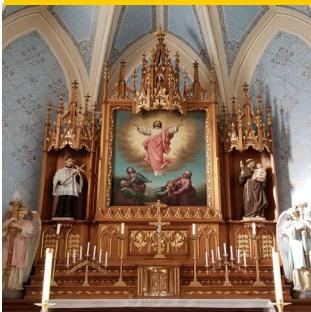


**CHURCH OF  
THE ASCENSION**  
323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

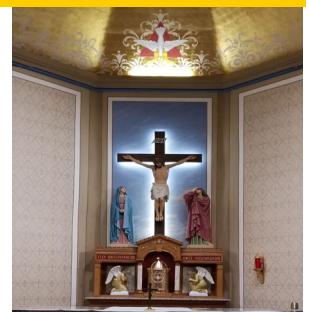
**PASTOR**

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



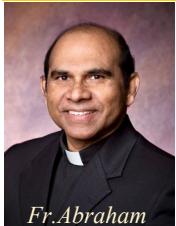
**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
[busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
[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:**  
Virginia Hanson ....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)

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – November 25 & 26, 2023



*Fr. Abraham*

### Christ, King of the Universe

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Through this feast the Church is saying that all of our celebrations can be summed up in one statement: ‘Jesus Christ is the King of the Universe.’ It is a glorious way of saying that God must be absolutely our number one priority on earth.

The gospel reading on the solemnity of Christ the King is the Last Judgement. The Last Judgement will be based on the works of Christian charity, kindness and mercy we have done for others, in whom we have actually served Christ, knowingly or unknowingly. The gospel account tells us that Christ, the Judge, is going to ask us six questions. The first set of questions: “I was hungry, thirsty, and homeless, did you give me food, drink, and accommodation?” The second set of questions: “I was naked, sick, and imprisoned, did you clothe me? Did you help me by visiting me in my illness or in prison?” If the answers are yes, we will be eternally rewarded because we have cooperated with God’s grace by practicing charity. But if the answers are negative, we will be eternally punished.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt. 25:40). Christ is present in every aspect of our lives. We might not recognize him. He is still there. He is present in the Church, in the Scripture and the Eucharist. He is present in those people we meet who are prayerful and spiritual. But he is also present in those who may not even recognize his presence in their lives. He is present in the “poor and the poorest of the poor”, as St. Theresa of Calcutta would refer to the suffering homeless. Her comment on this gospel passage was that at the end of our lives we will not be judged by how many degrees or diplomas we have earned, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by these norms, ‘I was hungry and you gave me food. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.’ Mother Theresa went on to say, “Hungry, not only for bread, but hungry for love; naked not only for clothing, but for human dignity and respect; homeless not only for want of a room of bricks, but homeless because of rejection. This is Christ in distressing disguise.” Our reward or punishment depends on how we have recognized and treated the Risen Jesus in the needy and the poor.

Today’s Gospel confronts us with the fact that if we have not shared his love with others, we cannot be exposed to the fullness of Christ’s love in heaven. We have to accept Jesus Christ as the King of our hearts and love him. We need to recognize his presence in others and to treat them with Christian charity. We conclude the Church year by asking the Lord to help us serve the Kings of Kings as He presents Himself in those reaching out to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the universe bless us.

**Rosary Intention:** “That the hungry, homeless, oppressed receive the aid they need.”

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.



## CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

|                  |         |  |  |
|------------------|---------|--|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Nov. 27 | <b>ASC.<br/>ST. B.</b>                   | No Mass:<br>No Mass:   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Nov. 28 | <b>ST. B.<br/>ASC.<br/>ASC.</b>          | Quilting Group: 9am-12pm<br>Adoration: 3pm-6pm<br>Confessions: 5:45pm-6:05pm<br>Mass: 6:15pm |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Nov. 29 | <b>ST. B.<br/>ST. B.<br/>ST. B.</b>      | Confession: 7:30am-7:50am<br>Mass: 8:00am<br>Adoration: 2:00pm-7:00pm                        |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Nov. 30 | <b>ST. B.</b>                            | Mass: 8:00am   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Dec. 1  | <b>ASC.</b>                              | Mass: 8:00am   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Dec. 2  | <b>ST. B.<br/>ST. B.</b>                 | Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm<br>Mass: 5:00pm  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Dec. 3  | <b>ASC.<br/>ASC.<br/>ASC.<br/>ST. B.</b> | Mass: 8:00am<br><b>Donut Sunday</b><br>Bible Study: 9:00am<br>Mass: 10:00am                  |

### What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community:

#### Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

**Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m.,  
Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul**

All the faithful, ordained and lay, are invited to this Mass, during which Archbishop Hebda will ordain eighteen men as permanent deacons. Four of these men are parishioners of St. Joseph, Waconia. Patrick Kirsch, Bruce Richards, Chris Richards, and Greg Schultz. You may also watch the livestream on the Cathedral's Facebook page.

#### Cana Family Institute:

**Advent Morning of Reflection: The Mindful Mother**  
**Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 a.m.-noon, Saint Raphael, Crystal**  
 Mothers of young children are invited to join other moms for a peaceful, reflective morning this Advent season. You will get the opportunity for Mass and Confession, time to reflect and discuss topics that you can relate to as a mom. Walk away well fed as you enjoy an elegant breakfast and great conversation with other moms! Rediscover the joy of motherhood this Advent season. Go to archspm.org/cana-family-institute-advent-morning-of-reflection for more information and to register.

#### Help for Struggling Couples

**Date: December 1-December 3**

#### **Location: Best Western Hotel, Eagan**

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages. Since 1977, over 40,000 marriages saved worldwide. Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential. For more information, visit [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org).

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

**Totals as of 11/12/2023**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Weekly Operating Budget:          | \$ 2,986.79      |
| Weekly Envelopes/Plate:           | 2,618.00         |
| Weekly E-Giving:                  | 1,150.00         |
| Collections Budget YTD:           | 59,735.80        |
| Actual Collection YTD:            | <b>57,604.65</b> |
| Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: | (2,131.15)       |
| Capital Improvement Offering:     | 1,700.00         |
| Capital Improvement-E-Giving:     | 185.00           |
| Capital Improvement YTD:          | <b>8,788.00</b>  |

**Sign up** for electronic giving at [ascensionnya.org](http://ascensionnya.org)  
Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.

Support of the SW Carver County Food Shelf is always appreciated, especially at this time of year. Nonperishable foods are always welcome as well as personal care items and monetary donations. Please leave items in the church entry or deliver directly to the local food shelf. Thank you.

"The greater and more persistent your confidence in God, the more abundantly you will receive what you ask."  
*-St. Albert the Great*

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

DUE TO THE EARLY DEADLINE FOR THIS BULLETIN THE STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE FOR NOV.8 TO NOV.14TH WILL BE INCLUDED IN NEXT WEEKS BULLETIN. SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

**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,

**Thank You**—to everyone who attended the Memorial Remembrance Mass on November 2nd. And to all who planned and worked to make it special. Thank you ! !

### Word of Life

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

### Faith Formation Update:

This Wednesday (November 29th) our 6th– 10th graders will be having a special event from 6:15pm-7:45pm. We invite all students and parents to attend our Mental Health and Faith Night led by Pat Millea. We really encourage parents to join us. You are the most important people in your kid's lives and we want you to be a part of this important night and to be a part of the continuing conversation. We hope that everyone can make it.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—December 2 & 3

| Mass Ministry         | St. Bernard<br>Sat. 5:00 pm    | Ascension<br>Sun. 8:00 am          | St. Bernard<br>Sun. 10:00 am  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sacristan             | Doris Mielke                   | Cheryl Coyle                       | Patricia Quinn                |
| Servers               | Marshall Panning & Gabby Remer | Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin | Dan Worm & Cohen Starkey      |
| Reader                | Joyce Schwartz                 | Colleen Donnay                     | Sarah Foley                   |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Carol Hoen                     | Kathy Kloempken                    | Meghan Stusynski              |
| Ushers                | Andy Kleindl & Ralph Laumann   | Steve Coyle & Tom Lano             | Kieran Allison & Bob Symanitz |
| Greeters              | Roger Storms                   | Justin & Amy Buckentin             | Brian Vos                     |
| Homebound Ministers   | N/A                            | Grp A: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson  |                               |

### Mass Times Intentions

|           |         |         |  |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|
| Monday    | Nov. 27 |         | No Mass                                      |
| Tuesday   | Nov. 28 | 6:15 pm | Ascension For Respect of All Life            |
| Wednesday | Nov. 29 | 8:00 am | St. Bernard Mary Ellen Guettler †            |
| Thursday  | Nov. 30 | 8:00 am | St. Bernard Ben & Sue† Shamla                |
| Friday    | Dec. 1  | 8:00 am | Ascension Mass of Reparation                 |
| Saturday  | Dec. 2  | 5:00 pm | St. Bernard Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser †† |
| Sunday    | Dec. 3  | 8:00 am | Ascension For Respect for All Life           |
| Sunday    | Dec. 3  | 10:00am | St. Bernard Richard Paul †                   |

#### Readings for the week of November 26, 2023

**Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46  
**Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4    **Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11  
**Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19  
**Thursday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22    **Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33    **Saturday:** Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36    **Next Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

**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.

### 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.....952-466-2447

#### Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

Feast Days: Nov. 30-St. Andrew; Dec. 2 BVM

### St. Gertrude Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father I offer you the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, Those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS How Would You Rule Your Kingdom?

It would be kind of awesome to be a king or queen! Absolute rule, untold wealth, and people answering your every beck and call are things that wouldn't be half bad. Of course, I would be a benevolent monarch, and I would hope that all my subjects would love me. They could cheer me as I came out of the palace, and I think my popularity ratings in the polls would be through the roof. But if they weren't, that would be fine, too, because I would rule the kingdom. And that means no throwing me out of office. Talk about job security!

As great as that sounds, the King of kings could have had all that as well, but instead, he chose quite a different path. He gave up absolute rule so all his subjects could have the free will to choose to follow him. He gave up untold wealth so he could be treated like a common criminal and receive a death sentence. He gave up having servants at his disposal so he could be the servant of all his subjects himself. Yes, he was the King of kings, but he was nothing like a typical king. As much as I think it would be great to be a king myself, I would rather emulate this King instead.

Who would you rather be like? You could have it all or choose to give away everything. You could choose a path of luxury or a path of trial. You could be respected by many or find yourself in a culture that increasingly finds you objectionable. Who would you rather be like? Do you arrive at an answer quickly, or do you need some time to think about it? The King of kings awaits your reply.

—Tracy Earl Welliver

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