

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

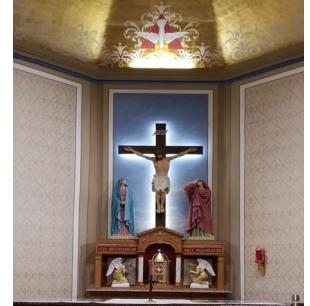
**PASTOR**

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



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

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



**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](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)

## Fourth Sunday of the Easter—April 29 & 30, 2023

### Listen the Voice of Our Good Shepherd



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The fourth Sunday of the Easter is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**. It is also **“World Day of Prayer for Vocations.”** The image of the shepherd and his sheep is very old in Scripture. There are beautiful images given in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, especially the Gospel. Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are his sheep. Jesus is our unique gateway to eternal salvation and a loving shepherd who provides his sheep protection and life. As Shepherd, he knows each of us by name. Jesus claims that his sheep recognize his voice and follow him. The sheep listen to and recognize the voice of their shepherd and that is why they continue to follow him rather than another. It is important for us to recognize the voice of Jesus as it comes to us in our daily life. In our modern world, the voice of Christ can be blocked by many things. If we do not recognize the voice of our Good Shepherd, we are likely to get lost. This Sunday readings remind us the importance to listen the voice of our Good shepherd through prayers, reading the Scripture and other spiritual exercises.

This Sunday has also been designated by the Holy Father as **“World Day of Prayer for Vocations”**. We pray in a special way today that the Lord will bless the Church with many new vocations to the priesthood, to the diaconate, and to the consecrated life. God continues to call men and women of our day to consecrated service in the Church. All of us need to pray and to encourage our young men and women in our parish to consider a vocation to the priesthood, to the diaconate and to the religious life.

**May 1st is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker:** The feast of St. Joseph the Worker is a reminder for us to uphold the dignity of human labor as well as to respect and show gratitude to all the workers who keep our world going. Also, it is an opportunity for us to grow in our devotion to St. Joseph in whom we have a great protector who protected the Lord Jesus while he was here on earth.

**May is the month of devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary:** It has been a long-standing Catholic tradition to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as “the Queen of May”. In honor of the Blessed Mother during the month of May, I encourage you to pray Rosary in your families and ask Blessed Mother’s intercession for your families and the parish families.

**First Communion & Confirmation:** This is a special weekend for us. Six children are going to receive Jesus through their First Holy Communion on April 29<sup>th</sup>. And sixteen young men and women will be confirmed at St. Mary’s Basilica on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. We pray for them that they may grow in faith and bear witness to Christ by their way of life.

I thank our Faith Formation Staff, the catechists, parents and sponsors who prepare the children and the youth for their First Communion and Confirmation.

**Congratulations, the First Communicants and the Newly Confirmed.**

**Rosary Intention:** “For all the youth celebrating the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.”

#### **Members are needed for Parish Council (Joint Mission Team-(JMT)**

Our Parish Council, known as Joint Mission Team (JMT), is seeking two members for St. Bernard and one member for Ascension shall commence on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory body and consultative role with the Pastor of the parish (Code of Canon Law, c. 536). Eligibility to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council is limited to practicing Catholics in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church and its bishops. Employees of the parish, or members of their immediate family, are not eligible for appointment to the Parish Council. Are you interested in these positions? If so, please contact me or Julie Gesinger, the JMT chair. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor

## **Church of Ascension   Norwood Young America, MN**

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

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.

**Congratulations** to Josephine Beneke, Bennet Molva and Alison Kunkel who were awarded **scholarships** from the Ascension Knights of Columbus.

### **Class of St. Therese (The Little Flower) Embrace the Little Way and Join the Class of St. Thérèse of Lisieux!**

This fall, the **Catechetical Institute** will offer the two-year Pillars Program in-person at St. Patrick's in Edina and via live stream at Our Lady of the Prairie, Belle Plaine and St. Maximillian, Delano. Classes will be held **on Monday evenings** from **7 PM - 9 PM**. The classes are divided into four eleven-week modules with two Saturday morning formative sessions per module. Ascension and St. Bernard will assist with half of the tuition for these classes. Applications will be accepted through August 1, 2023. Go to [cistudent.com](http://cistudent.com) to register.

### **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](http://idretreats.org).

### **OUR LADY OF MERCY**

#### **Hail, Holy Queen**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.  
Our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
to you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.  
    To you do we send up our sighs,  
    Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
    Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
        Your eyes of mercy toward us,  
        And after this exile show unto us  
    The blessed fruit of they womb, Jesus.  
        O clement, O loving,  
        O sweet Virgin Mary.

But once Christ is risen, the gravitational pull of love is stronger than that of hatred; the force of gravity of life is stronger than that of death. Perhaps this is actually the situation of the Church in every age, perhaps it is our situation? It always seems as if she ought to be sinking, and yet she is always already saved.

*- Pope Benedict XVI*

## **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.

**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+ fleece 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.

**Thank you !** The Southwest Carver County Food Shelf gratefully acknowledges the gift of 22 lbs of food from St. Bernard. Your contribution is appreciated on behalf of the people served by the food shelf. Thank you for your generosity !

**Word of Life** -“People often say, “I could never handle a child with a disability.” But the beauty of parenting is that you aren’t given a child with a disability. You are given your child with a disability. Your child enters the world in a relationship with you, and that changes everything. You are not called to ‘handle’ a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “A Perfect Gift” [respectlife.org/a-perfect-gift](http://respectlife.org/a-perfect-gift)



#### **“They recognize His voice.”**

I recently rescued a dog. She’s a terrier and rather adorable. And she’s crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I’m a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I’m hidden around a corner, she’ll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the voice of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, “They recognize his voice.” He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God’s love, and to love Him in return. That’s his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God’s concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can. — **Father John Muir**  
©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—May 6-7

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers	Jayden Michels & Gabriel Michels	Dan Worm & Kieran Allison
Reader	Roger Storms	Darlene Mondor	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Volunteer	Josh Gallus & Richard Tellers	Tom Dahl & Leo Willems
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Grace Cook	Casey Jones & Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B – Tim & Rita Fahey	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	May 1	No Mass	
Tuesday	May 2 6:15 pm	Ascension	Kraft Family
Wednesday	May 3 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elaine Mohrbacher †
Thursday	May 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Luke & Harriet Meulenens ††
Friday	May 5 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	May 6 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Sunday	May 7 8:00 am	Ascension	Living and deceased members of the Braunwarth-Paul Family
Sunday	May 7 10:00am	St. Bernard	Living and deceased members of the St. Bernard Branch of Catholic United Financial

#### Readings for the week of April 30 2023

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10 **Monday:** Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 **Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30 **Wednesday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14 **Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20 **Friday:** Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6 **Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14 **Next Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-1

**Feast Days of this week**  
**May 1** St. Joseph the Worker  
**May 2** S. Athanasius  
**May 3** Sts. Philip and James  
**May 4** National Day of Prayer

#### 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  
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.

#### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,060.28
<b>Contributions 04-12– through 4-18-2023</b>	<b>5,181.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	152,575.70
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>2,074.04</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	160.00
Electronic Donations	795.92
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>955.92</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>43,514.71</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 4/16/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,802.46
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	123,577.02
Actual Collection YTD:	134,730.60
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>11,153.58</b>

Capital Improvement Offering:	50.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	35.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	16,465.00
<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.	