

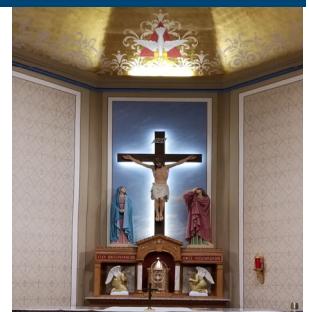
**CHURCH OF  
THE ASCENSION**  
323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

**PASTOR**

**Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI**  
OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
[frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org)



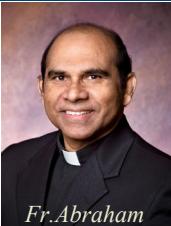
**ST. BERNARD  
CHURCH**  
212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



**Website:** [AscensionNYA.org](http://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](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
[bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org)

**Website:** [St-Bernard-Cologne.org](http://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](mailto:busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org)  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-856-1052  
[bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org)

## Second Sunday of the Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) -April 15 & 16, 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

### “God of Mercy”

The readings for this Sunday are about God’s mercy. God revealed his mercy, first and foremost, by sending his only-begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by his suffering, death and resurrection. Divine mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the sacraments.

Today’s gospel reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of divine mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins by these words, “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (Jn 20: 19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas’ famous profession of faith, “My Lord and my God,” the gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of faith. To believe without having seen is every later Christian’s experience. Jesus reminds us: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

We are invited to receive the freedom from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the risen Lord of mercy. Let us ask God to open our hearts, so that we may receive his mercy through the sacraments especially, through Reconciliation and Eucharist.

One way the Church celebrates God’s mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God’s merciful judgment. Living faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render our service to others, especially to the sick, the weak, the oppressed and the poor.

We continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as our Divine Mercy and are drawn to recognize that our Lord loves us over and over, forgiving our doubts, strengthening us in faith, drawing us into his Church and revealing himself to us. Let us thank the Lord for his mercy and love, and ask to have his “mercy on us and on the whole world”.

**Rosary Intention:** ‘For all children celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.’

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI  
Pastor

## Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

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

Apr. 15th	after 5pm Mass "Linger Longer" @ St. Bernard
Apr. 16th	after 10am Mass "Linger Longer" @ St. Bernard
Apr 18	4:pm Finance Council Meeting @ Asc
Apr 27	7 pm Finance Council Meeting @ StB
Apr 29	5:00pm First Communion @ Ascension
Apr 30	2:00pm Confirmation @ Basilica, Minneapolis

#### **Parish Pictorial Directory - Change in Dates**

Exciting News! The Joint Leadership team of St. Bernard and Ascension, have made the decision it is time for a new **pictorial church directory**. Photo dates still available are: **April 11th and 13th - 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

#### **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon's Honor Banquet Fundraiser**

Saturday, April 22nd at Willkommen Memorial Park Pavilion Program and Dinner start at 6:00pm (Doors open at 5:30) Keynote speaker: Carver Co. Deputy Sheriff Matt Arnst Tickets - \$20 each - can be purchased until 4/17/23 at Citizens State Bank and Old National Bank in NYA; Security Bank & Trust in Cologne and Hamburg and on-line at: <https://tinyurl.com/2023HonorBanquet>

**The Ascension Knights of Columbus** have a GREAT opportunity for a **Fund Raiser** at Winstock festival in Winsted this year. They are going to have us work Jun 16th from 8PM-12:30AM in the Beer Tent. For each person that works a 4.5 hours shift, they will donate \$100 to the KC's. You can sign-up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4FA5A72EABFC1-winstock1> If you would like to help or have question, please contact Donald Whitaker @ 942.454.1611. **Please sign-up by April 23rd** so we can let Winstock know how many workers we will provide.

#### **Encounter: the Shroud of Turin**

April 20-23, Saint Patrick, Oak Grove

Visit this self-guided exhibit of the Shroud of Turin. The exhibit will have a place to pray and venerate the Shroud replica and a life-size crucified corpus showing the wounds of Christ. This event is open to anyone and no RSVP is required. Visit [st-patricks.org/events/encounter](http://st-patricks.org/events/encounter) for exhibit times. Questions? Contact Linda Abel-Thomas at [label-thomas@st-patricks.org](mailto:label-thomas@st-patricks.org)

#### **Home Missions Appeal: Strengthening the Church at Home**

April 29-30

Did you know that nearly 40% of all dioceses in the United States are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need? That includes our own state's Dioceses of New Ulm, Crookston and Duluth. By supporting this Home Missions Appeal in your parishes, you are providing much needed pastoral and financial support for these dioceses and "Strengthening the Church at Home." Please offer what you are able during this appeal.

If you desire a closer, more intimate relationship with Jesus—if you desire your spiritual life to grow more profoundly and go far beyond the humdrum existence of a Christian who is just going through the motions—then step back with me and consider what it means to follow Jesus intentionally as a DISCIPLE.

—Edward Sri from his book *Into His Likeness*

## Church of St. Bernard

## Cologne, MN

### Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard Wednesday 2-7pm

Each hour you spend with Jesus will deepen His Divine Peace in your heart. To commit to a regular Adoration hour, contact Doris @ 612-910-2365. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

### 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)

**Word of Life**—“If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select “Find Help” from the menu on [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion” [www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy](http://www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy)

**Back in day of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's residence at St. Bernard Parish & School—February 9, 1911:** Chas. A. Gehl ended the earthly career of his pet fox, Monday and informs us that the animal will soon adorn a favorite nook of the parlor. The fox was a pretty and interesting little fellow and had been thoroughly domesticated by the Gehl's. The animal has been shipped to the Catholic Sisters at Cologne, who are expert taxidermists and Charley expects it back shortly. - taken from The Chaska Herald. There are many examples of the work by the Sisters in the display cases in the auditorium of our school. If you are interested in this display contact Roger Storms @ 612-618-8365.



### **The Doors We Lock**

As a child, and even for a while as a teenager, I experienced an enormous amount of anxiety whenever I went to confession. For so many years I feared it. For so many years I waited in the confession line trembling, feeling sick to my stomach.

In the upper room after Christ's Passion and death, the anxiety of the disciples was so strong that they locked themselves away. But still Christ found a way into their midst. He would not be prevented from bringing mercy and hope to a place shrouded in despair. No door barred in a moment of fear could keep him out.

This is the genius of the sacrament of Reconciliation — and of all sacraments, really. Here we are, restricted in so many ways by an existence that is woefully physical. We feel fear, and our body reacts, just as we feel anger and our body reacts.

How can God deliver mercy to us in this flesh-bound state? Through that very flesh which can feel so confining. Through confession, which requires a physical action, and the physical participation not just of the penitent but of the priest.

I don't know how or why my anxiety around the sacrament has lessened over the years. Sometimes, I still feel it come roaring back unexpectedly, and maybe one day it will come back to stay. It doesn't surprise me: after all, I am in the flesh, and I will, as Peter says today, "suffer through various trials." But in all of them Christ will find me. He will not be kept away.

Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." — Psalm 118:3      By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—April 22 - 23

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Kathy Kloempken	Doris Mielke
Servers	Bryce Urness & Alex Urness	Caleb Michels & Jayden Michels	Lil Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Brian Willems	Ally Kunkel
EMHC	Jean Schmitz	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Tom Lano	Eugene Dvorak & volunteer	Kieran Allison & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Grace Cook	Sarah Foley & Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson Grp B – Tim & Rita Fahey	N/A

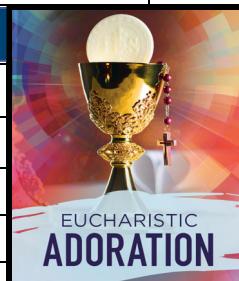
### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Apr 17	No Mass	
Tuesday	Apr 18 6:15 pm	Ascension	Matt & Dorothy Hally †
Wednesday	Apr 19 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Thursday	Apr 20 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Leonard Hoen Sr †
Friday	Apr 21 8:00 am	Ascension	Dirks Family
Saturday	Apr 22 5:00 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Apr 23 8:00 am	Ascension	Joyce Hally †
Sunday	Apr 23 10:00am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser t & All Parishioners

### Readings for the week of April 16 2023

**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31 **Monday:** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8 **Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15 **Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 **Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36 **Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4,13-14/Jn 6:1-15 **Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21 **Next Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a)/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

**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.



### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
2:00 pm until 7:00 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.

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,060.28
<b>Contributions 03-29– through 4-04-2023</b>	<b>4,992.75</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	142,057.70
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>511.80</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	235.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>503.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>41,873.79</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 4/02/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,784.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	117,692.40
Actual Collection YTD:	127,142.14
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>9,449.74</b>

Capital Improvement Offering:	285.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	55.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	15,965.00
<b>Sign up</b> for electronic giving at <a href="http://ascensionnya.org">ascensionnya.org</a> Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.	