

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
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PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

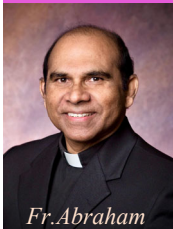


Website: www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



Third Sunday of Advent – December 14 & 15, 2024



Fr. Abraham

Prepare for the Eternal Joy

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The people who heard John the Baptist felt the power of his words. They asked, “What should we do?” John gave them two simple yet profound instructions: *first*, they should share with others, and *second*, they should be honest in word and deed. In other words, they should be charitable and gentle. (Luke 3:10-

18)

John the Baptist was a radical. He called people to make a profound change in their lives, urging them to become more loving. His message challenges us as well. He calls us to adopt a new attitude - an attitude of sacrificial love. This is the kind of love others should witness in us as a sign that the Kingdom of God is near. As St. Paul told the Philippians “Let your kindness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.” (Phil 4: 5)

So, what should we do to prepare for the Lord? *First*, we must not treat worshipping God as a mere routine task to be completed in order to get into heaven. We worship God because He loves us, and we love Him in return. Our union with God is born out of love, and it serves to protect us from the physical and moral ailments of our fallen world.

Second, we must develop and nurture our prayer lives. We need to make time each day- at least fifteen minutes - to speak with the Lord and listen to Him. In prayer, we are not giving anything to God; rather, we are simply being with Him.

Third, we should examine how we treat others and strive to be kind, considerate, and loving. We need to approach others with justice and dignity, because God loves us and loves them. We are called to love in a Christian, sacrificial way - putting the needs of others before our own.

Fourth, we must ask for God’s forgiveness. We are all sinners, lovable yet vulnerable. Each of us has areas in our lives that need healing and forgiveness from Jesus. Along with seeking forgiveness, we must also offer forgiveness to others.

As St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice!” (Phil 4: 4) We are people of joy, and our lives should reflect the peace and joy we find in the Lord. In this season of Advent, may we reflect on how our actions and attitudes prepare us not just for Christmas, but for the eternal joy that awaits us.

Rosary Intension: ‘For All Suffering from Addiction and Depression’

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>	Dec. 16		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Dec. 17	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Dec. 18	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
<i>Thursday</i>	Dec. 19	ST. B.	Mass: 9:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Dec. 20	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Dec. 21	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm Linger Longer
<i>Sunday</i>	Dec. 22	ASC. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community



Advent Reconciliation Services

- 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

Jesus' Pilgrimage to Us: Holy Hours Around the Archdiocese (Year 2: The Mass) Thursday, December 19, 7-8 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina

These monthly Eucharistic Holy Hours, held in various regions of the Archdiocese, will be conducted according to the USCCB's newly revised rite for exposition, adoration and benediction. Held at a new parish each month, 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. See all dates and locations at archspm.org/jesus-pilgrimage-to-us.

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 12/01/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,227.00
Weekly E-Giving:	855.00
Collections Budget YTD:	68,242.24
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 67,245.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(996.84)
Capital Improvement Offering:	180.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	550.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 5,690.00



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	3,364.60
Contributions 11-27 through 12-03-2024	3,711.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	72,045.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(364.37)

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	186.00
Electronic Donations	200.00
Forward in Faith Total	386.00
Forward in Faith YTD	8,236.50
Thanksgiving Collection	128.00



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!

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.

Volunteers needed: We will be putting up the Christmas decorations after the 10am Mass on Sunday, December 15th (**TODAY**). Please stay after Mass to help with this decoration project.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter :“Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.” As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are Feb 14-16, 2025 in Buffalo, MN and May 16-18, 2025 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chesen at 612-234-7440 or visit them at twincitieswwme.org.

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 21 & 22

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Buckley Jones & Volunteer	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Volunteers
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Brian Willems	Rob Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Tom Lano & Richard Tellers	Andy Kleindl & Dick Arnst
Greeters	Leon & Kay Trout	Sue Schultz	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Dave & Ann Dettmann	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
Monday	Dec. 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 17 6:15 pm	Ascension	For the Oppressed
Wednesday	Dec. 18 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Bernard Quinn †
Thursday	Dec. 19 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Friday	Dec. 20 8:00 am	Ascension	Francisco Fredrickson †
Saturday	Dec. 21 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Donna Meuleners † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 22 8:00 am	Ascension	For All Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 22 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Dale Schmitz †

Readings for the week of Dec. 15, 2024
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18 **Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27 **Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17 **Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25 **Thursday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25 **Friday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38 **Saturday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45 **Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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

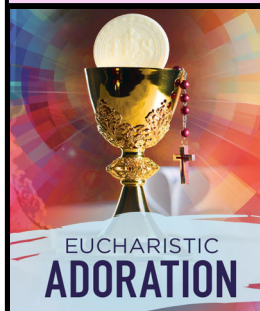
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent



On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi