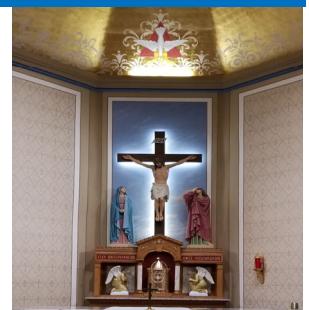


**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**
**323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368**



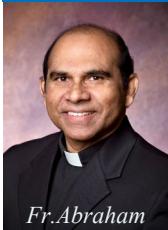
PASTOR
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

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



The Holy Family – December 30 & 31, 2023

The Holy Family



Fr. Abraham

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Before the new year begins, the Church gives us the feast of “the Holy Family”, a model for all families. Like all families, they had their share of sorrows, misfortunes, difficulties etc. But with deep trust in God, they overcame the difficulties in their lives. The readings for the feast of the Holy family present some aspects of a Christian family. Abraham and Sarah grew old without ever having a child. In the whole of scripture, if there was anyone with legitimate reasons to doubt God, that should be Abraham. But he chose to trust amidst the odds and chaos that surrounded his relationship with God. God tells, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield.” And Abram put his faith in the Lord. Sarah and Abraham had a child. (Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3). A promise was made and fulfilled and the fulfillment of this promise changed the history of salvation.

When Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:22-40), Simeon said to Mary, “This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce....” Mary and Joseph as peacefully meeting each challenge the child’s life brought. In Matthew’s Gospel these challenges included Joseph’s considering whether or not he should send Mary away when he found she was pregnant, the journey with his pregnant wife to Bethlehem, the flight with Mary and the child to Egypt to protect him from Herod. In Luke’s Gospel the challenges included the poverty of the stable, the prophecy of Simeon and, twelve years later, the loss of the boy Jesus in the Temple. Later on, when Jesus begins his public ministry, Joseph is missing, probably he has passed away, but Mary is present, quietly calling Jesus to her while people were crowding about him, and calmly standing at the foot of the cross. She did not collapse. The peacefulness of the Holy Family is the result of their trust and union with God. The peace that Jesus brings is not the absence of trouble. The peace the Lord brings is internal and spiritual. United with God, our families can peacefully deal with the challenges of life.

Family is the center of the Church and of the society. We need to pray for our families. Our family is a little church. The home is where Jesus, Mary and Joseph dwell. The Holy Family obeyed the Commandments of the Lord always. Today’s gospel tells us three times that they are doing everything according to the Law of the Lord. They kept their union with God as the foundation of their lives. This resulted in the serenity that let them to meet all the challenges of their lives. The effort you make to nurture and develop your prayer life and your union with God are fundamental to the stability and the peacefulness of your family. The message for the Feast of the Holy Family is simple: obey the Commandments of the Lord, trust in him and pray together as a family every day. When you do this, you never have to fear the challenges your children’s lives will bring. Perhaps there is a sword that will pierce the hearts of all mothers and fathers. Still we have no reason to be afraid of the future. We have the Lord. We have the Holy Family. Let us entrust our families and all the families of the world, to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Happy Feast of Holy Family & A Blessed New Year 2024.

Rosary Intentions: “In Thanksgiving for all the Graces of this past year”

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	Jan. 1	ST. B.	Mass:	9:00am
Tuesday	Jan. 2	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration : Confession: Mass:	3pm-6pm 5:45-6:05pm 6:15pm
Wednesday	Jan. 3	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: Mass: Adoration:	7:30-7:50am 8:00am 2:00-6:00pm
Thursday	Jan. 4	ST. B. ASC.	Mass: Prayers for Our Children:	8:00am 5:30-6:30pm
Friday	Jan. 5	ASC.	Mass:	8:00am
Saturday	Jan. 6	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: Mass:	4:30-4:50pm 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 7	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: Mass:	8:00am 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community



There will be Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Monday, January 1st 9:00am St. Bernard.

The Office will be closed on Monday, January 1st. We wish you a Blessed New Year.

While Fr. Abraham is away, there will be no morning Masses at Ascension or St. Bernard, January 8th thru February 9th.

There will be Tuesday night Masses at Ascension.

**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

Faith Formation Update:

Our 4th and 5th graders worked hard in December to make cards and gift bags for the residents at Peace Villa. Students and Parents delivered these bags to residents on December 20th!

It was a wonderful experience for both the students and residents and an amazing opportunity for our students to bring Joy and God's Love to those who may be experiencing loneliness during this time. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this possible.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/17/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,777.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	74,669.75
Actual Collection YTD:	77,353.15
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	2,683.40
Capital Improvement Offering:	350.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	35.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	10,283.00

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 the Family

Dear Lord,
We lift our families to you in prayer — every generation!
Bind our wounds, forgive our debts, show your mercy!
Lead us to deeper communion with each other and You.
Help us, too, to be a holy family.
Amen.

©LPI

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,536.00
Contributions 12-13-2023 through 12-19-2023	3,204.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	94,000.79
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	15,686.68

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	580.00
Electronic Donations	695.92
Forward in Faith Total	1,275.92
Forward in Faith YTD	11,343.52

Retirement Fund for Religious

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—for your generous donation of 24 pounds of food on 12/7/2023 to Bountiful Basket Food Shelf. Our Mission is simple. To eliminate hunger for people in need of food. And, thanks to your generosity, we are able to provide just that—nourishment and hope to individuals and families facing food insecurity,

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard

Beginning January 3rd Adoration hours will change to 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Until further notice.
Thank you for your understanding

Day of Prayer and Penance (January 22, 2024)

January 22 is designated as a particular day of prayer and penance for Catholics in the United States, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, directs:

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 1 -7

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Monday 9:00 am	St. Bernard Sat 5:00 am	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Patricia Quinn	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey	Luke Allison & Lexy Allison	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Dan Worm & Lily Starkey
Reader	Roger Storms	Roger Storms	Cheryl Coyle	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Margaret Wickenhauser	Steve Coyle	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Bob Symantz & Leo Willems	Ralph Laumann & Bob Symantz	Justine Buckentin & Paul Lano	Kieran Allison & Leo Willems
Greeters	Leon Trout	Monica Kooiman	Pat Johnson	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	Grp A-Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

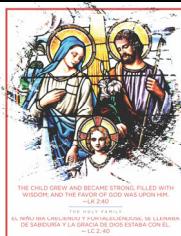
Monday	Jan. 1 9:00am	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Tuesday	Jan. 2 6:15 pm	Ascension	Myrtle Buesgens †
Wednesday	Jan. 3 8:00am	St. Bernard	John & Elizabeth Knauer †
Thursday	Jan. 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Rita Peters †
Friday	Jan. 5 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Jan. 6 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Earl & Rita Peters ††
Sunday	Jan. 7 8:00am	Ascension	Debbie Kruschke & Charlotte Hilgers ††
Sunday	Jan. 7 10:00am	St. Bernard	Gerald Mohrbacher † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12- 21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-4 **Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 **Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38 **Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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.....952-484-9628
Anointing of the Sick	Call the parish office at any time.
Feast Days:	Jan. 1-The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; Jan. 2-Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen; Jan. 3-The Most Holy Name of Jesus; Jan. 4-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Jan. 5-St.John Neumann.
A Prayer For Life	Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen



December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is the baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

—Father John Muir