

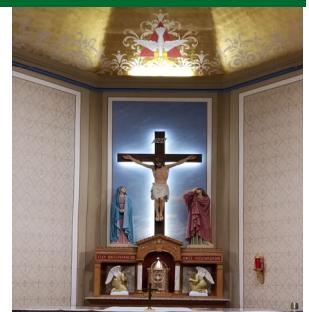
**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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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 Hanson952-777-0110
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:
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The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 20 & 21, 2024

True Fulfillment

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” [Mark 1:14–15](#)

Jesus begins His public ministry immediately after being tempted by the devil while in the desert for forty days. As He begins His ministry, He declares: “This is the time of fulfillment.” First, the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry was, historically speaking, the “time of fulfillment,” in that the new era of the Gospel and grace had just begun. But the “time of fulfillment” of which Jesus speaks also refers to each and every time that we hear the Gospel and respond. We do this by sincerely repenting of our sins and by becoming a fuller member of God’s Kingdom. But ponder for a moment the specific word “fulfillment.” What does this mean?

The word “fulfilled” can be contrasted with its opposite “unfulfilled.” To be unfulfilled is always undesirable. In this world, many people find themselves unfulfilled and try to fill this void with many things. Interestingly, the three temptations that Jesus had just experienced in the desert are among the temptations that so many people give into during their search for fulfillment in life.

First, Jesus was hungry, and the devil tempted Him to turn stones into bread to satiate that hunger. This is a temptation to fleshly fulfillment. Second, the devil tempted Jesus to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple to prove He was the Son of God. This is a temptation to fulfillment by pride—pride to convince another of one’s importance and identity. Third, the devil showed Jesus all the nations of the world and promised them to our Lord if Jesus worshiped him. This is a temptation to fulfillment by obtaining earthly wealth and power. Of course, Jesus rejected all three temptations as a way of showing that none of these truly fulfill us. And He did this just prior to the beginning of His public ministry so as to then go forth preaching the true message of fulfillment. “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

True fulfillment is only found in the Gospel, the message of Truth that Jesus shared during His three years of public ministry and then brought to completion by His sacrificial death and resurrection. Only those who heed His words and open themselves to the grace poured forth from the Cross are able to find the fulfillment that they seek.

Reflect, today, upon your own interior desire for fulfillment in life. How do you try to satiate this desire? Do you allow the evil one to trick you into thinking that fleshly desires, pride or wealth are the answer? Reject those temptations with our Lord and then immerse yourself in His Gospel message, which is the only source of fulfillment in life.

Lord of true fulfillment, You and You alone are the source of the fullness of life. I believe that with all my heart. Please give me the grace I need to reject all temptations in life and to cling only to Your holy Word and the grace given to all who follow You. Jesus, I trust in You. - My Catholic Life

Rosary Intention: “In Thanksgiving For All Our Gifts And Blessings.”

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. 22 | | No Mass |
| Tuesday | Jan. 23 | ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC. | Quilting Group: 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: Mass: 6:15pm |
| Wednesday | Jan. 24 | ST. B. ST. B. | Communion Service 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 25 | ST.B. ASC. | Communion Service 8:00am Prayers for Our Children: 5:30-6:30pm |
| Friday | Jan. 26 | | No Mass |
| Saturday | Jan. 27 | ST. B. ST. B. | Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm |
| Sunday | Jan. 28 | ASC. ST. B. | Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am |

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICT THE SUNDAY MASS ON FEBRUARY 4TH IS MOVED FROM 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM AT ST. BERNARD. QUESTIONS CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.

While Fr. Abraham is away, there will be no morning Masses at Ascension or St. Bernard, thru February 9th. There will be Tuesday night Mass at Ascension and a Wednesday and Thursday morning Communion service at St. Bernard at 8:00am. Please keep Fr. Abraham in your prayers during his trip to visit his family.

An invitation for the men and women of St Bernard and Ascension Parishes

Come to an upcoming Welcome Retreat weekend! It's an incredible experience that will help you discover what is missing in your life and what to do about it. Whether you want to connect with other like-minded Catholics, improve your prayer life, or just take a break from the craziness of your everyday life, you will find what you are looking for. Men's Weekend, February 17 and 18

Women's Weekend, February 24 and 25

The weekends are held at St. Joseph's Parish in Waconia, and they are completely free!

Pick up an informational/registration flyer or call the parish office to sign up.

St. Joseph Catholic STEM School has been nationally certified for its outstanding efforts in promoting STEM education. They will be awarded this distinction on Tuesday, January 30. Following the award program, they will host a traditional open house. Tour the school, meet the teachers, and see the C-STEM difference! Award Program 5:30-6:00, Open House 6:00-7:30.

Respect Life Breakfast

TODAY, Sunday, January 21st.

8:00am to 12:30pm in the St. Joseph School Commons, Waconia, Mn.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 1/07/2024

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Weekly Operating Budget: | \$ 2,986.79 |
| Weekly Envelopes/Plate: | 804.00 |
| Weekly E-Giving: | 690.00 |
| Collections Budget YTD: | 86,616.91 |
| Actual Collection YTD: | 96,507.15 |
| Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: | 9,890.24 |
| Capital Improvement Offering: | 50.00 |
| Capital Improvement-E-Giving: | 290.00 |
| Capital Improvement YTD: | 11,228.00 |

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

Ascension Bible Study will be starting their next series, "Jesus-The Way, The Truth, And the Life", Sunday, February 11th. The Bible Study take place after the 8am Mass, downstairs in the Social Hall. This is a 10 week Bible Study with a break for Easter. Contact Chris George at 763-898-9854 if you are interested in joining. Registration is due January 25th.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Budget for week | 3,216.62 |
| Contributions 1-01-2024 through 1-09-2024 | 3,313.00 |
| Total Actual Collection YTD | 119,506.79 |
| Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget | 18,609.06 |
| Forward in Faith | |
| Envelope Income | 226.00 |
| Electronic Donations | 27100 |
| Forward in Faith Total | 497.00 |
| Forward in Faith YTD | 12,730.52 |

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,

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.

Faith Formation Update:

Ascension KC's would like to thank all the children who entered a poster. This year we had 18 entries. Each child will be receiving a coupon for a FREE BINGO card to be used at one of the upcoming KC's Bingo's events. The winners received \$25 and their posters are sent to compete at the district level.

CONGRATULATIONS to :

- Age 5-7 Emma Panning
- Age 8-10 Jessica Duenow
- Age 11-14 Lillie Beneke

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 27 –28

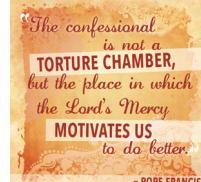
| Mass Ministry | Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm | Ascension Sun. 8:00 am | St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sacristan | Rita Fahey | Brian Willems | Doris Mielke |
| Servers | Volunteers | Jayden Michels & Caleb Michels | Buckley Jones & Dan Worm |
| Reader | Colleen Donnay | Brian Willems | Brenda Jones |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Jean Schmitz | Kathy Kloempken | Helen Nicklaus |
| Ushers | Tim George & Tom Lano | Josh Gallus & Richard Tellers | Tom Dahl & Brian Vos |
| Greeters | Jeremy & Julie Gesinger | Sue Schultz | Casey Jones |
| Homebound Ministers | N/A | Grp A: Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson | N/A |

Mass Times Intentions

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday | Jan. 22 | | No Mass |
| Tuesday | Jan. 23 | 6:15 pm | Ascension For the Unborn |
| Wednesday | Jan. 24 | 8:00am | St. Bernard Communion Service |
| Thursday | Jan. 25 | 8:00 am | St. Bernard Communion Service |
| Friday | Jan. 26 | 8:00 am | Ascension No Mass |
| Saturday | Jan. 27 | 5:00 pm | Ascension Mary K. Jean |
| Sunday | Jan. 28 | 8:00am | Ascension Mass of Reparation |
| Sunday | Jan. 28 | 10:00am | St. Bernard Bob & LaVonne Amst †† |

Readings for the week of January 21, 2024

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20 **Monday:** 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30 **Tuesday:** 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35 **Wednesday:** 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20 **Thursday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18 **Friday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34 **Saturday:** 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41 **Next Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28



We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. Whatever I want, I need only say it, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out.

How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming: “Repent!” We tend to think it means “stop doing bad things” but it doesn’t. It literally means “go beyond the mind you have.” Think in a new way. It’s painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, “I’m done lying,” and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that’s why at Mass we together proclaim, “I have sinned in my thoughts, and in my words...” Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn’t being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood, and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies.

— Father John Muir

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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. 22-Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; Jan. 23—St. Vincent; Jan. 24—St. Francis de Sales; Jan. 25-The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle; Jan. 26-Sts. Timothy and Titus; Jan. 27-St Angela Merici, BVM

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

January 21, 2024 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time