

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

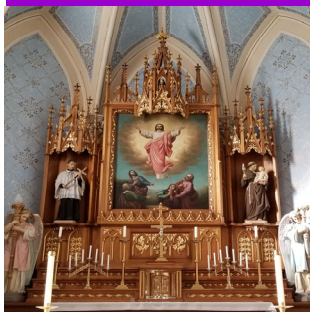
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PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



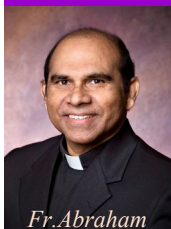
Website: www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org

Parish Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
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Parish Office Hours:
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
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First Sunday of Advent – November 30 & December 1, 2024



Fr. Abraham

Understanding the Holy Mass -11

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

IV. The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: The Communion rite begins with the prayer, "Our Father." Jesus taught the prayer "Our Father..." when the disciples asked him how to pray. It is recorded in both the gospel of Matthew and Luke. This prayer is called a summary of the whole gospel. It has been used in the Mass throughout the centuries. Each celebration of the Mass is an intense time of praying for the coming of the Lord's kingdom on earth. We pray it, at the Savior's command.

What is it that the phrase "we *dare* to say?" Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. So, Jesus called God "my father." We are adopted children of God through baptism in Christ, and so we can call God our Father in a relationship with him. Even though, we are unworthy to call God, our Father, Jesus has made it possible for us. So, we take courage to call God, our Father. It is the greatest privilege for us. We have to make a conscious effort to pray the "Our Father" with the understanding of the great meaning of it. The prayer "Our Father" prepares us for Communion.

Peace: After the Lord's Prayer, the priest prays for peace and unity. The Risen Lord always greeted his disciples with peace. Jesus said to his Apostles, "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you." (John 14:27). Here, the kind of peace Jesus offers is "not as the world offers." The peace envisioned here is more than an absence of suffering or hostility or war in the world. The peace that Jesus gives us is something profoundly personal and spiritual. When we entrust our lives to the Lord and follow His will, we discover a deep inner peace. We are praying for this kind of peace in the Mass.

The Sign of peace: The priest, then greets the people with words of peace that recall St. Paul's greeting of peace found in his letters (Rom 1:7; I Cor 1:3; Gal 1:3) and he asks them to offer one another a sign of peace. The sign of peace anticipates the profound unity the people will share with each other when they receive the Holy Communion. It also reminds us of our need to be reconciled with one another to receive the Holy Communion. Being in communion with the Lord means that we are at peace with one another. It recalls the words of Jesus: "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5:23-24). Jesus made such peace a precondition to receive the Holy Communion.

The Lamb of God: There are three rituals in this part of the Mass: *Breaking of the bread, Mingling of the Body and Blood of Christ*, and the recitation of the "*Lamb of God*" prayer. **The Breaking of the Bread** was the tradition of the ancient Jews. The head of the family took bread, said a blessing, and shared with the members. At the Last Supper, Jesus took the bread, broke it, blessed it and gave to his Apostle. When the priest breaks the Eucharistic host in the Mass, it brings to mind Jesus' sacrifice and the institution of the Eucharist

The Advent Season is about preparing for the comings of Jesus. On the First Sunday of Advent, Jesus tells us be vigilant and **beware that our hearts do not become drowsy**. During this Advent season, let us prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus into our life, through intensive prayers, works of charity and the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. **Have a blessed Advent Season.**

Rosary Intension: 'That all the hungry, homeless and oppressed receive the help they need.'

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. 2		No Mass:
Tuesday	Dec. 3	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Dec. 4	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
Thursday	Dec. 5	ST. B.	Mass: 9:00am
Friday	Dec. 6	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Dec. 7	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Dec. 8	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Christmas Flower Donation is now available online through E-Giving. Remember to include your In Memorial Of names!

The Advent Word Among Us is available to be picked up at both Parishes. This is a wonderful booklet to add to your Advent devotions in preparation for Christmas. These are free, so please pick one up today!



Advent Reconciliation Services

- December 4 at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's in Waverly
- December 8 at 4:00 pm at Guardian Angels in Chaska
- December 10 from 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm at Our Lady of the Lake in Mound
- December 11 from 6:30 pm at St. Bernard's in Cologne
- December 14 from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm & 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm at St. Mark's Church in Shakopee
- December 19 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Hubert's in Chanhassen
- December 22 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at St. Joseph in Waconia

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 11/17/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,264.00
Weekly E-Giving:	815.00
Collections Budget YTD:	62,038.40
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 59,953.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(2,085.00)
Capital Improvement Offering:	110.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 4,675.00



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!

We still have a few week day Mass Intentions open for December at Ascension! We also have many open dates for 2025. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to have a Mass said in December, or have a special day in 2025 you would like to have an intention said.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,485.58
Contributions 11-13 through 11-19-2024	4,382.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	60,108.25
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(5,461.27)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	100.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	200.00
Forward in Faith YTD	7,578.00
Campaign for Human Development	770.00



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Widows of Joy – December 7, 2024 @ 8:30am

Are you looking for a place to meet other widows who have lost their beloved husbands? St. John Paul II Area Faith Community invites all recent and long-time widows to attend Widows of Joy on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at The Church of the Holy Trinity in Winsted, MN. The gathering will begin with Mass at 8:30am, followed by fellowship, homemade breakfast, and celebrating Christmas with joy-filled activities! To register: Call HT Parish @ 320-485-5631 by Thursday, December 5, 2024. Questions? Contact Roxanne Felder @ 612-396-0727. Invite a widowed friend to join our next gathering!

Word of Life - "The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 7 to 8

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Doris Mielke
Servers	Brooklynn Hoen & Luca Hoen	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison
Reader	Mary Sue Thaumert	Cheryl Coyle	Sarah Foley
Eucharistic Ministers	Margaret Wickenhauser	Steve Lemmer	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Justin Buckentin & Tim George	Leonard Hoen Jr. & Brian Vos
Greeters	Roger Storms	Steve Coyle	Victoria Amst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Dec. 2		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 3 6:15 pm	Ascension	For the Dying
Wednesday	Dec. 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Fr. Gerald Keefe †
Thursday	Dec. 5 9:00 am	St. Bernard	Ben & Sue Shamla Family
Friday	Dec. 6 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Dec. 7 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Eugene & Margaret Willems †† And All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 8 8:00 am	Ascension	For Pope Francis
Sunday	Dec. 8 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Jenny Dahl †

Readings for the week of Dec. 1, 2024
Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 **Monday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11 **Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24 **Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37 **Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27 **Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31 **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 **Next Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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 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.

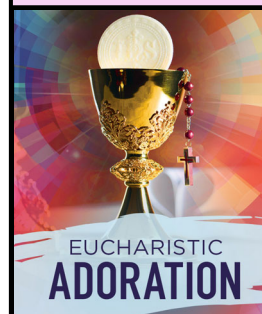
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



December 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent



When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, “Don’t be afraid.” She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, “Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen.” A few days later she died.

Christians face the ending of our personal various “worlds” in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves “**fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world**” (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to “**look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**” He then compares what’s coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That’s what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity? Maybe you’re troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere. Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds. Then pray: “Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming.”

— Father John Muir

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