

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



323 Reform St. North
Norwood Young America, MN 55368

Contact Information

Fr. Martin Shallbetter, Pastor
Fr. Paul Ardolf, Sacramental Minister
Rectory & Parish Office ... 467-3351
Website www.ascensionny.org
Parish Email:
ascensionny@embarqmail.com

Trustees

Gary Widmer467-3082
Tim Fahey 467-6478

Parish Council Chairperson

John (Jack) Lano 467-3765

Faith Formation Office....467-3548

DRE for 6th—10th Grades

Julie Kleindl.....442-5803

DRE for Pre-K-5th Grades

Kara Wickenhauser 466-4719

Prayer Chain

Carol Donnay467-2183
Lucy Kostecka467-2576

Adoration Coordinator

Rose Flaig 467-2678

Music Liturgy

Marilee Widmer 467-3082

Social Hall Bookings

Frances Kramer 467-2275

Catholic United Financial

Dennis Stoks 467-2298

Knights of Columbus -

Grand Knight

Mike Worm 466-2115

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:

By appointment.

Marriage Arrangements

Must be made with the priest at least six months before the proposed marriage date.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Ascension—Sat. 3:00—4:00 p.m.
7:30—8:15 p.m.

St. Bernard —Mon. & Fri. 8:30 a.m.
Sat. 9:00 p.m.

Additionally by appointment.

Communion for Homebound

Call parish office.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

SHARED MINISTERIES

Bible Study Coordinators

Frances Kramer.....467-2275
Sue Bigaouette.....466-5688

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Joint Bulletin published weekly at:

www.ascensionny.org &
www.st-bernard-cologne.org

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 25 -Dec. 31, 2011

12/25 The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas: Is 9:1-6 * Ps 96:1-2,2-3,11-12,13 * Ti 2:11-14 * Lk 2:1-14.

12/26 St. Stephen: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 * Ps 31:3-4,6,8,16-17 * Mt 10:17-22.

12/27 St. John: 1 Jn 1:1-4 * Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 * Jn 20:1a,2-8.

12/28 The Holy Innocents: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 * Ps 124:2-3,4-5,7-8 * Mt 2:13-18.

12/29:(St Thomas Becket) 1 Jn 2:3-11 * Ps 96:1-2,2-3,5-6 * Lk 2:22-35.

12/30 The Holy Family: Sir 3:2-6,12-14 or Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3 * Ps 128:1-2,3,4,5 or Ps 105:1-2,3-4,6-7,8-9 * Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19 * Lk 2:22-40.

12/31(St. Sylvester: 1 Jn 2:18-21 * Ps 96:1-2,11-12,13 * Jn 1:1-18. Copyright 2011 by Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

“THE WORD IS MADE FLESH”

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH & SCHOOL



212 Church St. East
Cologne, MN 55322

Contact Information

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Sr. Jancy Nedumkallel, Principal
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Bookkeeper E-mail:
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Bulletin E-mail:
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School - Pre K—6th Grade ... 466-5917
School Information E-mail:
schoolinfo@st-bernard-cologne.org
Website ... www.st-bernard-cologne.org
Convent 466-5620

Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Wed.
8:30 am -11:30 am & Fri. 9:00-11:30 am

Trustees

Leonard Hoen 466-2088
Andrew Kleindl.....442-5803

Finance Council Chairperson

Parish Council Chairperson

Carol Symanitz..... 466-3330

School Advisory

Council Chairperson

Casey Jones.....952-368-4903

Faith Formation Coordinator

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Ladies Guild President

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Prayer Chain

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Adoration Coordinator

Helen Nicklaus 466-2000
Barb Wickenhauser.....466-3365

Catholic United Financial

Helen Hilgers 466-5557

From
the
Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas We are embracing the wonderful new season of Christmas. As we look upon the manger scene and reflect on the humble beginning of the baby Jesus and the Holy Family, we stand in awe of what lies ahead for them and us. Children are wonderful as they are spontaneous in their delight when they look at the scene. We are invited to muster our own state of awe and wonder as we move into this new season and New Year. We see the embracing mystery of God in the person of Jesus and as we celebrate the Mass, we are reminded it is the mystery we gather to celebrate. A mystery to be discovered for each of us. We can lose site of this as we take Christmas for granted as another year has come and gone. It is so important for us to take time to be present to the event and the event in our lives as we continue to be ready and able to say yes to the lord, as Mary did. The Christmas programs were wonderful and thanks to all the leaders teaming up with the parents and teachers to bring joy to our lives.

Everyone in both parishes are doing so well responding with the new English wording created by the recently published Roman Missal. We are staying focused and using the cards and booklets and staying alert with the readings and responses. Thanks for your cooperation.

Fr. Martin Shallbetter

To trust in God's timing for our passing into eternity requires courage, humility, and sometimes great spiritual strength. This final state of life, when we focus our attention on the things that really count, can be a time of deep reflection of forgiveness and reconciliation within the family, and of finding peace in one's relationship with God.

- "Life Matters; To the End of Our Days," Respect Life Program
2011-2012

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Imagine, this day with no child in the manger, Christmas trees, presents, or fancy dinner. How would *you* celebrate? For three hundred years after Jesus' time, Christians did not mark Jesus' birth. Eventually the church settled Christmas on December 25. This became a big festival in the Middle Ages. Later, Puritans suppressed it as pagan and popish. By the mid-nineteenth century Charles Dickens' story *A Christmas Carol* revived Christmas with a family emphasis, not a religious one. In one of today's readings, Saint Paul gets to the heart of this day: "When



the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). Now *that* is cause for celebration!



**CALENDAR FOR
ASCENSION AND
ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

**DECEMBER 25TH -
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

December. 23-January 2 - At St. Bernard's School - Christmas Vacation.

DECEMBER 31, 2011-AT. ST. BERNARD'S— SATURDAY EVENING MASS WILL BE AT 4:00 P.M. - NOT 8:00 P.M. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD. THIS CHANGE IN MASS TIME IS ONLY FOR DECEMBER 31ST, 2011. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS CHANGE !

Jan. 2; 7pm.-At. St. Bernard's Liturgy Committee Meeting in the St. Anne's room of the church.

Jan. 3-At. St. Bernard's-Eucharistic Adoration after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 6:00 p.m.

Jan 5-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please consider spending some time in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will benefit yourself, the church and the world.

Jan. 7, 2012-The Catholic Single Adults Club of the Twin Cities invites all singles Catholics, 21 and older to join us Saturday Jan. 7, 2012 for our annual Christmas dinner and dance. Social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 pm, dancing begins at 8:00 pm. The cost for dinner and dancing is \$20; dance only is \$10. Dinner reservations for delicious buffet style meal are required by Tuesday, December 27th. No reservation is required for dance only participants. For reservation information please call Carl at 651-603-1142

Jan 9- At. St. Bernard's at 6:30 p.m. School Advisory Committee meeting in the school cafeteria.

Monday, January 9, 2012 at Fairview Oxboro Clinic, Bloomington --Natural Family Planning Classes

Saturday, January 14, 2012 at U of M Medical Center-Fairview, Mpls.— Natural Family Planning Classes Modern Natural Family Planning is based on comprehensive scientific research and is healthy and marriage building! If you are looking to enhance your married life, register for this series of classes taught by a qualified instructor. To register or for more information, please call the Twin Cities Fertility Care at 651-232-3088 or register on-line at www.tcnfp.org.

"Who can be afraid of a Baby?"

Fr. Rich Simon ponders this in his brief audio reflection for Christmas — and we'd like you to have a free copy.

Go to www.relevantradio.com and type keyword "baby" to listen or download.

May your Holy Seasons be truly bright!
Saint Paul-Minneapolis 1330AM

Weekly Collections

The collection information for December 24 and 25 will be published in the next bulletin due to early bulletin deadlines.

Bring your Gifts for the Baby Jesus

Birthright helps mothers who are uncertain about their pregnancies. It gives them someone who will listen and will stick with them when times are difficult. Birthright volunteers provide rides to medical appointments, maternity and baby clothes, furniture, and assistance in seeking out the best in medical and financial aid. Your "Gifts for the Baby Jesus" will be donated to Birthright. This may be clothing, blankets, or other things that are used by a baby or its mother. Money is also welcome. Make checks out to "Birthright of Waconia." Gifts may be placed by Mary's altar or around the crib at Christmas.

Mary's Wish of Waconia would like to thank everyone who donated coats and blankets during the collection by the Central Sunshiners 4-H Club. The generosity of your parishioners will bring much needed warmth to those in need.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats— For post-abortion healing

As God's people, we cannot look the other way. This is not a political issue; it is a physical and spiritual health issue. Women and men alike are suffering from abortion decisions in isolation, hoping among their church friends that they seem to be okay. Let us be supportive and spread the information in this notice that there are resources of compassion that offer hope for healing.

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions and can begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

Rachel's Vineyard is therapy for the soul. Participants, who have been trapped in anger toward themselves or others experience forgiveness. Peace is found. Lives begin restoration. A sense of hope and meaning for the future are finally rediscovered.

For the dates and location of retreats around the country visit www.rachelsvineyard.org For information about retreats in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area contact Debbi Stocco, coordinator of Rachel's Vineyard of St. Paul , 952-928-1697 (day) or 651-206-8926 (evening).

Natural Family Planning Classes

Modern Natural Family Planning is based on comprehensive scientific research and is healthy and marriage building! If you are looking to enhance your married life, a series of classes taught by a qualified instructor will begin on:

- Monday, January 9, 2012 at Fairview Oxboro Clinic, Bloomington
- Saturday, January 14, 2012 at U of M Medical Center-Fairview, Mpls

To register or for more information, please call the Twin Cities Fertility Care at 651-232-3088 or register on-line at www.tcnfp.org. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, call 651-291-4489 or visit www.archspm.org/family

School



St. Bernard's School Advisory Committee met Dec. 12th, at 6:30 p.m. In attendance: Fr. Martin, Sr. Jancy, Carol Symanitz, Casey Jones, Pam Kunkel, Jennifer Raether, Margaret Wickenhauser. The meeting opened with prayer. Winter Carnival items discussed included: volunteers for gift pick up, list updates, license applications, work preference sheet, early returns on Big Ticket - prizes for early returns will be free turkey dinners. The School Advisory Committee constitution to be updated by the January meeting. School Report received from Sr. Jancy. Due to life changes, enrollment is now 63 students. Monthly Budget report received, reviewed. An increase of \$50.00 in the 2012-2013 tuition was passed. Busing from NYA, and Chaska being addressed by Sr. Jancy and the busing representatives. Candy sale money is due Dec. 14th. Extra candy available for sale. School grounds sign completed. St. Nick's Dinner, Auction, and Entertainment income was \$3813.13. Archdiocese Marketing Plan meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, Sr. Jancy and two parents to attend. Preparations in process to celebrate Catholic Schools at Ascension parish at the 8:00 a.m. mass on January 22. Meeting closed. Respectfully submitted, School Advisory Committee secretary, Margaret Wickenhauser

Eucharistic Adoration Tuesday, January 3rd from after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 6:00 p.m. Its hard for some of the regular adorers to make it to Adoration in the cold weather so we could use a few more people to sign up for adoration so that we know someone is with the Eucharist at all times. Please sign up at the scrip table for a hour or half hour until all the time periods are filled. Many blessings to all those to take time from their busy days to spend time with Jesus. He is never too busy to listen to us.

Merry Christmas! This calendar year is quickly coming to a close. As you review your charitable contributions for 2011, please remember that any contributions received in the office or postmarked by 12/31/2011, or any offering envelopes put in the collection basket on Saturday evening Mass on December 31st will be counted as contributions for 2011. Any funds received on Sunday, January 1st will be contributions for 2012. Through **your generosity**, we fulfill our mission as a parish. **Thank you and God bless you.**

Living Stewardship Now

Christmas in the Church's calendar is a *season* that starts on Christmas Day and continues until the Baptism of the Lord on the first Sunday after January 6. Try extending your celebration through that time, with small gifts and good deeds of your choosing.

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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Due to the early deadline for this bulletin, the stewardship of treasure will be reported in next week's bulletin. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

STEWARSHIP OF TIME

December 26 Through January 1

SERVERS:

Saturday 5:00 pm: Curtis Urness, Emma Dettmann
Sunday 8:00 am: Kimberly George, Rebecca Padilla
Sunday 10:00 am: Dan & David Whitaker

LECTORS:

Saturday 5:00 pm: Julie Pieper
Sunday 8:00 am: Joe Weckman
Sunday 10:00 am: David Becker

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

Saturday 5:00 pm: Pam Stoks, Pat Johnson, Monica Dertinger
Sunday 8:00 am: Lucy Kostecka, Deb Stacken, Irene Yaeck
Sunday 10:00 am: Amy Gallus, Sue Tellers, Lisa Whitaker

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:

December 25: Pat Hegseth
January 1: Ann Fitz

USHERS FOR JANUARY:

Saturday 5:00 pm Kevin Raether, Jim Louwagie
Sunday 8:00 am Jim Dvorak, Gary Widmer
Sunday 10:00 am Paul Lano, Justine Buckentin

GREETERS:

Saturday 5:00 pm Ann Dettmann
Sunday 8:00 am J Jim Braunwarth
Sunday 10:00 am Julia Little

ADORATION:

Thursdays from 8:00 am-8:00 pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday		Homeless
	10:00	Parish
Monday		Dorothy Hally †
Tuesday		Dick Lano †
Wednesday		Rick McCabe †
Thursday		Emma Gust †
Friday		Margaret O'Reilly †
Saturday		Poor Souls
	5:00 pm	Donaver Schrupp †
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr. Jerry Fenton †
	10:00 am	Parish

MASS TIMES

Weekdays—7:15 am
December 31 5:00 pm
January 1-8:00 & 10:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00-4:00 pm

*Today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord.*