

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

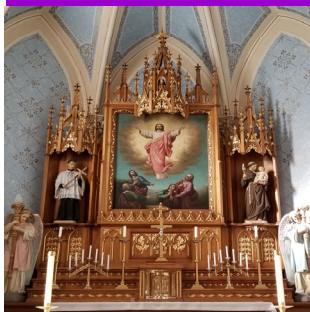
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org

Parish Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-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

Parish Office Hours:

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

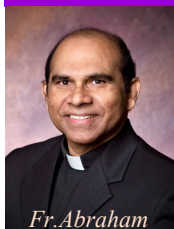
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21 & 22, 2024



Fr. Abraham

Share the Spirit of Service and Faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, Our Gospel reading (Lk 1:39-45) recounts Mary's actions after the angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Mary hurries to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is miraculously pregnant in her old age. This highlights Mary's sensitivity to Elizabeth's needs. Upon hearing Mary's greeting, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and praises Mary for bearing the Lord. Even John the Baptist, in his mother's womb, recognizes the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

Both women recall and reflect on God's history of favor toward the people of Israel.

This passage also teaches us about the importance of mutual ministry. Each of us has a unique calling in God's plan. Mary brought the Savior into the world, John recognized and identified Him, and Elizabeth prophesied, interpreting God's word in the moment. The Visitation is a meeting of joy and faith. As Elizabeth praised Mary for her faith, I am sure that Mary also complimented her cousin's faith.

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, and their sharing of faith, deeply relates to the future work of John and Jesus in bringing salvation. John and Jesus remained faithful to their mission, even unto death - most certainly inheriting much of that faith from their mothers. Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith with their children. How have we shared our faith with our children?

In this Advent Season, it is fitting to reflect on Mary's role in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple - one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith allowed her to recognize God's work in both her people's history and her own life. Her openness to God allowed Him to work through her, bringing salvation to the world. Because of this, Mary serves as both a model and a symbol of the Church. May we, like Mary, be open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Christmas is the celebration of God's love shared with us through the birth of Jesus Christ. As our Savior, Jesus brought the "Good News" that God is loving, forgiving, merciful, and generous. Through His life, teachings, and sacrifice, He demonstrated how deeply God loves us, forgives us, and provides for us. Christmas serves as a reminder that it is our Christian duty to share that same love with others. Every time we do so, Jesus is reborn in our lives.

In a world filled with suffering, sickness, poverty, unhappiness, and a lack of peace, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. We may wonder, "What can I do in such situations?" While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. Every small act of kindness, every moment of compassion, and every effort to help someone in need can bring hope and healing. Through these actions, we share God's love and make a difference, reflecting the true spirit of Christmas in our lives.

Merry Christmas

December 27th is the 33rd Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. Please keep me in your prayers. You are in my prayers and thoughts.

Rosary Intentions: 'Christmas Blessings of Love, Joy and Peace to All'.

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

Monday	Dec. 23		No Mass:
Tuesday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec. 24	ASC. ST. B.	Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass: 6:30pm *No Adoration at Ascension*
Wednesday Christmas	Dec. 25	ASC. ST. B.	Christmas Mass: 8:00am Christmas Mass: 10:00am *No Adoration at St. Bernard*
Thursday	Dec. 26		No Mass:
Friday	Dec. 27	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Dec. 28	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Dec. 29	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community



Christmas Eve Mass:
Ascension— 4:00pm
St. Bernard— 6:30pm

Christmas Mass:
Ascension— 8:00am
St. Bernard— 10:00am

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Mass Schedule: Ascension- December 31st 6:15pm
St. Bernard— January 1st 8:00am

There will be no Mass on Thursday December 6th.
There will be no Adoration at Ascension or St. Bernard on December 24th and 25th and December 31st and January 1st.

The Parish Office will be closed on December 24th, 25th and January 1st.

On Monday December 23rd the Parish Office will be open 8am-9:45am at Ascension and 10am-12pm at St. Bernard.

Tuesday December 31st the Parish Office at St. Bernard will open 10am-Noon. The Ascension Office will not be open on Tuesday December 31st.

Faith Formation Update:

We are once again asking for your generous support and participation in our STBAFF Sponsorship program. Your support helps us to continue many of our extra activities that give back to both the community and our Faith Formation students. The Forms can be found in the back of both churches and can be returned to either Kara or Julie, or the Ascension Parish Office. Thank you for your continued generous support of STBAFF.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/08/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,772.00
Weekly E-Giving:	715.00
Collections Budget YTD:	71,344.16
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 69,732.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(1,611.76)
Capital Improvement Offering:	20.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	125.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 5,835.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of the Ascension. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer for the third week of Advent

Prayer with St. John the Baptist

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community.

Amen. ©LPi

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,364.60
Contributions 12-04 through 12-10-2024	2,865.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	74,910.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(863.97)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	150.00
Electronic Donations	151.00
Forward in Faith Total	301.00
Forward in Faith YTD	8,537.50
Retirement for Religious	476.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of St. Bernard. Thank you for your generosity!

Welcome *Kayson Michael Swanson*, to St. Bernard Parish Community. Baptized December 8th. Son of Timothy & Megan Swanson. Pray for *Kayson Michael* and his family.

Thank you—To all who donated food or Money for the Thanksgiving food collection. 262 pounds of food was taken to the Bountiful Baskets Food Shelf in Cologne. \$128.00 Cash was also collected and donated to the food shelf. Thank You

Word of Life—“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 24 & 29

Mass Ministry	Ascension Xmass Eve Sun. 4pm	St. Bernard Xmass Eve. 6:30pm	Ascension Xmass Day Mon. 8:00am	St. Bernard Xmass Mon. 10:00am	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun 10:00 am
Sacristan	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn	Volunteer	Patricia Quinn	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Payton & Hailey Stender	Ava Hanson & Logan Pellegrino	Volunteers	Lexy Allison & Luke Alison	Jack Lano	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Brooklyn Hoen Buckley Jones
Reader	Cheryl Coyle	Roger Storms	Jean Schmitz	Mary Sue Thaumert	Colleen Donnay	Brian Willems	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Steve Helget & Volunteer	Bernie Shambour & Margaret Wickenhauser	Lisa Whitaker	Sarah Foley	Jean Schmitz	Pat Johnson	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Steve Coyle & Josh Gallus	Tom Dahl & Volunteer	Tim George & Don Whitaker	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems	Jim Mulville & Curt Wilson	Eugene Dvorak & Richard Tellers	Tom Dahl & Leo Willems
Greeters	Volunteer	Monica Kooiman	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Brian Vos	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
HB Minister	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Dec. 23		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Ascension	For Pope Francis
Tuesday	Dec. 24 6:30 pm	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
Wednesday	Dec. 25 8:00 am	Ascension	Donna Meuleners †
Wednesday	Dec. 25 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Jim Willems † & Helen Schwartz †
Thursday	Dec. 26		No Mass
Friday	Dec. 27 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Dec. 28 5:00 pm	Ascension	Allan Schmitt †
Sunday	Dec. 29 8:00 am	Ascension	Edward Witte †
Sunday	Dec. 29 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Gilbert Rademacher †

Readings for the week of Dec. 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 **Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23 24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 **Tuesday: Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79 **Wednesday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 **Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22 **Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18 **Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

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

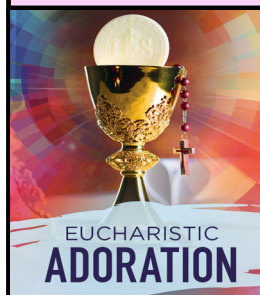
Communion for Homebound

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

CHRISTMAS GIFTS —WHY DO WE DO THAT? —CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer: Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all. ©LPi