

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

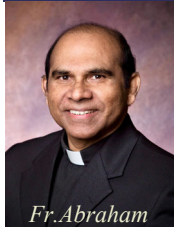


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



First Sunday of Lent - February 25 & 26, 2023



Fr. Abraham

Victory over Temptations

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We enter once more into the holy Season of Lent by receiving ashes in the form of a cross on our foreheads. It symbolizes the purpose of these 40 days: to unite ourselves with Jesus in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come not only to Jesus, but to all of us. We are tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy way to acquire wealth, power and glory. We are tempted to use unjust or sinful means, to gain worldly things. Jesus gave us the best example to conquer our temptations. It is through fasting, prayer, and the effective use of the ‘Word of God.’

During this Lent, let us conquer our temptations and evil tendencies by fasting, reading of the Holy Bible, daily prayers, especially by participating regularly in the holy Mass on Sundays. If you are not a weekday Mass participant, consider participating in at least one weekday Mass in a week during this Lenten Season. We should renew our lives by true repentance and through the sacrament of reconciliation. We have Lenten Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 22 at 6.30 pm at Ascension. You are invited to find some time for Eucharistic Adoration, and Stations of the Cross. We should reform our lives by sharing our love through selfless service, almsgiving and helping those in need.

Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to **abstain from meat** on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays in Lent**. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. On these two days of fast, only one full meal is recommended. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs.

This weekend is the **Catholic Services Appeal Commitment Weekend**. This year’s Catholic Services Appeal theme is **“For the love of Christ impels us... to believe in the power of giving.”** Christ’s love impels us to share our gifts with others and CSA makes it easy to give to so many in need right here in our Archdiocese.

CSA is focused on four major ministry areas that touch on important areas of our Catholic life: To nurture, sustain, protect life, and affirm the dignity of every person. To serve those most in need, strengthen the faith, and support future leaders of our Church. To support Synod, Evangelization priorities of our Church, expressing the Good News of Jesus. To educate children and young adults in safe and healthy environments that provide both academic and spiritual growth.

The 2023 Appeal goal for St. Bernard is \$11,185.86 and for Ascension is \$9,258.48. This goal is 5% of our plate and envelope. Catholic Services Appeal is a very effective way to support ministries outside of our parish boundaries. I ask you to make a generous contribution.

Rosary Intention: “For all victims and survivors of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.”

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
 Sun, Mar 5th 9:00am Donut Sunday @ Asc
 Sun, Mar 5th 9:00am Bible Study @ Asc
 Sun, Mar 10th 9:00am Bible Study @ Asc
 Tues. Mar 16 7:00pm JMT Meeting @ StB

Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross will be held:
 March 3rd & 10th at 6:00pm @ St. Bernard
 March 17, 24 & 31 at 6:00pm @ Ascension

Combined Reconciliation Service will be held:
 March 22nd at 6:30pm @ Ascension. Faith Formation will attend.

Anointing of the Sick will be held:
 March 25th after 5:00pm Mass @ Ascension
 March 26th after 10:00am Mass @ St. Bernard



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. **Cost per meal - \$15.00. Help Needed!! The KC's would appreciate cookie donations for the Fish Fry. Due to allergies, please no nuts or peanut butter. If possible, please bag the cookies individually. For planning purposes, please call Tim George (952-467-3138) with the number of cookies you can donate. Cookies can be dropped off in the social hall on Wed, Mar. 1st by 4pm or Thurs, Mar. 2nd. Thank you!!**



Knights of Columbus Bingo The remaining dates are March 19 and April 16, 1-3 p.m. at the 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 \$100 coverall. There will be two meat raffles each month. Please come and join in an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



Today we come together as a community of faith to generously give to the **Catholic Services Appeal**. Your gift 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. With your gift, you are making Jesus known and loved to people throughout the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Our goal is 100% participation. Please complete and return your pledge card or make a secure gift online at Give CSAF - Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (csafspm.org).

The combined **Stewardship Committee**, along with each parish's **Catholic United Financial group**, is hosting a **Volunteer Appreciation dinner** at each parish to thank all of our wonderful community of volunteers who keep our parishes running smoothly. The gathering for **St. Bernard** will be held on Sat. March 4th after the 5:00pm Mass. The gathering at **Ascension** will be on Sat. March 11th after the 5:00pm. Please come and celebrate an evening in appreciation for our parish volunteers.

I try to be grateful, as I remember the parable of the ten cured lepers, where only one returned to Jesus to say thanks. I am sure the others were also grateful, but were busy and distracted. Failing to say thanks is a mark of immaturity; saying thanks is something young children have to be taught. Not giving thanks is a mark of serious adult selfishness.

—George Cardinal Pell

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

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.

St Bernard's Parish will help again this year with the **Fish Fry** at St Joe's on Friday March 24th. Please mark the date on your calendar and we will send out sign up information once it's available.

Are you looking for a perfect getaway? Let God meet you at a beautiful retreat location in Lake Elmo, MN. Join us for a men's silent retreat at the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House. The retreat begins on Thursday evening, March 2nd, and ends Sunday evening March 5th. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information, call Demontreville at 651-777-1311 or check out our website www.demontrevilleretreat.com.

Word of Life- "The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished**."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent
usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection



The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: "He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry." Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn't it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?

This might help. The origin of the word "fast" means to "hold firmly." We still use it that way when we say, "I held fast to my original decision." We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can't manage to have firm grip on them, in short order they'll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.

Jesus fasts for us. He's showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. "Man does not live by bread alone," he says, "But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Jesus' fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone. —Father John Muir ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 4 & 5

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Lori Kasel
Servers	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Daniel Worm
Reader	Jake Kooiman	Cheryl Coyle	Tom Kasel
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Pat Johnson	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Kieran Allison & Volunteer	Richard Tellers & Steve Coyle	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Justin & Amy Buckentin	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B – Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Feb 27	No Mass	
Tuesday	Feb 28 6:15 pm	Ascension	Joseph Sr. & Blanche Fahey ††
Wednesday	Mar 1 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †
Thursday	Mar 2 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Friday	Mar 3 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Mar 4 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Elaine Mohrbacher † & All Parishioners
Sunday	Mar 5 8:00 am	Ascension	Angeline Abbott †
Sunday	Mar 5 10:00am	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice 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 February, 26 2023

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 **Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46 **Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15 **Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32 **Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12 **Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26 **Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 **Next Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Feast Days this week

Feb 27-St. Gregory of Narek
Mar 3-St. Katharine Drexel
Mar 4-St. Casimir

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	2,868.13
Contributions 02-08– through 2-14-2023	1,179,348
Total Actual Collection YTD	112,463.34
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(7,217.28)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	20,150.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	20,150.00
Forward in Faith YTD	37,155.95

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 2/12/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,521.21
Weekly E-Giving:	660.00
Collections Budget YTD:	97,096.23
Actual Collection YTD:	110,197.74
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	13,101.51
Capital Improvement Offering:	250.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	175.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	14,440.00

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