

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

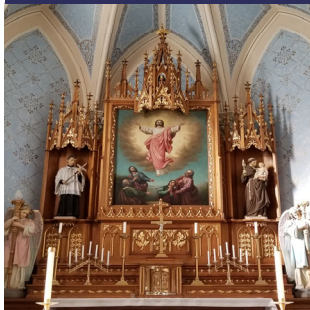
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

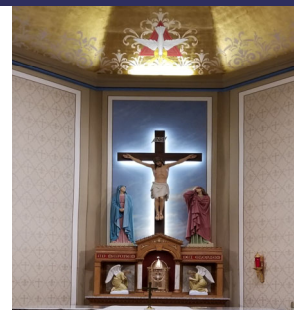
ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

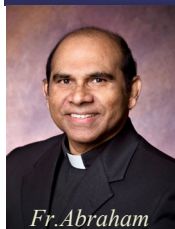


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Second Sunday of Lent - March 4 & 5, 2023



Fr. Abraham

“Lord, It is Good that We are Here.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The story of the Transfiguration normally features on 2nd Sunday in Lent. The customary interpretation of the Transfiguration of Jesus is as a proof of Jesus’ divinity and as a preparation of the apostles for the coming trial of their faith when they would witness the death of Jesus.

It is also appropriate to see it as a vivid demonstration of what Lent is supposed to do for us, namely, transform us more and more into Christ, and make us new creatures through our sharing in Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection. The combination of this gospel with the obedience of Abraham places it into a new light.

God made a promise to Abraham that he would make his name great so that he would be a blessing not only to his family but to all the families of the earth as well (Gen.12:3). The condition for the fulfillment of this promise was this, “Go to the land that I will show you” (Gen. 12:1). Abraham not only believed in God’s word but also, he did as the Lord commanded him. In other words, Abraham also made God’s name great by his obedience.

Jesus is the fulfillment of all the promises made to Abraham. Jesus glorified the Father by doing his will. And God the Father glorified his son: “This is my beloved Son; listen to him”. We catch a glimpse of this glory when Jesus takes three of his disciples to a high mountain. The Gospel tells us that Jesus was “transfigured before them”.

The Transfiguration of Jesus gave the disciples a renewed and deepened awareness of Jesus’ glory. It touched and transformed the lives of the apostles. They experienced the taste of heaven. This transformation led them to ongoing commitment to Jesus. The glorious Transfiguration of Jesus transformed the apostles and causes Peter to cry out, “Lord, it is good that we are here.” Having this heavenly experience, the disciples went down from the mountain, down into real daily life situations again, in order to be witnesses of this experience.

The reason why the Church shows us this glorious image of the Transfiguration of Christ is not only to give us a preview of the resurrection but to point out to us the ultimate effect of our own Lenten life. And above all, our own ongoing conversion to Jesus is supposed to accomplish in us. We are to be transformed more and more into him so that his love and compassion may transfigure us.

Rosary Intention: “For political leaders to govern with truth, justice and fairness.”

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 12th 9:00am Bible Study @ Asc
 Tues. Mar 16 7:00pm JMT Meeting @ StB

Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross will be held:

March 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



St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

A general dispensation has been granted by Archbishop Hebda from the obligation of abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2023, the Memorial of Saint Patrick.

DISPENSE FROM THE OBLIGATION OF ABSTINENCE ON MARCH 17, 2023

Those faithful domiciled or physically present in the territory of the Archdiocese who would ordinarily be bound to observe abstinence from meat on the Fridays of the season of Lent. All, however, who choose to enjoy the favor of the dispensation by partaking in the eating of meat on the Memorial of Saint Patrick this year, are exhorted to undertake a work of charity, an exercise of piety, or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the Third Week of Lent.

Through the intercession of Saint Patrick, may Christ be in the heart of everyone who thinks of us, in the mouth of everyone who speaks of us, in every eye that sees us, and in every ear that hears us.

Glorious Saint Patrick pray for us!

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on this 15th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord 2023

Word of Life- The Gospel of Life is “meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!” (The Gospel of Life 5)



Thank you to all who sent in your contribution/pledges to the **Catholic Services Appeal**. 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).

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 Church Code: **mn346** Password: **photos** For questions call: St. Bernard: Karen @ 952-466-5928 * Ascension: Lonnie @ 952-292-6013

Lent is a time of truth. Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves. To do penance means above all to reestablish the balance and harmony broken by sin, to change direction even at the cost of sacrifice. —**Pope St. John Paul II**

Welcome Kinley Nicole Symanitz: We wish to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of St Bernard Church who was baptized on February 19th, 2023. Kinley is the daughter of Brittany (Schultz) and Jon Symanitz. Many blessings to Kinley and her family.

Your Prayers are Requested for the repose of the soul of Andrew Schwartz, who passed away on Wednesday, February 22nd. His funeral was on Thursday, March 2nd. May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Please pray for peace and comfort Andy's family.

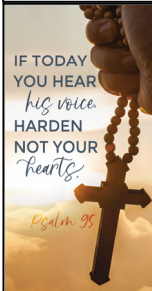
The Church of the Ascension, NYA, MN and St. Bernard Church, Cologne, MN has an opening for a full time shared **Parish Business Administrator**. The Administrator works closely with the Pastor to manage the business of the parishes including the areas of finance, human resources, facility management, 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

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.



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

The **Parent/Teacher** organization of **Zion Lutheran School in rural Cologne** is hosting a **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 5th**. Serving will be from 10:00 to 1:00. The menu will include Pancakes, Sausage, Apple Sauce, Orange Juice, milk and coffee. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students K-8, and preschool and younger FREE.



The Messiah Before You

If you would have asked me on the morning of my confirmation what the chances were of the Holy Spirit getting into my heart, I would have told you they were about the same as getting water from a stone.

My faith was fragile at this time in my life, primarily because I viewed it as exactly that — my faith. Something within my possession and subject to my own power. And I hadn't done the things I thought I needed to do in order to be the kind of Christian who knows the truth and lives it. I was waiting to be made stronger. I was waiting to be made more faithful. I was waiting for a transformation.

Little did I know, I was like the woman at the well, standing around talking about the coming of the Messiah, unaware that he was standing right in front of me. She wasn't ready; she was still living in her sin. She was caught so unawares that she left her water jar at the well, rushing out to tell what she had seen.

When I was anointed with the oil it no longer mattered that I wasn't strong enough to break open the stone that I was convinced encased my heart — God's grace gushed forth through the cracks. While I certainly didn't become a perfect Christian — and never will, in this life — I did learn that when God tells you to strike, it's probably best not to second-guess Him.

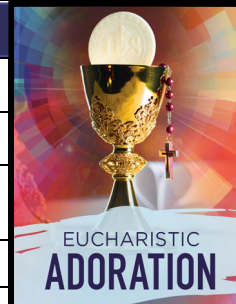
"We boast in the glory of God... and hope does not disappoint." Romans 5:2-5 By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 11 & 12

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Lucas Johnson & Volunteer	Caleb Michels & Jayden Michels	Logan Pellegrino & Lily Starkey
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Darlene Mondor	Ally Kunkel
EMHC	Jean Schmitz	Steve Coyle	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Dave Donny & Rick Ulrich	Tom Lano & Curt Wilson	Kieran Allison & Vern Elke
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Leo Pouliot	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B – Tim & Rita Fahey	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Mar 6	No Mass	
Tuesday	Mar 7 6:15 pm	Ascension	Camille Hartmann †
Wednesday	Mar 8 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Stanley, Lorraine & Sister Brenda Kelzer †††
Thursday	Mar 9 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Janet Revering †
Friday	Mar 10 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Mar 11 5:00 pm	Ascension	John G. Worm †
Sunday	Mar 12 8:00 am	Ascension	Joe Hartmann †
Sunday	Mar 12 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 March, 6 2023

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22/2 Tim 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 **Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9,11,13/Lk 6:36-38 **Tuesday:** Is 1:10,16-20/Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6,14-16/Mt 20:17-28 **Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4,6/Lk 16:19-31 **Friday:** Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43,45-46 **Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15,18-20/Ps 103:1-4,9-12/Lk 15:1-3,11-32 **Next Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Feast Days this week

Mar 7-Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

Mar 8-St. John of God

Mar 9-St. Frances of Rome

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	2,868.13
Contributions 02-08– through 2-14-2023	6,738.86
Total Actual Collection YTD	119,202.20
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(3,346.55)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	1,100.00
Electronic Donations	795.92
Forward in Faith Total	1,895.92
Forward in Faith YTD	39,051.87

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:	1,234.10
Weekly E-Giving:	270.00
Collections Budget YTD:	100,038.54
Actual Collection YTD:	111,701.84
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	11,663.30
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	14,525.00

Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionny.org

Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.