

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

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

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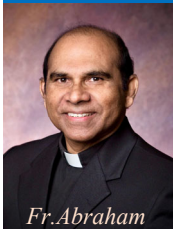
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

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Second Sunday Of Easter – Sunday of Divine Mercy – April 26, & 27, 2025



“My Lord and My God”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Divine Mercy Sunday is a special day of thanksgiving for the immense goodness and mercy that God has shown us throughout the Easter mystery. God revealed his mercy most profoundly through the gift of his only-begotten Son, Jesus, whose suffering, death, and resurrection bring us salvation. Divine mercy is also extended to us in every celebration of the sacraments.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the Gospel passage illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle Thomas, emphasizing the importance of faith. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples, Thomas was absent. The other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But Thomas replied, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later, Jesus appeared to the disciples again, offering Thomas the opportunity to see and touch his wounds. In that moment, Thomas heard Jesus’ voice calling him to let go of his doubts and trust. Overcome with faith, Thomas made his famous proclamation: “My Lord and my God,” a prayer of both acknowledgment and adoration. Jesus responded, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” This speaks to all of us who believe without seeing. We are the blessed ones who, though we do not see, believe.

We’ve all had our own “doubting Thomas” moments. What is your “unless”? “Unless Jesus removes this difficulty, fixes my finances, heals my loved one, eases my anxiety, or slows my aging, I will not believe.” In moments of struggle, we may find it hard to rely on the witness of others to hold us steady in the truth. Jesus invites us in these times to come closer, to lay aside our doubts and fears, and trust in his grace and mercy. He calls us to surrender our lives to him, the Lord of mercy.

Through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, we are invited to receive God’s mercy. Living faith helps us see the Risen Lord in everyone and empowers us to serve others—especially the sick, the weak, the oppressed, and the poor. We are called to recognize that our Lord continuously loves us, forgives our doubts, strengthens our faith, and reveals himself to us through his Church. Let us thank the Lord for his mercy and love, which renew and sustain us.

First Holy Communion: This weekend is also special for us as ten children are receiving their First Holy Communion. We pray for them, that they may continue to grow in faith and bear witness to Christ through their lives. May they experience the fullness of God's mercy and love as they encounter Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy:

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., the Apostles Creed.

On Our Father beads: *Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*

On the Hail Mary beads: *For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

In Conclusion: *Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times).*

Rosary Intention: *For all the children celebrating the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion*

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	Apr. 28		No Mass:
Tuesday	Apr. 29	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Communion Service 6:15pm
Wednesday	Apr. 30	ST. B. ST. B.	Communion Service 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	May. 1	ST. B.	Communion Service 8:00am
Friday	May. 2	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	May. 3	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	May. 4	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

The Church of the Ascension is happy to extend our **congratulations** to Ben Duenow, who completed his OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) program and came into the fullness of the Catholic Church during our Easter Vigil celebration.

Ben received the Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, and earlier this month the Rite of Reconciliation. Please continue to keep all new Catholics and their Sponsors in your prayers for their continued growth and perseverance in the Faith.

The Blessing of the Quilts that our joint quilting group have beautifully put together, will be on Tuesday May 6th following the 6:15pm Mass. They will be displayed from May 1st through May 12th! Quilts will be for sale again this year with prices ranging from \$50-\$90

This weekend we will take up the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Faith Formation Update:

Congratulations to our Second Graders who made their First Communion this weekend! Please continue to keep them and our Confirmation Students in your prayers
Reminder the trailer for the clothing drive is park in the Ascension parking lot until May 6th! The trailer is open from 7am-7pm for drop off!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 04/13/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	937.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,300.00
Collections Budget YTD:	124,076.80
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 131,812.85
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	7,736.05
Capital Improvement Offering:	80.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 10,015.00



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!

Tootsie Roll Drive April 26 & 27 Masses The Ascension St Bernard's K of C will have their tootsie roll handout after all three masses. Donations will go to People with Intellectual Disabilities. Thanks for supporting this fundraiser. Come back Sunday the 27th at Ascension for KC Bingo at 1pm!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,875.20
Contributions 04-09 through 4-15-2025	1,818.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	156,091.30
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	13,675.87
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	59.00
Electronic Donations	51.00
Forward in Faith Total	110.00
Forward in Faith YTD	36,754.96



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St. Bernard Parishioners are invited to a Town Hall Meeting, directly following both Masses on May 3rd and 4th, to discuss the future of the School Building. It is the desire of Father and the Finance Council to have the Parish involved in this discussion of the next step. Our Finance Council, along with the School Building Committee, will be presenting information that was gathered in recent months. There will be an informational packet available as well as a Survey that can be filled out anonymously. Thank you for your support!

Word of Life—If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"
www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

Mass Ministry Schedule—May 03 & 04

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Lily Hanson & Ava Hanson	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Dan Worm & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Sue Tellers	Julie Kleindl
Eucharistic Ministers	Margaret Wickenhauser	Kathy Kloempken	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Dick Arnst & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Steve Coyle	Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	April 28		No Mass
Tuesday	April 29 6:15 pm	Ascension	Communion Service
Wednesday	April 30 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	May 01 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Friday	May 02 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	May 03 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	60th Wedding Anniversary of Richard & Patricia Storms
Sunday	May 04 8:00 am	Ascension	Jeanne C. Kreger †
Sunday	May 04 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of Catholic United Financial & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of April 27, 2025
Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31 **Monday:** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8 **Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15 **Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 **Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36 **Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15 **Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14 **Next Sunday:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19

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@ascensionnyny.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.

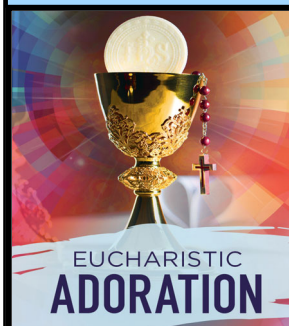
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

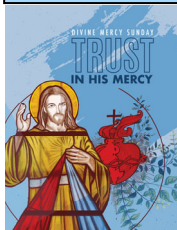
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



April 27, 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter



It's common for Catholics to hear the question, "Why do I have to go to a priest to have my sins forgiven?" I've never liked that question because not only is it clunky (confession is the ordinary way for the pardoning of serious sins, not lesser ones). But it misses the larger context: the wonderful origins of the sacrament itself. And this context is deeply Jewish.

Ancient Jews associated forgiveness of sins with priests offering sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. It was a solemn, public, and tangible way to access God's mercy. So when the risen Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, **"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23)**, the upshot is remarkable: he is the new temple and his Apostles are the new priests. Jerusalem is no longer the place to find forgiveness from sin. Jesus' body, the Church, is.

So why should we go to the Sacrament of Confession? For the same reason ancient Jews went to the temple in Jerusalem: to experience the intimacy, joy, and life-giving power of God's eternal forgiveness.

— Father John Muir

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