

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

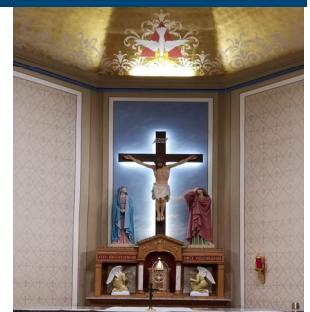
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
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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
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

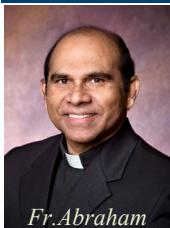
**ST. BERNARD
CHURCH**
212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm
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The Ascension Of The Lord – May 20 & 21, 2023

Our Lord is With Us Always



Fr. Abraham

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Each Sunday, we profess through the Creed, "*He ascended into heaven.*" Jesus' Ascension was the culmination of God's divine plan for him, to return to his Father. Ascension is the grand finale of all his words and works done for us and for our salvation. It was a culmination, but not the conclusion. It is a celebration of Jesus' presence with us, not his disappearance. Of course, this is precisely what he tells us in today's Gospel, "*Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*" (Mt 28:20). This was the last thing Jesus said on earth. We are not alone. This is absolutely wonderful. The most important Person in the universe is with us personally. He is with us in our minds, with us in our hearts, and with us in spirit, indeed.

The risen body is something mysterious. It seems to be eminently tangible, and yet can pass through locked doors. Precisely how it is present is for the time being a mystery, and we only have some clues. One of these, of course, is the Eucharist, for here Christ is truly, bodily, really present at every Mass, in every tabernacle. Another, which St. Paul tells us about in our second reading today, is his presence in the Church. The 'Church is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.' (Eph 1: 22-23). That does not mean that the Church is a substitute for Jesus' bodily presence. It means that wherever the Church is present, preaching the Gospel as he commanded, bringing the love and mercy of God, shown to us on the cross, into the darkness of people's lives, there indeed Christ is to be found.

Today's gospel tells us that, with his return to the Father, Jesus completed his mission on earth. But just before his ascension, he entrusted to his disciples the mission of preaching the Good News and evangelizing the whole world, bearing witness to him through their lives. Christ's mission to the Apostles is now ours. Jesus' Ascension and his command teach us that we, too, are called to proclaim the Good news. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer.

In order to proclaim the Good News, first let us learn about Jesus and his teachings by our daily reading of the Bible and the teachings of the Church, experience him in personal prayer, reception of the sacraments and works of charity; and convey to others Jesus whom we have experienced with the help of his Holy Spirit. The Solemnity of the Ascension is a reminder for each of us that Jesus is still with us. We are called today to tell the world that "Jesus is with us always, until the end of the age."

Members are needed for Parish Council (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 1st. 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. If you are interested in these positions, please contact me or Julie Gesinger, the JMT chair. Thank you for your consideration.

Rosary Intention: "For all the youth celebrating their graduation"

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI, Pastor

Parish Mission Statement We, the family of St. Bernard and Ascension, united through Baptism, redeemed by Christ's death and resurrection, and strengthened by his Word and Eucharist, are called to follow him by nurturing a rich sacramental and spiritual life, supporting strong Catholic faith formation and fostering fellowship and community.

Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sat. May 20 6:00pm "Linger Longer" after Mass StB
 Sun May 21 11:00am "Linger Longer" after Mass StB



Ascension of the Lord May 18th

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Prayer Opportunity for Praying for our Children

Anyone who would like to offer up prayers for their children (and/or grandchildren and/or great-grandchildren) in union with others are invited to come to Ascension Church on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

We will pray together for 1 hour, and prayers will be provided. There will be opportunities during our prayer time to say the names of our children, and any intentions we might have for them, out loud or in the silence of our hearts.

People from other parishes other than Ascension are warmly welcome to join us!

If you are unable to come on Thursdays but would like a copy of the prayers, please let us know and we can get those to you. In addition, if you are unable to come but would like us to pray for your children/intentions, please let us know. Call or text Tamara at 612-790-5720 or Rita at 612-282-7030.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from the distractions of daily life for couples in good marriages. Give your marriage this gift! The next available Weekends are Oct 6-8, 2023 in Buffalo, MN and Feb 9-11, 2024 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.

Food Shelf Reminder: Let us not forget those in our area that need the services of the Southwest Carver County Food Shelf. Items needed: Peanut Butter, canned meats, Tuna, canned Vegetables and fruits. Juice, cereal etc. Donations can be dropped off at the entrance at Ascension and the Food Shelf box in the narthex at St. Bernard.

Archdiocesan Marriage Day

Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul Celebrate the beautiful mystery of the mutual self-gift between a man and woman in the Sacrament of Matrimony! This celebration includes Mass, renewal of vows, and a short reception. Couples celebrating their silver, golden and platinum anniversaries will be honored in a special way. Families and friends of all couples are welcome! Registration is encouraged by contacting 651.291.4488. Couples married one year or more may request a commemorative certificate signed by Archbishop Hebda. To request a certificate, please contact the Office of Marriage, Family & Life by June 5 at 651-291-4488 or mfl@archspm.org.

I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the Evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.

—St. Gregory the Great

Church of St. Bernard

Cologne, MN

Eucharistic Adoration 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.

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". We can honor the Blessed Virgin by praying the Rosary daily.

The following is a list of a few TV and Radio stations that air the Rosary. **TV-EWTN:** 6:30am, After the TV Mass at Approximately 8:00am.; 2:30pm.; 8:30pm. **Catholic TV Network:** 9:00am; 5:30pm Nuverna Nu Tel Cable TV Ch 21

—**Radio:** -Relevant Radio 1330am: 7:00pm. "Family Rosary across America"

Come to a place where you can hear the voice of the Lord in the quiet and peaceful setting of Lake DeMontreville. Join us for a three-day men's silent retreat at the **DeMontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo**. The retreat begins Thursday evening July 13,2023 and ends Sunday evening July 16, 2023. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information call our office at 651-777-1311 or see our website www.demontrevilleretreat.com

Word of Life—“The Lord says to us, ‘Do not fear: I am with you’ (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Be Not Afraid”
 NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.



Seeking Christ in One Another

The funeral luncheon, the Irish wake, the vigil at an ailing loved one's bedside: in times of crisis, people gather. In moments of sadness, fear, and confusion, we gravitate toward one another. For some reason, the feelings are so much more bearable when we are not alone.

I'm sure that the disciples and their companions, gathered in the upper room after the Lord's Ascension, did all of the things we typically do at these functions. I'm sure they hugged and talked and shared food, processing together the remarkable events they had witnessed.

But we don't hear about any of that. We hear only that they prayed — fervently, and together.

Saint John Paul II famously said that “it is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you.” And I think that, whenever we gather, in good times or in bad, we think we are seeking companionship — but we are actually seeking God.

As I think back on the last few crisis-gatherings my family has had, I try to remember when we have stopped everything to pray together. I can think of a few times, but to be honest, they are too few. We are usually occupied with more practical tasks: planning the funeral, talking to the doctor, making the decisions, ordering the food. Just trying to survive through it.

But this is the busywork of sorrow, and it is a waste of our time. We would do better to follow the example of the disciples and remember that, in these dire moments, God is waiting for us. “Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.” — Psalm 27 By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPI

Mass Ministry Schedule—May 27-28

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Tamara Lemmer	Doris Mielke
Servers	Volunteer (2)	Gabriel Michels & Caleb Michels	Kieran Allison & Volunteer
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Brian Willems	Greg Wickenhauser
EMHC	Volunteer	Steve Lemmer	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Jim Mulville & Curt Wilson	Eugene Dvorak & Gary Widmer	Tom Dahl & Vern Elke
Greeters	Leo Pouliot	Grace Cook	Casey Jones & Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A – Tim & Rita Fahey Grp B – Tim George & Steve Lemmer	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	May 22	No Mass	
Tuesday	May 23 6:15 pm	Ascension	Harry Schoewet
Wednesday	May 24 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Thursday	May 25 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Friday	May 26 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	May 27 5:00 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	May 28 8:00 am	Ascension	Albert Feldman †
Sunday	May 28 10:00am	St. Bernard	Lorraine Hoen † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of May 21, 2023
Sun.: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20 **Seventh Sunday of Easter:** Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 (13)/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a **Mon.:** Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33 **Tues:** Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a **Wed.:** Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19 **Thurs.:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26 **Fri:** Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19 **Sat.: Morning** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25 **Next Sun.: Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/ Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/ Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

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	2,874.31
Contributions 05-03– through 5-09-2023	2,393.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	160,751.45
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	1,440.89

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	405.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	405.00
Forward in Faith YTD	44,487.71

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 5/07/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,942.31
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,979.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	129,461.64
Actual Collection YTD:	140,815.17
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	11,353.53
Capital Improvement Offering:	170.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	35.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	17,055.00

Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionnya.org

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