

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

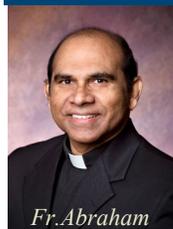


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Third Sunday of the Easter-April 22 & 23, 2023



Fr. Abraham

Recognizing Jesus

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this third Sunday of Easter, the gospel is about the Emmaus journey (Luke 24:13-35). Two disciples were going to the village of Emmaus with disappointment, hopelessness, and confusion, after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Their understanding of Jesus was incomplete and even wrong. They considered him as their victorious political leader and their liberator from Roman oppression. The crucifixion of Jesus disappointed them. The empty tomb confused them. So, they didn't want to stay in Jerusalem, the place of their disappointment and sadness.

The risen Lord appears to them, but they do not recognize him. He seems like just another foreigner visiting Jerusalem for the Passover. They talked to him honestly about their feelings of hopelessness and despair. Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. After explaining the Scriptures, Jesus at table took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, exactly what he did at the Last Supper (Luke 22:14–20). With that their eyes were opened and recognized him and he vanished from their sight. Then they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way." So, they immediately returned to Jerusalem, the place of sacrificial love.

It is strange that Jesus vanished immediately but surely Jesus wanted them to understand that he is present in the Church every time it celebrates as they did on that road to Emmaus. Jesus makes himself known to them by interpreting the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. At every mass, we celebrate the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. When we hear the Word of God the Holy Spirit works within us to allow the Word of God to heal and renew us just as the Word healed and renewed the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. When Jesus was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Every time we do this in remembrance of Jesus he is with us just as he was with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He speaks to our hearts in the Scriptures and he opens our eyes in the breaking of the bread.

The Emmaus story is the story of a God who will not leave us alone when we are hurt and disappointed. Emmaus experience changed the life of the disciples. We too, may need that same kind of inner change. The risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus, and in the places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. We, too, have hopes and dreams about better health, financial security and better family relationships. These often get shattered. The story warns us, however, that the risen Lord will come to us when we least expect him and in unfamiliar situations to support and strengthen us. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life's journey through rough and tough times. We should talk to Jesus openly about how we feel, unafraid to share our negative feelings and disappointments. The Church teaches us to hear Jesus on a daily basis through the faithful reading of the Bible, to experience him through our participation in the Eucharistic celebration where he gives himself to us. Every Eucharistic celebration is our opportunity to recognize his presence in our midst, and in our hearts. This Sunday's readings have an encouraging message: no matter what happens in our lives, the Risen Lord is always with us. He is always near to those who seek him and who want to live in his presence doing his will. The best thing we have to do is to ask Jesus "to stay with us" as the disciples did.

Rosary Intention: "For the grace to trust in God's Infinite Mercy"

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Apr 27	7:00pm	Finance Council Meeting @ StB
Apr 29	5:00pm	First Communion @ Ascension
Apr 30	2:00pm	Confirmation @ Basilica, Minneapolis
May 7	9:00am	KC Donut Sunday

Spring Clean up. In order to aid with spring cleanup, please remove all decorations from the cemetery ASAP. Any decorations remaining will be removed and placed by the big tree behind the Faith Formation building at Ascension and behind the church (next to the AC units) at St. Bernard.

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.

Our state lawmakers need to hear from you! There are multiple bills being considered that will impact children and families here in Minnesota. Please go to MNCatholic.org/ActionAlerts, learn about the issues, and send messages urging your legislators to:

Pass a robust child tax credit that will support families doing the hard work of raising the next generation amid increasing economic pressures.

Vote NO on the legalization of recreational marijuana. We know this will negatively impact families, especially those who bear the cross of addiction, and will put children at greater risk of accidental overdose and drug abuse.

Ensure that pro-abortion provisions are not included in the final health finance and policy omnibus bill. We must help women in need, not eliminate common-sense laws that help ensure her health and safety.

Put a stop to legislation that expands transgender transitioning for minors and makes Minnesota an epicenter of this corrupt practice.

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.

"Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34 - Attend a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** and experience the love of your spouse like you never have before. The next available **Weekends** are May 5-7, 2023 in Buffalo, MN and Oct 6-8, 2023 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-234-7440.

Word of Life -"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"

Fifteen to thirty minutes of loving dialogue with our Maker and Redeemer every day is a nonnegotiable discipline for the aspiring saint. On top of cultivating the full depths of our humanity, nothing more powerfully assists our Lord in the salvation of souls. —**Jimmy Mitchell** from his book *Let Beauty Speak*

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.

News from the Quilting Circle: On May 2nd, after the 6:15pm Mass at Ascension, this year's quilts will be blessed by Father Abraham.

Thank you to St. Bernard's for the use of the Narthex basement; to Monica for helping with set-up and take-down; and to St. Bernard's Catholic United Financial group for their donation. Thank you for tops sewn by Rosie, Sue, Carol, Cheryl, and Vicki - very creative pieces. Thank you to the 12+ ladies that knotted every Tuesday - we have made over 50 quilts, 10+ fleecy throws, and 8 wheelchair size blankets. We donate to over 8 different state locations. If you know of a family or individual in need, please let me know.

To continue our mission we are always looking for cotton material, yarn, thread, flat sheets, and batting. To cover some of the cost, we are selling blankets that will be on display at Ascension the weekend of May 7th. Single size are \$50.00. Full size are \$75.00. Queen/King are \$95.00 Please contact Irene at 612-716-7063 with questions.

FAITH, FAMILY & BASEBALL

Former Minnesota Twins and 1987 and 1991 World Series Champion, Al Newman will be speaking at the "Faith, Family, and Baseball" luncheon on April 30 at 11:30 am at St. Joseph School, hosted by the Waconia Knights of Columbus and St Joseph Catholic Community! Hear Al share stories of his championship career and how his faith has guided him through life. Seating is limited to be sure to purchase your tickets to the event online today at <https://stjosephwaconia.org/faith-family-baseball/>

Where: St. Joseph School Commons & Gym

When: April 30 starting at 11:30 am

Cost: Tickets are \$5 per person. Age 5 and under are free. Maximum charge per family is \$20.

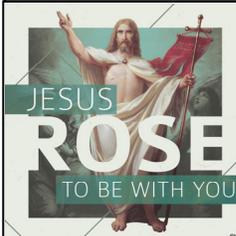
Ticket includes lunch and the opportunity to hear Al Newman speak!

Into the Deep: Theology of the Body Retreats

Dive into the big questions of life ("who are we & why are we here?") through the bite-size pieces of short talks, outdoor adventures, and camaraderie balanced with quiet! Upcoming retreats include:

- June 12-17: Smoky Mountains adult hiking retreat
- July 1-8: Alaska adult backpacking retreat
- July 16-22: Boundary Waters teen canoeing
- July 31-August 1: Tettegouche teen hiking retreat
- August 14-18: Gooseberry State Park middle school ladies hiking retreat

Into the Deep is a Catholic organization run by Jen Messing offering camping retreats in state and national parks. Learn more about Into the Deep retreats and register at idretreats.org.



"The Lord has truly been raised..."

I always feel a little sad when someone begins to speak to me with the words, "Father, I know you're so busy, but ..." It happens a lot. And I get it. He or she is trying to be respectful of my time. But it saddens me because a priest makes Jesus present to people in a special way, and Jesus always has time for us. Don't we all feel at times that God just doesn't have time for us?

Nonsense. Just look at the stunning "Road to Emmaus" story we hear this week. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. And the Risen One appears in disguise to two disciples. He walks with them, chats with them, and eventually eats with them. It could have been hours he spends with them — two unnamed persons — in the middle of nowhere. On the day he rose from the dead!

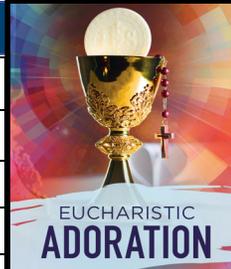
My friends, please take this to heart: The Risen Jesus is not too busy to spend time with you! He doesn't have "better things to do." You and I are members of this crucified and risen Body. He therefore has all the time in the world to be with us. So, I challenge you this week to approach him confidently in prayer and conversation. After all, being with you and me is the reason he rose from the dead. — Father John Muir ©LPI

Mass Ministry Schedule—April 29 - 30

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Tamara Lemmer	Doris Mielke
Servers	Payton Stender & Hailey Stender	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Luca Hoen & Marshall Panning
Reader	Darlene Mondor	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Cathleen Williams & Pat Johnson	Steve Coyle	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Gary Widmer	Eugene Dvorak & Volunteer	Tom Dahl & Vern Elke
Greeters	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B – Curt Wilson & Steve Lemmer	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Apr 24	No Mass	
Tuesday	Apr 25 6:15 pm	Ascension	Angeline Abbott †
Wednesday	Apr 26 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Joe & Mary Martin ††
Thursday	Apr 27 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Friday	Apr 28 8:00 am	Ascension	Eugene Blau †
Saturday	Apr 29 5:00 pm	Ascension	First Communicants
Sunday	Apr 30 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Apr 30 10:00am	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††



Eucharistic Adoration
Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
St. Bernard
Every Wednesday
2:00 until 7:00 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 April 23 2023

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
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,060.28
Contributions 04-04– through 4-11-2023	600.00
Easter Budget	2,835.20
Easter Contribution	4,737.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	147,394.70
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(46.68)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	685.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	685.00
Forward in Faith YTD	42,558.79
Holy Land Collection	606.00

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 4/09/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,836.00
Weekly E-Giving:	670.00
Collections Budget YTD:	120,634.71
Actual Collection YTD:	131,648.14
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	11,013.43
Capital Improvement Offering:	230.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	185.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	16,380.00

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