

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

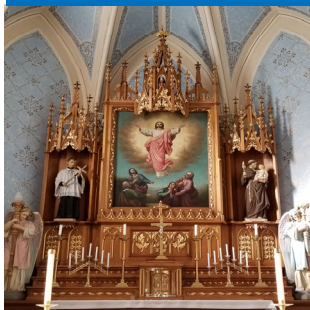
## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

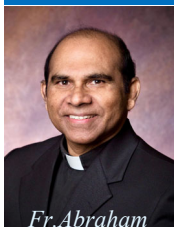


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



## Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday – April 6 & 7, 2024



Fr. Abraham

### Invitation to Celebrate and Practice Mercy

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The gospel for the second Sunday of Easter always presents the Doubting Thomas and his profession of Faith. Thomas in his uncompromising honesty demands a personal vision of the risen Jesus as a condition for his belief. Thomas had not been with the Apostles when Jesus first appeared to them. As a result, he refused to believe. When the Lord appeared to Thomas later, he made his great profession of faith, “My Lord and my God.” There is never a mention of Thomas touching Jesus’ wounds as he had said he needed to do. His encounter with the risen Lord was, apparently, sufficient to bring him to Faith. Thomas was able to overcome his doubts by seeing the risen Jesus.

Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday. It was named by Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. He described Divine Mercy Sunday in a special way. It is the Sunday of thanksgiving for all goodness that God has shown us in the whole Easter mystery. Through out his pontificate Saint John Paul II has spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

The message and the response of the Divine Mercy is not something new. In the past, God spoke a message of mercy through the Patriarchs and Prophets- through Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah and many others. In the last days God has spoken to us by His only Son, Jesus Christ, who is mercy personified and incarnated. God continues to speak the word of mercy to our generation, through the Church and its shepherds and through holy men and women whom God has chosen as His instruments.

In our century, he revealed himself to St. Faustina, a simple and holy nun in Poland during 1930s. He called her to be the apostle of mercy. Jesus appeared to her with rays of red and pale light streaming from the area of his heart, His hand was raised in blessings, recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night. He asked her to have this vision painted along with the word, “Jesus I trust you.”

We read in this weekend gospel (John 20:19-31) that Jesus institutes the sacrament of Reconciliation, one of the greatest Sacrament of Mercy. One way the Church celebrates God’s mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. We radiate God’s mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God’s merciful judgment.

**First Reconciliation:** We pray for all children who are receiving Divine Mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on this weekend. May the Lord grant them his mercy and love.

**Rosary Intention:** For all the children celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Apr. 8</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>No Mass Prayer Group:</b> 6:30-8:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Apr. 9</b>	<b>ASC. ASC. ASC.</b>	<b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm <b>Confession:</b> 5:45-6:05pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Apr.10</b>	<b>ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 7:30-7:50am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2:00-6:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Apr.11</b>	<b>ST.B. ASC. ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Prayers for Our Children:</b> 5:00-6:00pm <b>Prayer Group:</b> 6:00-7:30pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Apr.12</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Apr.13</b>	<b>ASC. ASC.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Apr.14</b>	<b>ASC. ASC. ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Bible Study:</b> 9:00am <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

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

**Stay in the know: Get The Catholic Spirit — for free!** Be in-the know with news from your Catholic community and the Church around the world. Get The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning newspaper of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, in your home. We have a number of free subscriptions for parishioners available at each parish. Contact the parish office at 952-467-3351 to be added to the mailing list.

**If you had your picture taken for the new joint Parish Directory and have not received your new directory, please contact the parish office at 952-467-3351 or stop by during office hours to receive one!**

**Reminder to drop off your 40 items for Lent just inside the door of the trailer in the Church parking lot! Hours are daily 7am-6pm, now through April 22nd.**

**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 [catholicrurallife.org/100-years](http://catholicrurallife.org/100-years)

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 3/24/2024

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,986.79
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	2,395.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	1,405.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	119,471.60
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>125,443.15</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>5,971.58</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	90.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	75.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>14,083.00</b>

**Sign up** for electronic giving at [ascensionnva.org](http://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.”

**Last Ascension KC Bingo for this Spring will be Sunday, April 21st starting at 1pm! Come out for this final afternoon of fun and fellowship. Cost per card is \$6 with a \$100 coverall for the final game.**

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,028.84
<b>Contributions 3-20 through 3-26-2024</b>	<b>1,633.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	162,112.34
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>27,123.89</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	150.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>18,334.52</b>
<b>Global Solidarity Collection Total</b>	<b>435.00</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,

### 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](http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org)

### Faith Formation Update:

Confirmation Updates—We have 12 young people preparing for the sacrament of confirmation this year. They will have their confirmation dinner, with their sponsor and parents on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ascension Social Hall. We spend time preparing for the special day and enjoy a beautiful night of fellowship and sharing. Many thanks to the Ascension Catholic United group, as they handle dinner details. The celebration of the sacrament will be at the Basilica of St. Mary on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Keep the young people in your prayers.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—April 13 – 14

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Alex Urness & Bryce Urness	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Luke Allison & Lexy Allison
Reader	Volunteer	Brian Willems	Sarah Foley
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Johnson (H); Curt Wilson (C) Jean Schmitz (C)	Steve Helget (H); Steve Lemmer (C); Lisa Whitaker (C)	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Jim Mulville & Steve Schrupp	Tom Lano & Don Whitaker	Kieran Allison & Brian Vos
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Justin & Amy Buckentin	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim George & Steve Helget	

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
Monday	Apr. 8		No Mass
Tuesday	Apr. 9 6:15 pm	Ascension	All Parishioners
Wednesday	Apr. 10 8:00am	St. Bernard	Margaret Eiden † & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Fam.
Thursday	Apr. 11 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Harriet Meuleners †
Friday	Apr. 12 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Apr. 13 5:00 pm	Ascension	Ben Vanderlinde †
Sunday	Apr. 14 8:00am	Ascension	Tom and Marion Hoppe ††
Sunday	Apr. 14 10:00am	St. Bernard	Robert G. Fritz †

### 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.

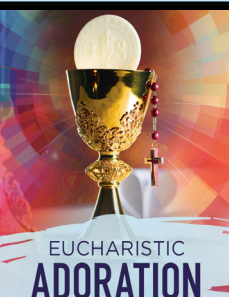
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Ascension: Tues. 5:45pm - 6:05pm  
St. Bernard: Wed: 7:30am-7:50am  
Saturday: 4:30pm—4:50pm  
at parish hosting the Mass  
By appointment with Father- Call 952-856-1050

**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.

**Readings for the week of April 7, 2024**  
**Sunday:** Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31  
**Monday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/ Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15  
**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21  
**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36  
**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21  
**Next Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

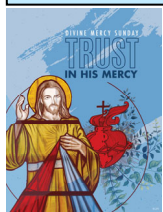
**Bulletin copy is due by Thursdays @ NOON for the bulletin two weekends out;**  
**St. Bernard** copy must be emailed to: bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org and pquinn55322@hotmail.com  
**Ascension** copy must be emailed to: busadmin@ascensionnya.org.  
**All inserts and weekend Mass announcements** can be emailed or brought to the Parish office at St. Bernard or Ascension. **These are due Thursday of the weekend needed.**



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Ascension  
 Every Tuesday  
 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard  
 Every Wednesday  
 2:00 until 6:00 pm



April 7, 2024

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope's chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, "Holy Father, why do *you* get that special chair?" The group chuckled nervously at my friend's audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, "What do you think of my chair now?" My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person. But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled — and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires.

— Father John Muir

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