

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

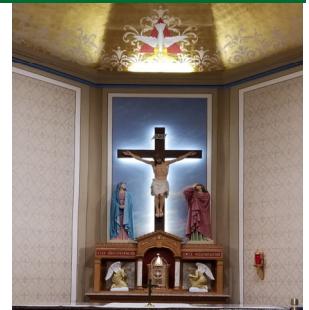
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE 952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org



Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-777-0110
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
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-856-1051
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 19 & 20, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

With Fr Abraham taking time to visit his father and his family, I am going to take this opportunity to give you a glimpse into the middle school/confirmation programs for St Bernard & Ascension—STBAFF.

As the director for these age levels, I view my role as an important one. I am here to support parents as they raise their children in the Catholic faith. Our program is one leg of the stool, with the family living the faith at home through prayer and family worship at mass being integral. Our recently confirmed youth was a group of 11 from Ascension/St Bernard parishes. Of those 11, we are excited to welcome 5 young people as youth leaders in our faith formation program this year. Four will be helping in our Edge (middle school program) and one will be assisting in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Thank you to these families for making faith a priority in their lives. We are excited for the year ahead!

In an effort to strengthen our community, we added the fellowship meal, about seven years ago. This has been a blessing for many! But last year, with prompting from a dedicated parishioner, we decided to begin each class night in the church with prayer, specifically lectio divina. It combines slow, conscious reading of the Sunday gospel with contemplation and silent prayer. It is meant to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today. This time spent in quiet prayer and reflection has been a great way for our young people to get more centered and prepare for class. We plan to continue lectio divina, but will take a break in October to focus on the rosary. Parishioners & parents are welcome to join us at 6:15 pm in the church.

In other news, we plan to continue with our service nights. We will hold one in the fall at Ascension and have an April date planned for a service night at St Bernard. There will be some outdoor type service planned, sandwich project, and a blanket project. If you have an idea for a service activity, please reach out to Kara or Julie. We welcome parishioners/parents to take part in our service nights too.

Recently, we added two panel discussion nights for youth in grades 6-10. These events give young people the opportunity to ask questions they have about their faith. The young people surveyed these nights as some of their favorites. Last year, our topics were Catholic Q & A, and marriage. The panelists were asked many challenging questions about what we believe or why we believe something—as Catholics. Panelists for the Q & A were mostly graduates of the Catechetical Institute, which is a 2 year study of the catechism. Fr Abraham was there support this night and answers the really challenging questions! The night on marriage was led by many of our catechists. It was so good for our young people to hear from a variety of panelists, about what is really important in a strong marriage. We are planning for two panel nights in our upcoming faith formation year. Do you have suggestions for a good topic?

We are blessed to have such strong support from our parishes, and parish organizations. Within the span of just two months, our two Catholic United Financial Councils—have helped us with fundraisers for STBAFF. The Glad Days booth is always a good way to raise funds and visit with many in our community. Now, the Clothing Drive is starting at Ascension—with the leadership of the Ascension CUF. Let us know if you need help with a clothing donation.

Spread the word, registration for faith formation is open now. Enjoy August.

May God bless our families,
Julie Kleindl

Rosary Intention: For an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of all at Ascension and St Bernard parishes

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. Aug. 19th after the 5pm Mass "Linger Longer" at St. Bernard
Sun. Aug. 20th after the 10am Mass "Linger Longer" at St. Bernard

Come out on Thursday, August 24th from 5-9:30 for Family Night at Stiftungsfest, located at Willkommen Memorial Park, Norwood Young America. There will be music, activities, food and a movie in the park at 8:15pm. This event is sponsored by both Church of the Ascension and St. Bernard.

Everyone is Welcome!

Our Annual Joint Parish Potluck Picnic is after the 4PM Mass on September 9, 2023 at the American Legion (Pool) Park in Norwood. Come join your parish family for an evening of fellowship! For the Potluck, we suggest families with last names beginning A-L bring Desserts/Fruit and families with last names beginning M-Z bring Salads/Vegetables. We will provide Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, and Beverages.

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with Set-up, Serving, Clean-up, etc. If you would like to participate in this way please contact Virginia at 952-467-3351 or leave a message for Cheryl at 952.412.9557. Thank you!

Fiat Ministries Discernment Retreat

September 22-24, Fiat Ministries, Dunrovin Retreat Center
Fiat Ministries will host a discernment retreat for women! The Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus and Pro Ecclesia Sancta Sisters will help lead the retreat for women discerning God's call for their lives! More information and registration is at 10000vocations.org.

Discernment Day with Bishop Williams

October 28, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saint Paul Seminary, Damascus House (1976 Dayton Avenue)
Bishop Joseph Williams, along with Vocations Director Fr. David Blume, will lead a discernment retreat for men who have a college degree and are discerning priesthood. The day will include talks on discernment, Mass, prayer, seminary campus tour, testimonies, meals, and social time. More information and registration is at 10000vocations.org.

Archbishop's Discernment Retreat

November 3-5, Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN
Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, along with Vocations Director Fr. David Blume, will lead a discernment retreat for Catholic men, ages 17-24 who do not have a college degree. More information and registration is at 10000vocations.org.

Corn Days

Saturday, August 12, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Church of St. George, Long Lake
Invite your family and friends to Corn Days. Knights of Columbus pancake and sausage breakfast, 8:30-11 a.m., Chamber of Commerce parade at noon, live music, online silent auction, Super-Raffle, Cars and Corn car show, a wine pull and beer tent, bingo, inflatables and games for the kids, a petting zoo, vendors, fabulous food booths, and a Mexican Fiesta dinner after Saturday night Mass. Admission is free. Learn more at corndays.com

"This simple truth is this: the substance of the bread and wine changes completely through the words of consecration, such that there's no more bread and wine there...What is there? Jesus...There's no more intimate way that He could come to you except to come to you as your food, to feed your soul."

Bishop Andrew Cozzens

-Beautiful Eucharist

Church of St. Bernard

Cologne, MN

Word of Life - "God's love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
["How to Build a Culture of Life"](#)

On September 24, the **Waconia Knights of Columbus** invite you to celebrate their **100-year Anniversary** at Sovereign Estate! Festivities include Mass with Archbishop Hebda, a social, dinner, and a program. Tickets are \$35 each and each ticket includes a meal, a wine glass, and a wine pour. Scan the QR Code or go to the parish website at stjosephwaocnia.org to learn how to become a sponsor and purchase your tickets for this exciting event!

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Saturday, September 9, 2023—10:00-11:00 AM
Graveside at Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota, MN
Join with us as we pray for the lives lost to abortion, for the moms and dads involved in abortion and to let the world know that with every abortion there is a broken human body. <https://plam.org/event/national-day-of-remembrance-for-aborted-children/>



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Prayers God Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called "The Prayers God Will Always Answer." I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine and turned to the first page.

I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother's book was not a directory of magical phrases God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like "Forgive me" and "Help me." I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, "No, it cannot be done for you as you wish," she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he's not the genie from "Aladdin." Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

"Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith!'" — Matthew 15:28

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Mass Ministry Schedule—August 26-27

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Volunteer	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers (2)	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Cheryl Coyle	Greg Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Steve Lemmer	Kathy Kloempken	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Dave Donnay & Jim Mulville	Don Whitaker & Volunteer	Andy Kleindl & Volunteer
Greeters	Cathleen Williams	Grace Cook	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Aug. 21		No Mass
Tuesday	Aug. 22 6:15 pm	Ascension	Communion Service
Wednesday	Aug. 23 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	Aug. 24 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Friday	Aug. 25 8:00 am	Ascension	No Mass
Saturday	Aug. 26 5:00 pm	Ascension	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kosek ††
Sunday	Aug. 27 8:00 am	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Aug. 27 10:00am	St. Bernard	Matthias & Gertrude Fick †† & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of August 20, 2023

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28 **Monday:** Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22 **Tuesday:** Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30 **Wednesday:** Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16 **Thursday:** Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51 **Friday:** Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40 **Saturday:** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12 **Next Sunday:** Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Feast Days

Aug. 21—St. Pius X

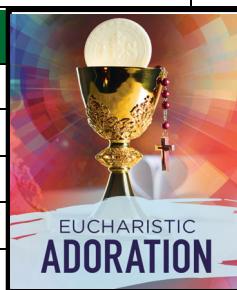
Aug. 22—Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Aug 24—St. Bartholomew

Aug. 26—BVM

**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

Prayers For Our Children Prayer Group

Every Thursday 5:30pm-6:30pm – **Ascension**
All are welcome from neighboring Parishes

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	3,339.13
Contributions 08-01-2023 through 8-08-2023	2,793.75
Total Actual Collection YTD	16,426.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(636.38)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	395.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
Forward in Faith Total	663.00
Forward in Faith YTD	2,521.92

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 7/30/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	930.00
Weekly E-Giving:	130.00
Collections Budget YTD:	17,920.74
Actual Collection YTD:	14,512.65
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(3,408.09)

Capital Improvement Offering:	200.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	20.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	1,407.00
Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionnya.org	
Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.	