

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

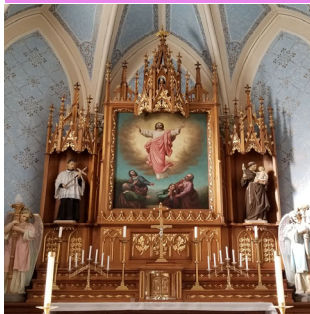
323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

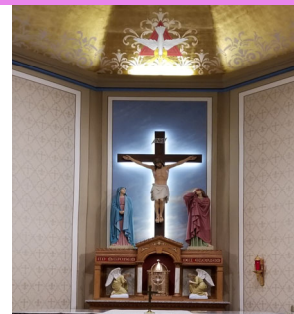
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

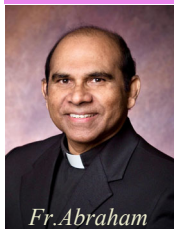


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**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



## Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 18 & 19, 2023



Fr. Abraham

### “Live as Children of Light”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The healing of the man born blind in this Sunday Gospel (Jn 9:1-41) invites us to focus on both the physical and spiritual aspects of sight. The man born blind receives his sight after Jesus anoints his eyes with mud and sends him to be washed. There are two miracles that take place in the story of the blind man. The first is the miracle of physical sight and the second is the miracle of spiritual sight, that is, the gift of faith. It is this second miracle, the gift of faith, that enables the man to fall to his knees and address Jesus as Lord. Significantly it is this second miracle that St. John stresses in today's Gospel.

The first thing we notice about this miracle is that it takes place gradually. It does not happen all at once. For example, the man's first reaction to Jesus is to regard him as just another man. Thus, when some people ask the blind man about his cure, he replies: “The man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash my face.”

The blind man's first understanding of Jesus is that he is a “mere man” His second perception of Jesus comes when the Pharisees question him. They asked him, “Well, what do you say about Jesus who cured you of your blindness?” The man replies, “He is a prophet.” This answer shows his deep faith in Jesus. It shows his conviction. Later in the day the man meets Jesus face to face. Then Jesus asks him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” The man replies, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshipped him.” He perceives Jesus to be more than a man or a prophet. He is the Lord. The man's gift of faith or spiritual sight is more miraculous than his gift of physical sight. He is transformed from the condition of blindness to the conviction of worshipping Jesus as the Lord God and becomes the disciple.

In his letter to Ephesians, St Paul writes: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” (Eph.5:8). Before we were washed in the waters of baptism we were spiritually blind, just like the man in today's Gospel. But after we were washed in the waters of baptism, Jesus became much more to us. He became someone deeply personal to us.

Baptism removes our spiritual blindness and opens our eyes to Jesus, the light of the world. The light of Christ dispels the darkness of sin. Even though we are already baptized, Christ continues to confront us with himself, his person, his teachings and his sacraments. If we are really willing to open up our hearts to him, he will light up the darkest corners of our hearts. St. Paul reminds Christians of their responsibility to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. “Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness” (Eph 5:10-11).

By giving of sight to a blind man, Jesus teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of the heart by faith. And he warns us that those who pretend to see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the blind man receives the light of faith in Jesus, while the Pharisees remain spiritually blind.

Like the nameless man in the Gospel, we were all born blind of original sin. Then we were washed in the waters of Baptism, and we received our sight. We were able to see Jesus in our lives. Today's readings remind us that we are to live as children of the light, seeking what is good, right and true. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices may serve to heal our spiritual blindness so that we may see our God who lives in us and others, and love them as children of God.

**Rosary Intention:** “For all afflicted with cancer.”

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 12th 9:00am Bible Study @ Asc  
 Thurs Mar 16th 7:00pm JMT Meeting @ StB  
 Sat. Mar 18th 6:00pm Linger Longer after Mass @ StB  
 Sun, Mar 19th 9:00am Bible Study @ Asc  
 Sun. Mar 19th 11:00am Linger Longer after Mass @ StB

**Lenten Services**

**Stations of the Cross** will be held:  
 March 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

**Parish Pictorial Directory Info**

Exciting News! The Joint Leadership team of St. Bernard and Ascension, have made the decision it is time for a new pictorial church directory. The dates for photos will be March 30th, 31st and April 1st at St. Bernard and April 12th - 15th at Ascension. You may have your photo taken at either parish if the dates at your specific parish don't work for you. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8 x10 portrait and a church directory. You will be able to view your images right away and purchase family portraits for yourself and to give as gifts to others. For online scheduling go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) Church Code: mn346 Password: photos For questions call: St. Bernard: Karen @ 952-466-5928 \* Ascension: Lonnie @ 952-292-6013



**A new prayer group** will be starting up at Ascension Church. The purpose of this group will be to pray for the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing of our children (including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Godchildren, etc). We will be praying together for an hour, and prayers will be provided to whomever attends. We will be meeting in the body of the church on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, please call or text Tamara at 612-790-5720.

**March Food Drive for the West Carver County Food Shelf**—Food is needed all year round. March is designated as one of the two months of the year that are especially highlighted to remind people of the special need for food donation. Meal in one, Tuna, Canned meat, Juice, peanut butter, canned soup canned vegetables, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Crackers, etc. Bring your donations to the box in the narthex at St. Bernard and the shelf in the entrance at Ascension. Thank you in advance for your support.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A PARISH RETREAT!**

*If you are seeking renewal in your faith, you are invited to come!*

Those who have experienced a Christ Renews His Parish or Welcome Retreat before and those who have not, are encouraged to register for our spring retreats! During the weekend you will find fellowship and laughter, great food and friendship, and a renewed sense of belonging to this parish.

In the St. Joseph Education Center

**MEN'S WEEKEND:**

**March 18-19**

**WOMEN'S WEEKEND:**

**March 25-26**



SCAN ME

**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

QUESTIONS? Contact Kirstin Bularzik  
 952-442-37105 | [kbularzik@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:kbularzik@stjosephwaconia.org)

[STJOSEPHWACONIA.ORG/RETREAT-REGISTRATION](http://STJOSEPHWACONIA.ORG/RETREAT-REGISTRATION)

There is no refusal in God. The refusals are ours. In this truth the contradiction vanishes between infinite mercy and infinite justice. Repentance is acceptance of God and changes the man, so that mercy can have its way with him, justice content. —**Frank Sheed**—his book *Knowing God*

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)



St Bernard's Parish will help again this year with the **Fish Fry** at St Joe's in Waconia on Friday March 24th.

To sign up to help please go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4da4a922a57-fish#/> Go to March 23 & 24 dates and select the time and where you wish to work.

Thank you in advance for your help.

**Catholic United Scholarships**

Catholic United Financial Scholarship application period is open from March 1 — April 30 of each year. Any member (any age) studying for their first degree after high school can apply. Applicants must have been a member for at least 2 years by the application deadline and when the scholarship is awarded. **Awards of \$500 for attending a Catholic college or \$300 for an accredited non-Catholic school.** Applications are available at: [www.catholicunitedfinancial.org](http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org)

**St. Marks, Shakopee's Passion of Jesus in Music, Word & Light**

Gather your parishioners and join the members of Shakopee's faith community. We will prepare for Easter as we have for many years, by presenting **OUR 40TH AND FINAL presentation** of the beloved and award winning **PASSION OF JESUS IN MUSIC, WORD & LIGHT**.

In honor of our 40th anniversary, there will be four performances, all at the Church of Saint Mark, 4th Avenue and Atwood Street, in Shakopee. Wednesday, March 22, Thursday, March 23, and Saturday, March 25, will feature English narration. Friday, March 24, will feature Spanish narration. All performances begin with a musical prelude at 7:40 p.m., followed immediately by the Passion itself.



**Not As Man Sees**

I don't know Fr. Stu personally, but I've heard a fair number of his homilies. I think it is safe to assume that if he and I were to get into a discussion on any number of things, from church history to liturgical music to stand-up comedy, each of us would cringe at the opinions of the other.

But Fr. Stu happens to offer just about the only confession time within 20 miles of me that consistently works with my schedule. That means that, quite by accident, Fr. Stu is my regular confessor. For years now, he's sat patiently on the other side of the grille, listening to me pour out the details of my transgressions, from the pathetic to the embarrassing, and he absolves me of my sins.

In the Gospel, Christ links vision with humility and pride with blindness. We see again and again in Scripture how God delights in surprising us, in revealing himself through people, places, and experiences we not only didn't expect but perhaps had totally written off. We are right to be proud of the truth, but we are wrong if the truth causes us to be proud of ourselves. The truth no more belongs to the one who believes it than sight belongs to the blind man in the Gospel. A gift does not reflect on the recipient. It reflects on the giver. After a great deal of thought, I've decided to be grateful that God contrived to give me a confessor whom I strongly disagree with on so many things. It's a powerful reminder of how much I must receive from other people, even those I may think are wrong. In that confessional, Fr. Stu is only a priest, and I am only a sinner.

**"Not as man sees does God see."** — 1 Samuel 16:7

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—March 25 & 26

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Hailey Stender & Payton Stender	Lacey Buckentin & Volunteer	Luca Hoen & Marshall Panning
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Brian Willems	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Brenda Seifert	Irene Yaeck	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Gary Widmer & Jim Mulville	Justin Buckentin & Josh Gallus	Tom Dahl & Vern Elke
Greeters	Grace Cook	Sue Schultz	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson Grp B – Tim & Rita Fahey	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass Time	Intention
Monday	Mar 20	No Mass	
Tuesday	Mar 21	6:15 pm	Ascension Pauly Family †
Wednesday	Mar 22	8:00 am	St. Bernard Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Thursday	Mar 23	8:00 am	St. Bernard Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Friday	Mar 24	8:00 am	Ascension Frank Haily †
Saturday	Mar 25	5:00 pm	Ascension Julian & Geraldine Pieper ††
Sunday	Mar 26	8:00 am	Ascension Wilbert & Ray Redepenning ††
Sunday	Mar 26	10:00am	St. Bernard Marcy Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners



### Eucharistic Adoration Ascension

Every Tuesday  
2:00 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 March, 19 2023

**Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 **Monday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a **Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16 **Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30 **Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47 **Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **Saturday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 **Next Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

#### Feast Days this week

Mar 20-St. Joseph,  
Mar 23-St. Turibius of Mogrovejo  
Mar 25 The Annunciation of the Lord

#### 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	3,267.18
<b>Contributions 03-01– through 3-07-2023</b>	<b>7,644.75</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	128,970.95
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>286.88</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	515.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>783.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>40,034.87</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 3/05/2023

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,942.31
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	1,366.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	270.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	105,923.16
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	116,638.84
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	10,715.68
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	50.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	45.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	14,795.00

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