

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

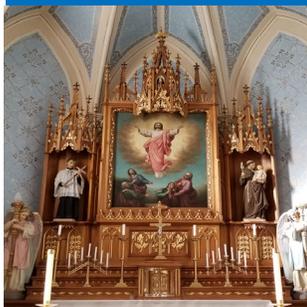
PASTOR

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:

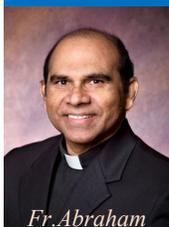
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Epiphany Of The Lord – January 4 & 5, 2025

The Manifestation of Christ



Fr. Abraham

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The word epiphany comes from Greek, meaning, “manifestation” or “revelation. On this feast of Epiphany, we celebrate the manifestation of Christ in the world in a unique way. The feast of Epiphany is the mystery of the Lord’s manifestation to all peoples, represented by the Magi. In Matthew’s Gospel, we read how the Magi saw a star and interpreted it as a sign that the long-awaited King of the Jews had been born. They set out from their own country to find this newborn King. After meeting with Herod, the Magi followed the star to the place where Jesus was born. Overjoyed at the sight of the star, they entered the stable, saw the Child, and offered Him homage.

The gifts they brought symbolize the mission entrusted to Jesus by God the Father: gold, acknowledging His universal kingship; frankincense, acknowledging His divinity; and myrrh, acknowledging His humanity. While the religious and political leaders of Israel missed this revelation, the Wise Men from the East discovered it in an unlikely place—in the poorest and most humble of circumstances. These wise men left their comfortable lives to seek Jesus. The journey they undertook was both physical and spiritual. It was neither easy nor free from danger, but guided by the star. They left their familiar settings and comfort zones, recognizing God’s presence in places smaller, more humble, and more intimate than what the world often values.

Writers through the ages have seen the Magi's journey as a symbol of conversion and the journey of faith that each of us is called to undertake. Christ Jesus comes to us each Mass in the humility of the Eucharist. Like the Magi, let us worship our Eucharistic Lord, not offering gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but offering our hearts in praise, thanksgiving, and adoration—the most precious gifts in God's sight.

After worshipping Jesus, the Magi returned home by a different way, signifying that they were changed. Our worship and adoration of the Lord can also lead us to conversion and a transformation of heart. The heavenly light that guided the Magi still shines in the Gospel and continues to guide us along our pilgrim way. This great feast reminds us that every person of faith has been entrusted with that same light. We are called to carry it into the dark places of the world through our prayer, words, and acts of charity.

Like the Magi, let us be alert to finding the light of Christ in the most hidden, unlikely, and neglected situations. Let us remember that the Lord chose to be born not in a palace, but in a stable. The Wise Men were not disappointed by the simplicity and poverty of the Messiah’s birthplace. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes not only to the problems around us but also to the goodness that is all around us. When we, like the Magi, see the light of Christ shining in our midst, our own light will shine more brightly. Our community of faith will become a light shining with the truth, love, and joy of the Gospel!

On a personal note, I will be leaving my parish family of Ascension and St. Bernard on January 5th after the Mass, to visit my family in India. I will return in the first week of February. During my absence, visiting priests will celebrate the Weekend Masses. Please keep me in your prayers for a safe journey, and know that I will continue to keep you all in mine.

Rosary Intentions: “For the safety of Father Abraham as he travels to India.”

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**

<i>Monday</i>	Jan. 6		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Jan. 7	ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Jan. 8	ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
<i>Thursday</i>	Jan. 9		No Mass:
<i>Friday</i>	Jan. 10		No Mass:
<i>Saturday</i>	Jan. 11	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Jan. 12	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

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

**School of Charism Discovery
Tuesdays, January 28-April 1, 7-9 p.m.,
Our Lady of Grace, Edina**

Father Michael Becker, vicar of charisms, is hosting the School of Charism Discovery, a 10-week course which includes lectures and practicum. The goal is to learn about the Holy Spirit's charisms gifted to the Body of Christ and for participants to discover which charism(s) God is gifting to them. Find more information and registration at archspm.org/school-of-charism-discovery.

**Prayer Service for Life
Wednesday, January 22, 10:30 a.m.,
Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul**

Please join the Annual Prayer Service for Life with Bishop Michael Izen, followed by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's March for Life at the State Capitol. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. The St. John Paul II Champions for Life Awards will be presented during this prayer service honoring those who work tirelessly for life. Find more information at archspm.org/prayer-service-for-life

Faith Formation Update:

On December 18th our 4th and 5th graders delivered Christmas Treat Bags to the Residence in the Apartments at Peace Villa! The Residence love the bags and visiting with the students. Thank you to everyone who donated to make this possible!

**MORNING IS GOD'S WAY OF SAYING
ONE MORE TIME.
GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
TOUCH A HEART. ENCOURAGE A MIND,
INSPIRE A SOUL AND ENJOY THE DAY.**

UNKNOWN

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/22/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,977.00
Weekly E-Giving:	40.00
Collections Budget YTD:	77,548.00
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 75,600.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(1,947.60)
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	10.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,585.00



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!

The Ascension KC' will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday January 26th from 8:00am-12:00pm. All proceeds will be going towards the Ascension Catholic School Tuition Grant Fund!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,364.60
Contributions 12-18 through 12-23-2024	3,988.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	95,202.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	12,698.83
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	151.00
Forward in Faith Total	201.00
Forward in Faith YTD	8,888.50



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!

Urgently Needed—A volunteer pianist/organist for St. Bernard is needed as a back up for our present pianist/organist. If you wish to volunteer for this position, please contact the Parish Office at 952-467-3351

Feeling disconnected? Every married couple deserves the gift of a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend!** The next weekends in this area will be held Feb 14-16, 2025 in Buffalo, MN and May 16-18, 2025 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org <<mailto:wmandbethnickles@hotmail.com>> or 612-234-7440.

Word of Life—"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities *"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"*

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 11 & 12

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Kathy Kloempken	Doris Mielke
Servers	Volunteers	Nathan Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Julie Gesinger	Brian Willems	Rob Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Johnson	Lisa Whitaker	Monica Kooiman
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Eugene Dvorak & Don Whitaker	Dick Amst & Vern Elke
Greeters	Jim Mulville	Grace Cook	Victoria Amst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

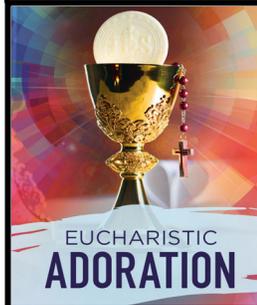
Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Jan. 6			No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 7	6:15 pm	Ascension	For Newly Elected Officials
Wednesday	Jan. 8	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	Jan. 9			No Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 10			No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 11	5:00 pm	Ascension	For Pope Francis
Sunday	Jan. 12	8:00 am	Ascension	Dennis and Bernice Wickenhauser Fam
Sunday	Jan. 12	10:00 am	St. Bernard	Dale Schmitz †

Readings for the week of Jan. 5, 2025
Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**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 an-
nouncements 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

The Epiphany of the Lord Matthew 2:1-12



Have you ever wondered *why* the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

©LPi