

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

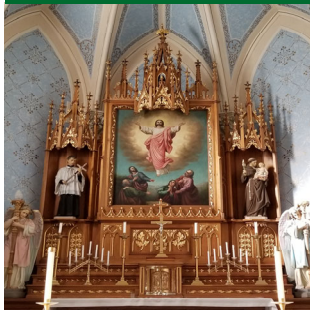
## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

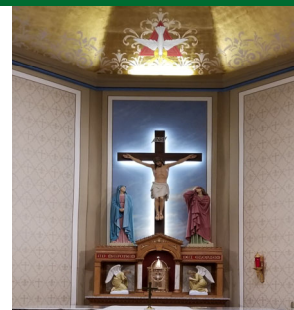
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

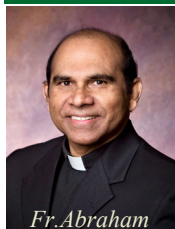


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**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



## Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time - February 4 & 5, 2023



Fr. Abraham

### Be a Light of the World

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Using two images of salt and light, in today's gospel (Matthew 5:13-16), Jesus outlines the role and the mission of Christians in this world. Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In Jesus' time, salt was so valuable. It was used as salary for the Roman soldiers. It was called white gold. Salt was connected with special qualities.

**Salt** was the most effective **medicine to heal wounds** in the ancient world. It is a **preservative**. It was the most common of preservatives, especially in the days before refrigeration. It was used to keep things from spoiling. Salt **gives flavor** to food. This is the greatest and the most important quality of salt. Food without salt is tasteless and uninteresting. Christianity is to life what salt is to food. If you take away Christianity, you take the flavor out of life. Christians then, by their Gospel-centered lives, are to work as salt to heal the wounds and hurts in others' lives, to renew the world and to preserve it from social and moral decay; and to give a distinctive taste to others' lives.

Salt was also connected with **purity** because it was white and it came from the purest of all things, the sun and the sea. As a symbol of purity, salt was the common ingredient in sacrifices offered to God by Jews and pagans. As the salt of the earth, the Christian must be an example of purity, exercising absolute purity in speech, in conduct, and even in thought.

Jesus said of himself, "I am the **light of the world**." And then he tells us, "You are the light of the world." We are, therefore, called to be and to do what Jesus did for the world. The Gospel urges us to shine out through our words and actions. A light is first and foremost something which is meant **to be seen**. Jesus speaks of a city built on top of a hill; there is no way to hide it. And he speaks of a lamp on a lamp stand. What is the point in lighting a lamp and then covering it up? What is the point in getting baptized, joining the Christian community and then becoming completely invisible to others?

**A light is a guide**. We know how difficult when there is no light on the streets or in our house. A light is something to make clear the way. So then, a Christian must make the way clear to others. The world needs its guiding lights. A light can often be a **warning light**. We watch green, yellow and red lights in the traffic. It is sometimes the Christian's duty to bring to his fellowmen a necessary warning. If our warnings are given, not in anger, not in irritation, not in criticism, not in condemnation, but in love, they will be effective.

The Christian's task is to be the salt of society, preserving, healing, adding flavor, giving meaning where there is no meaning and giving hope where there is no hope. Every Christian needs to reflect the light received from Christ and radiate that light in the form of love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and humble service.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** "Safety for all travelers, especially Father Abraham, as he returns home to us."

**CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

Every Tue 9:00am—Noon Quilting Circle meets @St. Bernard  
 Sun, Feb 5th 9:00am KC Donut Sunday @ Asc  
 Thurs, Feb 16 7:00pm JMT Meeting @ StB  
 Sat. Feb. 18th 6:00pm After Mass “Linger Longer” @ StB  
 Sun. Feb. 19th 11:00am After Mass “Linger Longer” @ StB  
 Tues. Feb 21 4:00pm Finance Council @ Asc  
 Thurs, Feb 23 7:00pm Finance Council @ StB

**The Daily Mass Schedule:**

Through Feb 10th is as follows:  
 No Mass or Confession on Tues, Thurs, or Friday.  
 There **will be** a Communion Service at St. Bernard at 8:00am on Wed. Feb 8th. No Confessions.  
 Regular daily Masses will resume on Tues., Feb 14th.

**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](http://mbc.org/searchdrives) . Use sponsor code **4940**.

**\*GA Men’s Club Beef & Sausage Dinner:**

Sunday Feb. 12, 10:45am to 1:00pm, Guardian Angels School Gym, 217 2nd Street W., Chaska. \$15 Adults, \$8 Children under 12. Tickets at the door. Takeout available. Homemade Sausage for \$6/lb.

**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.

**From Birthright of Hutchinson: THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for the beautiful things your parishioners donated to us. We so appreciate you sharing and supporting our mission.

**Word of Life—**

“A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.”

Pope Francis, Message for the 29<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick 2021 © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



**Mark your Calendar  
 KC Bingo is back this year!!**

Dates are: Feb. 19th, Mar. 19th and April 16th. Watch the bulletin for more details next week.

You are beauty, you are gentleness, you are our shelter, our guard and our defender, you are strength, you are refreshment, you are our hope. You are our faith, you are our love, you are our complete consolation, you are our life everlasting, great and wonderful Lord, all-powerful God, merciful Savior. Amen.

—St. Francis of Assisi

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](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)

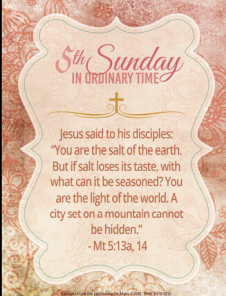
**You’re Prayers are requested:** for the repose of the soul of William (Bill) Wickenhauser, who passed away on January 22nd. May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Please also pray for Bill’s family

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.

Feeling disconnected? Every married couple deserves the gift of a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend!** The next weekends in this area will be held 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](http://twincitieswwme.org) or contact Brent & Tracy at [applications@twincitieswwme.org](mailto:applications@twincitieswwme.org) <<mailto:wmandbethnickles@hotmail.com>> or 612-234-7440.



**If ...**  
 It’s a surprising little word — if. For such a short word, it holds an abundance of excuses.

Personally, I could buy a new car if I had a dollar for every time I used the word “if” to explain away my own flaws. “If I wasn’t so tired. If we had more money. If the kids weren’t always on my last nerve. If I had more talent. If life wasn’t so hard.”

*If, if, if.*

I don’t always feel like being the salt of the earth. Can’t someone else season the dish? Sometimes it’s more than I want to give, more than I want to do, more than I want to be. Sharing my bread, sheltering the oppressed, clothing the naked, and accompanying my neighbor — doing these things in the literal or figurative sense can be completely exhausting. Mediocrity is so easy. It’s so comfortable.

But if. It looms again, that short but powerful word. “If” can be deep with excuses, but it can also be wide with possibility. If I bring it all to God. If I stop relying on my own abilities. If I prayed more than I talked. If I make my heart firm. If my faith does not rest on human wisdom.

If not me, who? If not now, when?  
 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” — Matthew 5:14

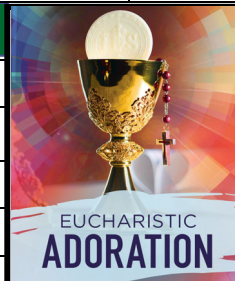
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—February 11–12

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Sherry Witte	Tamara Lemmer	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Volunteers Needed	Gabriel Michels & Caleb Michels	Buckley Jones & Logan Pellegrino
<b>Reader</b>	Jean Schmitz	Cheryl Coyle	Brenda Jones
<b>EMHC</b>	Jim Mulville	Curt Wilson	Meghan Stusynski
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve Schrupp Tom Lano	Steve Coyle Justin Buckentin	Kieran Allison & Brian Vos
<b>Greeters</b>	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Leo Pouliot	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	Grp A– Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson Grp B – Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Feb 6	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb 7 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	NO MASS
<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb 8 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Communion Service Only
<b>Thursday</b>	Feb 9 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	NO MASS
<b>Friday</b>	Feb 10 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	NO MASS
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb 11 <b>5:00 pm</b>	Ascension	Angeline Abbott †
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb 12 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	John & Dorothy Lewandowski ††
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb 12 <b>10:00am</b>	St. Bernard	Marcy 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. 5 2023

**Sunday:** Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16 **Monday:** Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56  
**Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13 **Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23 **Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30 **Friday:** Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37 **Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10 **Next 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

#### Feast Days this week

Feb 6-St. Paul Miki and Companions

Feb 8-St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita

Feb 10-St. Scholastica

Feb 11-Our Lady of Lourdes; 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@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	2,440.67
<b>Contributions 01-18– through 1-24-2023</b>	<b>2,984.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	102,239.01
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>(9,264.66)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	250.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>350.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>15,842.95</b>

**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 1/22/2023

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,942.31
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	718.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	1,555.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	88,269.30
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	102,937.67
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	14,688.37
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	290.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	100.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	13,670.00

**Sign up** for electronic giving at [ascensionny.org](http://ascensionny.org)  
Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.