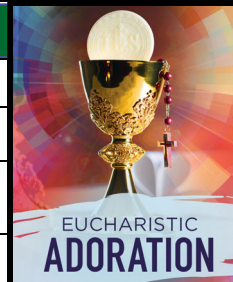
When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother’s heart, *while they were doing it.* And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It’s stronger than death. Real love is unusual. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—February 22, 25-26

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Ash Wednesday 5:00pm	Ascension Ash Wed. 6:45 pm	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Lori Kasel	Sherry Witte	Ann Dettmann	Tamara Lemmer	Lori Kasel
Servers	Buckley Jones & Logan Pellegrino	Alex Urness & Bryce Urness	Hailey Stender & Lucas Johnson	Brianna Duenow & Nathan Duenow	Cohen Starkey & Lily Starkey
Reader	Rob Wickenhauser	Cheryl Coyle	Darlene Mondor	Jean Schmitz	Sarah Foley
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Brenda Seifert	Cathleen Williams	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos	Gary Widmer Tom Lano	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Don Whitaker & Tim George	Vern Elke & Brian Vos
Greeters	Roger Storms	Sue Schultz	Grace Cook	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grp A- Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B- Curt Wilson & Steve Lemmer	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Feb 20	No Mass	
Tuesday	Feb 21 6:15 pm	Ascension	Eugene Blau †
Wednesday	Feb 22 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of the Mathias & Gertrude Fick Family
Wednesday	Feb 22 6:45pm	Ascension	Julian & Geraldine Pieper ††
Thursday	Feb 23 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Dennis Wickenhauser †
Friday	Feb 24 8:00 am	Ascension	Thomas Fahey †
Saturday	Feb 25 5:00 pm	Ascension	Allan Schmitt †
Sunday	Feb 26 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Feb 26 10:00am	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of the Albert & Clara Wickenhauser Family



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, 19 2023
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 **Monday:** Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29 **Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37 **Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 **Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25 **Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15 **Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32 **Next Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/ Mt 4:1-11

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.

Feast Days this week

Feb 20-Presidents' Day Feb 21—St Peter Damian
Feb 22-Ash Wednesday Feb 23-St. Polycarp

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,868.13
Contributions 02-01– through 2-07-2023	2,810.35
Total Actual Collection YTD	111,283.86
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(5,528.63)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	260.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
Forward in Faith Total	528.00
Forward in Faith YTD	16,965.95

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 2/05/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,185.00
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	94,153.92
Actual Collection YTD:	107,016.53
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	12,862.61
Capital Improvement Offering:	100.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	14,015.00

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