

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

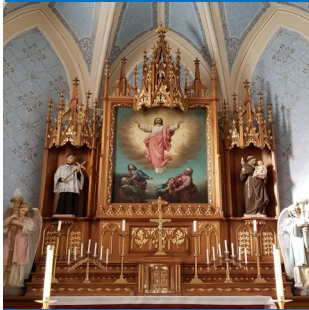
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

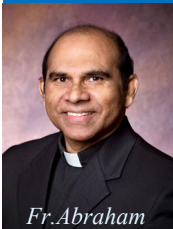


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Paris Office Hours:
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-856-1051
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – March 30 & 31, 2024



The Lord is Risen, Alleluia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Egyptian pyramids rank among the wonders of the ancient world. They are gigantic tombs containing the mummified bodies of Egyptian Pharaohs. These tombs are to the ancient Egyptians' aspirations to immortality. The ancient Egyptians are not alone in such aspirations. The desire to live forever lies deep in the human heart and every culture needs to give answer to it. The Christian hope for eternal life also looks to a tomb. There is a Shrine of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, and pilgrims from all over the world visit a tomb there which is empty with a note at its entrance which says, "He is not here." It is famous because Jesus Christ, who was once buried there, rose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb as he had told his disciples he would. The stone could not keep him in. Death could not defeat him. He has risen just as he said. We rejoice at this great and unique event by celebrating Easter.

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb of Jesus but did not find what she was looking for: the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: the risen Jesus. Some times, the things we think we want the most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God's new ways of working in us and in the world. That is the power of the resurrection. Today, we shall acknowledge that Jesus is indeed risen and he is with us always. Easter is a celebration of new life. The celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord is the sharing of our hope and joy in the new life of Christ.

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles. It proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain" (I Cor 15: 14). "Jesus is Lord, he is risen" (Rom 10: 9) was the central theme of the *kerygma* or preaching, of the apostles because Jesus prophesied it as a sign of his divinity: "Tear down this temple and in three days I will build it again" (Jn 2: 19). Our faith is deeply rooted and finds its real meaning in the resurrection of Jesus

Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. The belief in the real presence of the risen Jesus gives meaning to our life and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. Easter gives us the joyful message that we are a resurrection people. This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, despair, discouragement or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the resurrected Lord in all the events of our lives and in the midst of suffering, pain and burdens of our day-to-day life.

Jesus invites us to live and to share the power of his resurrection. Let us remember that each time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy and forgiveness, and each time we fight against evil, sin and death we are sharing in the resurrection of Jesus. The power of the Resurrection is open to us not only during Easter season, but also throughout the year. May the Risen Lord bless all of you with new life and happiness.

Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI Pastor

Rosary Intention: *That the Spirit of the Risen Christ be with us always.*

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	Apr. 1	ASC.	No Mass Prayer Group: 6:30-8:00pm
Tuesday	Apr. 2	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Apr. 3	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm
Thursday	Apr. 4	ST. B. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Prayers for Our Children: 5:00-6:00pm Prayer Group: 6:00-7:30pm
Friday	Apr. 5	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Apr. 6	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Apr. 7	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Bible Study: 9:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community



**The Office will be closed tomorrow.
We wish you all a very Blessed Easter.**

Catholic Rural Life 100th Anniversary Celebration Wednesday, May 8, 1:30 p.m., University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

Catholic Rural Life will gather members and friends from around the country for a day of celebration. The event will focus on celebrating, learning the rich history, and sharing plans about the future. Speakers Include: His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan (Archbishop of New York), Monsignor James Shea (President of University of Mary in Bismarck), Dr. Christopher Thompson (University of St. Thomas), Dr. James L. Nolan (Williams College). Learn more and register at catholic-rurallife.org/100-years

Widows of Joy – Morning Reflection – April 6, 2024 @ Holy Family, Silver Lake, MN

St. John Paul II Area Faith Community invites all widows to attend a Morning Reflection on finding hope & healing in loss through “Women in the Scriptures” with Fr. Matthew Wiering on Saturday, April, 6, 2024 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Silver Lake, MN. The gathering will begin with Registration at 8:00am & Mass at 8:30am, followed by fellowship, continental breakfast, the reflection talk, discussion, and fun! Registration is requested for meal planning. To register: 1) Call HT Parish @ 320-485-5651 Register by Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Questions? Contact Roxanne Felder @ 612-396-0727. Invite a widowed friend to join this gathering!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 3/17/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,878.00
Weekly E-Giving:	430.00
Collections Budget YTD:	116,484.81
Actual Collection YTD:	121,643.15
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	5,158.34
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	35.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	13,918.00

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

“Ascension Knights of Columbus scholarship for high school seniors are due April 15th. Forms are available at the Central High School counselor office or see Brian Willems.”

“**Please note** that the location for the 40 Bags-40 Items **Clothing Drive** drop off has changed. Bags may be dropped off outside the parish garage or in the office, Monday-Thursday between 9am-4pm. Drop off begins Tues., April 2nd and goes through Tues., April 22nd. We appreciate everyone who collected items for our Ascension and Faith Formation Fundraiser. – The Ascension Catholic United Foundation Council.”

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,028.84
Contributions 3-13 through 3-19-2024	3,506.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	160,479.34
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	28,519.73
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	255.00
Electronic Donations	881.00
Forward in Faith Total	1,136.00
Forward in Faith YTD	18,184.52

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,

Catholic United Scholarships

Catholic United Financial Scholarship application period is open from March 1 — April 30 of each year. Any member (any age) studying for their first degree after high school can apply. Applicants must have been a member for at least 2 years by the application deadline and when the scholarship is awarded. **Awards of \$500 for attending a Catholic college or \$300 for an accredited non-Catholic school.** Applications are available at: www.catholicunitedfinancial.org

Faith Formation Update:

Thank you to all who participated in the Living Stations! It was a beautiful service.

Please keep our 2nd Graders in your prayers as they prepare to make their First Confession this Saturday, April 6th. May God Bless them during this important month.

Mass Ministry Schedule—April 6 – 7

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Luca Hoen & Marshall Panning	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Dan Worm & Logan Pellegrino
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Brian Willems	Greg Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Monica Kooiman	Irene Yaeck	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Dick Arnst & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Leon & Kay Trout	Janet Fahey	Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
Monday	Apr. 1		No Mass
Tuesday	Apr. 2 6:15 pm	Ascension	Pope Francis
Wednesday	Apr. 3 8:00am	St. Bernard	Warren Kahnke †
Thursday	Apr. 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Edward J. Tellers Family †
Friday	Apr. 5 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Apr. 6 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Richard Paul † All Parishioners
Sunday	Apr. 7 8:00am	Ascension	Our Confirmation Students
Sunday	Apr. 7 10:00am	St. Bernard	The deceased members of the Bernard Mohrbacher family

Readings for the week of March 31, 2024
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 **Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15 **Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18 **Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35 **Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48 **Friday:** Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14 **Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15 **Next Sunday:** Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

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 brought to the Parish office at St. Bernard or Ascension. **These are due Thursday of the weekend needed.**

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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, “Oh my God!” Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our “cemeteries” where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— *Father John Muir*