

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

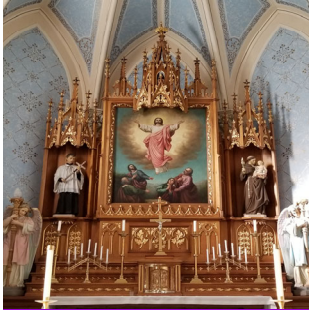
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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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@ascensionny.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionny.org

Parish Office Hours:

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

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

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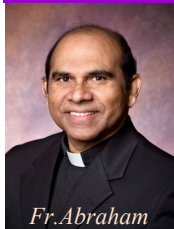
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Second Sunday of Advent – December 7 & 8, 2024



Fr. Abraham

Understanding the Holy Mass -12

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

IV. The Communion Rite (continues).

The Mingling Rite: After the priest breaks the consecrated bread, a small piece is placed into the chalice while he quietly prays: *“May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.”* The separate consecration of the bread and wine during the Mass symbolizes the separation of Christ’s body and blood in His death on the cross. However, the mingling of the Body and Blood in this rite expresses their reunion in Christ’s resurrection, emphasizing that what we receive during Holy Communion is the Risen Lord.

Behold the Lamb of God: The priest invites the faithful to Holy Communion by saying: *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). These words recall John the Baptist’s announcement of Jesus at the River Jordan. *“Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb”* invites us to recognize that the Eucharist is not an ordinary meal, but a sacred invitation. This reflects the wedding feast of the Lamb, mentioned in the Book of Revelation: *“Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb”* (Rev 19:9). We are invited to the ultimate communion with Christ.

Lord, I am not worthy: The faithful respond: *“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”* This prayer expresses humility and trust, echoing the Roman centurion’s words as he sought healing for his servant (Matthew 8:8). It reflects our acknowledgment of unworthiness due to sin, yet also our trust in Jesus’ power to heal. Though *“under my roof”* may seem unusual when preparing for Communion, it signifies the idea of welcoming Jesus into the “temple” of our bodies (1 Cor 6:19), making our hearts and lives worthy of His grace. The Eucharist is true food that provides spiritual nourishment, which is why we will refer more specifically to *“my soul”* in the last line.

Receiving the Eucharist: Receiving the Eucharist is a great gift—the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We must first examine our consciences to ensure that we are in a state of grace, free from mortal sin. St. Paul warns: *“Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself”* (1 Cor 11:27-29). There is also the requirement of fasting from food and drink for at least one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Meditation: After receiving Holy Communion, it is important to pause and meditate on the spiritual fruits of the sacrament. Give thanks to the Lord for this great gift and ask for the grace to remain in intimate communion with Him.

Prayer after Communion: Following Communion, the priest offers a prayer for the spiritual fruits of the Eucharist to take root in our lives. This prayer expresses gratitude for the great gift of the Eucharist we have received. The faithful respond with “Amen,” making the prayer their own. The Communion Rite concludes with this prayer.

V. Concluding Rite:

Blessing and Dismissal: At the end of Mass, the priest blesses the congregation, invoking God’s protection and guidance. The final words of the Mass are a dismissal, which comes from the Latin word *Missa*, meaning “sending” or “dismissal.” The priest says: *“Ite, missa est,”* meaning “Go, you are dismissed” or “Go, you are sent.” This signifies the end of the Mass and our mission to go out into the world and live the gospel. Before the final blessing, the priest reminds the faithful: *“The Lord be with you.”* This is a reassurance that Christ does not leave us as orphans; He is with us always. When the priest says, *“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,”* we are sent forth to live out our faith and proclaim the gospel throughout the week. The dismissal is not just a conclusion of the liturgy, but a commission to live out the peace and love of Christ in the world.

Rosary Intension: *‘For Comfort and Hope to All the Sick and Suffering.’*

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. 9		No Mass:
Tuesday	Dec. 10	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Dec. 11	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Advent Reconciliation 6:30pm Faith Formation- PreK- 2 Only
Thursday	Dec. 12	ST. B.	Mass: 9:00am
Friday	Dec. 13	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Dec. 14	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Dec. 15	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 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 11/24/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,495.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,715.00
Collections Budget YTD:	65,140.32
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 65,163.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(23.08)
Capital Improvement Offering:	200.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	85.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 4,960.00



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!

As the year comes to an end, so does the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal. We are still short \$1,684 of our goal. The Parish only receives funds back if we meet our goal so please consider giving if you are able.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,485.58
Contributions 11-20 through 11-26-2024	8,226.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	68,334.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(710.77)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	222.50
Forward in Faith Total	272.50
Forward in Faith YTD	7,850.50
Campaign for Human Development	200.00



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As the year comes to an end, so does the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal. We are still short \$1,825 of our goal. The Parish only receives funds back if we meet our goal, so please consider giving if you are able.

Jesus' Pilgrimage to Us: Holy Hours Around the Archdiocese (Year 2: The Mass) Dates: December 19th Start Time: 7 p.m. End Time: 8 p.m. Locations: Our Lady of Grace, Edina.—These Eucharistic Holy Hours, will be conducted according to the USCCB's newly revised rite for exposition, adoration and benediction. All the faithful—and especially those already participating in adoration ministries—are encouraged to communal prayer, that more may come to know and love our Lord in the Eucharist. All are welcome to attend this event; the language spoken will be English.

Word of Life—"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at respectlife.org/support-her. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 14 & 15

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	Hailey Stender & Payton Stender	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Elijah McInnis & Evelyn McInnis
Reader	Colleen Donnay	Jean Schmitz	Brenda Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Mulville	Steve Helget	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Dave Donnay & Steve Schrupp	Justin Buckentin & Rick Ulrich	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim George & Steve Helget	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Parish	Intention
Monday	Dec. 9		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 10 6:15 pm	Ascension	For the Dying
Wednesday	Dec. 11 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Dec. 12 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Francis & Lillian Zimmer
Friday	Dec. 13 8:00 am	Ascension	Steve Daily
Saturday	Dec. 14 5:00 pm	Ascension	Deceased Members of the Pouliot Family
Sunday	Dec. 15 8:00 am	Ascension	For the Pieper Family
Sunday	Dec. 15 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser † And All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Dec. 8, 2024
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 **Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 **Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14 **Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30 **Thursday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 **Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19 **Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 **Next Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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.

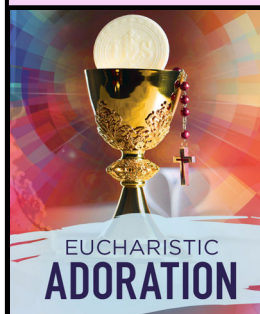
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
 2:00 until 6:00 pm



December 8, 2024 2nd Sunday of Advent



In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when **“the word of God came to John the Baptist:”** Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our *history*, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: **“Come, Lord Jesus. Come.”**

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi