

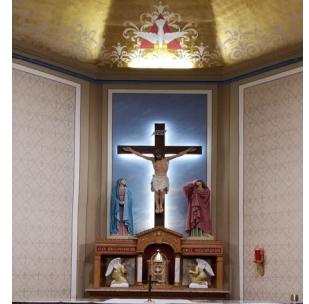
**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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



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

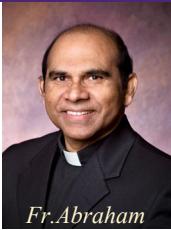


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-856-1051
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
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The Third Sunday of Advent – December 16 & 17, 2023

“Rejoice Always”



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Fr. Abraham
The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is a Latin word meaning “rejoice.” The common theme of today’s scripture readings is one of joy. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised messiah is coming as our savior. (Is 61: 1-2, 10-11) The prophet Isaiah rejoices heartily in the Lord. In the Responsorial Psalm, Mary exclaims: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior.” St. Paul says, “Rejoice always” by leading a holy and thankful life guided by the Holy Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:16-24). The gospel (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28) reading reminds us that we should rejoice because our savior Jesus is among us.

St. Paul says, “Rejoice always.” Rejoice, not only when things are going well, but always. He explains how to do it. The first thing he says is to **pray**- “pray without ceasing,” even when things fall apart. The second step to joy is **gratitude**. He says, “in all circumstances give thanks.” St. Paul gave thanks to God when his own people insulted him and physically attacked him. He gave thanks when his boat overturned and he found himself drifting on a cold sea. He gave thanks when he was tortured by the enemies. By the power of prayer, he gave thanks to God and rejoiced always.

St. Paul added something more: **“Refrain from every kind of evil.”** If we are in a sinful condition, we will not be happy. We will not be able to rejoice. For that reason, we need to hear St. John the Baptist: “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as Isaiah said. Advent is a special season for us to make an examination of conscience and then to make a good confession. A good confession can lead to joy.

The most important reason to rejoice is that our savior Jesus Christ is among us. Our duty is to recognize him. John the Baptist pointing to the physical presence of Jesus Christ and said, “There is One among you, whom you do not recognize” (John 1: 26). The same Lord is now present in our midst through the Scripture, through the Sacraments, in our fellow human beings and in a mysterious way. It is his continued presence, though invisible, that gladdens our hearts, even in the midst of sadness. We have to recognize his presence and must lead others to rejoice in the presence of Jesus. There are many people who feel lonely, depressed and rejected. Let us bring the love of Christ to all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love and mercy.

Rosary Intention: “For all who are lonely, depressed, and forgotten”

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

Monday	Dec. 18	ASC. ST. B.	No Mass: No Mass:
Tuesday	Dec. 19	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confessions: 5:45pm-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Dec. 20	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00pm-7:00pm
Thursday	Dec. 21	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Dec. 22	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Dec. 23	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec. 24	ASC. ST. B. ASC. ST. B.	NO 8:00am Mass Sunday Mass: 10:00am Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass: 6:30pm
Monday <i>Christmas</i>	Dec. 25	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday Dec. 24th	4:00pm ASC. 6:30pm ST. B.
Monday Dec. 25th	8:00am ASC. 10:00am ST. B.

There will be no 8:00am Sunday Mass at Ascension on December 24th. Sunday Obligation Masses will Saturday December 23rd at 5:00pm at Ascension and Sunday December 24th at 10:00am at St. Bernard

**Save the 12,000: Thursday, January 11,
6:30-8 p.m., Guardian Angels, Chaska**

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) will offer a brief pro-life presentation about new anti-life laws that threaten unborn and newborn babies, and what we can do to build a pro-life culture. Learn more at mccl.org/12k.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter : "Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 9-11, 2024 in Buffalo, MN and May 3-5, 2024 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-234-7440 or visit them at twincitieswwme.org.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Our Women and men religious offer gratitude.

A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/03/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,725.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	68,696.17
Actual Collection YTD:	66,827.65
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(1,868.52)
Capital Improvement Offering:	260.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	55.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	9,473.00

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

Prayer for Advent 3

Dear Lord,

Give us boldness as we move
through the motions of the holiday season,
to reflect and remind those around us
of Your deep and abiding love for them.

Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.
Amen.

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Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,586.00
Contributions 11-29-2023 through 12-05-2023	6,067.75
Total Actual Collection YTD	86,475.79
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	15,233.68
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	290.00
Electronic Donations	168.00
Forward in Faith Total	458.00
Forward in Faith YTD	9,917.60

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,

Your prayers are requested for the repose soul of **Edith S. Widmer**, aunt of Gary & Roy Widmer and Mary Lou Wildung who passed away on December 2nd. Edith's funeral was on December 12th. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Please pray for peace and comfort for Edith's family.

Faith Formation Update:

The Ascension Knights of Columbus once again will be sponsoring "**Keep Christ in Christmas**" poster contest. Age groups are: 5-7yr old, 8-10yr old, and 11-14yr old.

Each age group local winner will receive \$25. Each participant will receive a coupon for ONE free Bingo card, which can be used during the upcoming KC Bingo's events scheduled on February 18th, March 17th & April 21st. Registration forms can be picked up Wednesday at Faith Formation classes. Poster must be turned in by December 20th. Question please contact Kara Wickenhauser, Julie Kleindl or Donald Whitaker

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 23 to 25

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00pm	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am	Ascension Xmass Eve Sun. 4pm	St. Bernard Xmass Eve. 6:30pm	Ascension Xmass Day Mon. 8:00am	St. Bernard Xmass Mon. 10:00am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Patricia Quinn	Volunteer	Patricia Quinn	Rita Fahey	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers	Marshall Panning & Volunteer	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Logan Pellegrino & Volunteer	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Daniel Worm & Volunteer
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Rob Wickenhauser	Cheryl Coyle	Julie Kleindl	Julie Gesinger	Joyce Schwartz
EMHC	Irene Yaeck	Margaret Wickenhauser	Pat Johnson & Steve Helget	Andy Kleindl & Volunteer	Curt Wilson	Volunteer
Ushers	Jim Mulville & Steve Schrupp	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willem	Tom Lano & Don Whitaker	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos	Jeremy Friendshuh & Paul Lano	Volunteers
Greeters	Sue Schultz	Volunteer	Grace Cook	Roger Storms	Amy & Justin Buckentin	Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Dec. 18		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 19 6:15 pm	Ascension	Alice Enright †
Wednesday	Dec. 20 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Elvira Winkler †
Thursday	Dec. 21 8:00am	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of the Joe Wickenhauser Sr. Family
Friday	Dec. 22 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Dec. 23 5:00 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 24 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Richard Paul †
Sunday	Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Ascension	Darrel Knorr †
Sunday	Dec. 24 6:30 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 **Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25 **Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25 **Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38 **Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45 **Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 **Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 **Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



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 pqquinn55322@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.....952-484-9628

Anointing of the Sick Call the parish office at any time.

Feast Days: Dec. 21-St. Peter Canisius,
Dec. 23-St. John of Kanty

St. Andrew's Novena (Christmas Novena)

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "**There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.**" The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir

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