

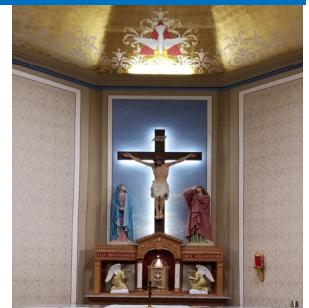
**CHURCH OF  
THE ASCENSION**  
323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

**PASTOR**

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



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

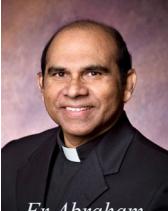


**Website:** [AscensionNYA.org](http://AscensionNYA.org)  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ....952-777-0110  
[busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**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

**Website:** [St-Bernard-Cologne.org](http://St-Bernard-Cologne.org)  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm  
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## The Epiphany of The Lord – January 6 & 7, 2024

### God's Glory, Revealed to All Nations



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Epiphany refers to God's Self-revelation as well as to the revelation of Jesus as His Son. On this feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate that God's glory has been revealed to all nations, and not just the chosen people of Israel.

*Fr. Abraham* The Gospel (Matthew. 2: 1-12) today is the story of the Magi from the East. The Magi are popularly referred to as wise men and kings. According to the tradition, their names were Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior. The Magi may actually have been Persian priests or Babylonian astronomers. However, they were pictured as representatives of different nationality, culture and races. They offered three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All three gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: *gold* as a symbol of *kingship of Jesus*, *frankincense* as a symbol of *priesthood*, and *myrrh* as a symbol of salvation through the suffering and *death of Jesus*.

St. Paul puts it so nicely. God had a plan, formed before all ages. And that plan is now revealed in Christ Jesus, the Gentiles, people from other religious and cultural backgrounds and nations, are now *co-heirs* with the Chosen people of Israel, members of one and the same body and sharers in the promise of God, through the proclamation of the good news. (Eph 3: 2-6)

Today's gospel also tells us the story of the magi's encounter with the King Herod. This encounter symbolizes three reactions to Jesus' birth: hatred, indifference, and adoration. The first group headed by Herod plans to *destroy Jesus*. King Herod considered Jesus a potential threat to his kingship. Later, the Scribes and Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus because he criticized them and tried to reform some of their practices. Today, many oppose Christ and his Church because of their selfish motives, evil ways and unjust lives.

The second group composed of priests and scribes, who *ignore Jesus*. The Scribes, Pharisees and the Jewish priests knew that there were nearly 500 prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures concerning the promised Messiah. They were able to tell the exact time and place of Jesus' birth. Unfortunately, they were more interested in their own selfish gains than in search of the truth. Hence, they refused to go and see the child Jesus, even though Bethlehem was quite close to Jerusalem.

The members of a third group are shepherds and the Magi who *adore Jesus* and offer themselves to Him. The shepherds offered the gifts they had: love, tears of joy, and probably woolen clothes and milk from their sheep. The Magi offered gold, frankincense and myrrh in recognition of Jesus as the king, priest and savior. Let us make sure that we belong to the third group by worshipping Jesus at the holy Mass with the gold of our love, the frankincense of our adoration and the myrrh of our humility. Let us offer ourselves, promising God that we will use His blessings by doing good to our fellow human beings. Jesus is the savior of the world.

I want to thank all of you who sent me greeting cards and gifts this Christmas season. Even though I can't thank each of you individually, please know that I appreciate your kindness and support. I also want to thank all of my brother priests who will be saying Mass here during my absence. Please welcome them and show them the wonderful hospitality. I will be leaving on January 7<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday Mass, to visit my family, especially my father who is sick in India. Please keep me in your prayers and for a safe journey. I keep you in my prayers.

**Rosary Intention:** "For the safety of Father Abraham as he travels to India"

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. BERNARD'S PARISHES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>		No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>ST. B. ASC. ASC.</b>	Quilting Group: 9am-12pm Adoration : 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan. 10</b>	<b>ST. B.</b>	No Mass –Communion Service Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan. 11</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	No Mass –Communion Service Prayers for Our Children: 5:30-6:30pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>		No Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 13</b>	<b>ASC. ASC.</b>	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>ASC. ST. B.</b>	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

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

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 and a Communion Service on Wednesday at St. Bernard. Please pray for safe travels for Fr. Abraham.

**Prayer Service for Life.**  
**Monday, January 22nd, 10:30am,**  
**Cathedral of Saint Paul.**

Please join us for the Annual Prayer Service for Life. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Saint John Paul II Champions for Life Awardees will be recognized during the prayer service. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage, Family and Youth at 651-291-4488.

#### **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.*

#### **Faith Formation Update:**

Many thanks to everyone who donated to our STBAFF Sponsorship program. We have surpassed our goal. We raised \$6880 from parishioners, a few local businesses, and organizations. This program helps us continue to offer families our fellowship meals, and it helps families that need financial assistance. Our young people have been busy recently, serving in our community. Our confirmation kids prepared a gift bag and visited residents at the Harbor and the Haven, and our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students made gift bags and Christmas cards that were delivered to Peace Villa. **THANK YOU** for your support and prayers

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

**Totals as of 12/24/2023**

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,924.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,545.00
Collections Budget YTD:	77,656.54
Actual Collection YTD:	<b>82,077.15</b>
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	<b>4,420.61</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	285.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	110.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	<b>10,748.00</b>

Sign up for electronic giving at [ascensionny.org](http://ascensionny.org)

Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more information: 952-467-3351.

### Ascension Collection Report

**Christmas**

Operating Budget	\$ 2,986.79
Envelopes/Plate:	3,967.00
Collections Budget YTD:	80,643.33
Actual Collection YTD:	<b>86,044.15</b>
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	<b>5,400.82</b>

**The Ascension Respect Life Group is once again collecting items for Birthright Center in Hutchinson. Baby items can be brought in and placed in front by Mary. Donations will be accepted through January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

After many dedicated years Tamera Lemmer will be stepping down as Adoration Coordinator. **Thank you Tamera** for making the presence of Jesus available to Ascension, all of these years.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,536.00
<b>Contributions 12-20-2023 through 12-27-2023</b>	<b>4,663.00</b>
Christmas Budget	12,295.00
<b>Christmas Contributions</b>	<b>10,929.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	109,592.79
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>15,447.68</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	510.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>610.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>11,953.52</b>

**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.

### 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

**9 Days for Life (January 16-24, 2024)** 9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. A copy of the novena can be found at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).

**During the months of January, February and March we will not distribute the Precious Blood at the Masses at Ascension or St. Bernard. We will resume the distribution in the month of April.**

## Mass Ministry Schedule—January 13 –14

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Hailey Stender & Payton Stender	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Daniel Worm & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Julie Gesinger	Brian Willems	Julie Kleindl
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Mulville (H); No Cup ministers needed	Jean Schmitz (H); No Cup ministers needed	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Justin Buckentin & Josh Gallus	Vern Elke & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Volunteer	Steve Coyle	Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Tim George & Steve Lemmer	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 8		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 9 6:15 pm	Ascension	For All Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	Jan. 10 8:00am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	Jan. 11 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 12 8:00 am	Ascension	No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 13 5:00 pm	Ascension	Alice Enright †
Sunday	Jan. 14 8:00am	Ascension	Tom & Marion Hoppe †
Sunday	Jan. 14 10:00am	St. Bernard	Richard Paul †

#### Readings for the week of January 7, 2024

**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

**Monday:** Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39 **Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45 **Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12 **Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17 **Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

**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@ascensionny.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. 8-The Baptism of the Lord;  
Jan. 13-St Hilary

### 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



**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

#### Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

*"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory."* — Isaiah 60:2 ©LPi