

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

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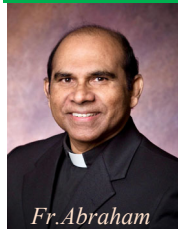
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 09 & 10, 2025



Be Vigilant and Ready at All Times

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 12: 32-48) presents three parables that invite us to live with vigilance and faithfulness as we await the Lord's return. Jesus uses these stories to highlight the importance of being prepared, accountable, and committed to serving others in love. In the **first parable**, Jesus describes servants waiting for their master's return from a wedding feast. Jewish wedding celebrations often lasted long into the night.

Despite the delay, the servants are expected to keep their lamps burning and remain ready to welcome the master whenever he comes. Jesus reminds us that those who remain vigilant in faith and duty will be rewarded by the Master himself.

The **second parable** compares the Lord's return to the unexpected arrival of a thief. Just as a house owner would stay watchful to protect his home, we are called to guard our hearts and stay spiritually prepared. Since the hour of our death or Christ's return is unknown, we must always be spiritually alert. Christ should find us carrying out our task of love, mercy and service, rather than leaving things undone or half-done. The **third parable** focuses on the faithful and unfaithful stewards. One faithfully carries out his duties with integrity and is rewarded. The other becomes careless and abuses his authority, wrongly assuming he has plenty of time to change. His procrastination and abuse of authority bring about harsh consequences. The faithful steward is rewarded, while the unfaithful one is punished.

How can we be ready to meet Christ when he comes? a) Prayer: One of the most powerful ways to stay spiritually alert is through prayer. In the Gethsemane, Jesus told his disciples, *"Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test."* (Mark 14:38). Prayer keeps us connected with God and helps us listen for his voice, often heard in the quiet, like the *"tiny whispering sound"* Elijah encountered (1 Kings 19:11-12). Let us also recall the words of the Book of Revelation: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me."* (Rev. 3:20). Such attentiveness demands that we set aside a quiet time every day during which we can tune our ears to the divine sounds of love, compassion and peace.

b) Serving others: Another important means to prepare to meet Christ is to do God's will by rendering service to others. Jesus identifies himself with the poor and the marginalized: *"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink"* (Matthew 25:35). He concludes, *"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40). Every act of compassion is an act of love for Christ. **c) Living a sacramental and faithful life:** Living in God's presence through the active participation in the sacraments especially in the Holy Mass and the Reconciliation. God gives us the grace and strength to remain faithful stewards, and he will reward our faithfulness.

The Gospel urges us to be vigilant and be ready to welcome Christ at any time. By staying close to God through prayer, remaining faithful in our daily responsibilities, and living the sacramental life, we prepare ourselves for the joyful return of our Lord. In doing so, we will one day hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Let us ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother to imitate her self-sacrificing love, her abiding faith and her perfect obedience to God's will.

Rosary Intention: For the grace to develop a deeper devotion to our Mother Mary, who leads us to Jesus.

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	Aug. 11		No Mass:
Tuesday	Aug. 12	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Aug. 13	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	Aug. 14	ST. B.	Mass: 6:15pm
Friday	Aug. 15	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Aug. 16	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm Linger Longer:
Sunday	Aug. 17	ASC. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer:

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary A Holy Obligation, August 15, 2025.

Anticipated Mass, August 14 at St. Bernard 6:15 pm.
Mass, August 15 at Ascension 8:00 am.
**No 8:00 am Mass at St. Bernard
on Thursday, August 15.**

**Save the Date! Our Annual Joint Parish Picnic is
September 13 at the Legion Pool Park in Norwood.
We are looking for a few more parishioners to as-
sist with planning and staffing the event. Please see
Cheryl Coyle or contact the office if you are able to
help!**

We will be hosting Sr. Larysa from St. Elisabeth Con-
vent in Minsk, Belarus, the weekend of August 23rd
and 24th. She will be bringing items available to pur-
chase to support their work in their community in
Minsk. These items are handcrafted by individuals
who the Sisters support with housing, basic necessities
like food and medicine, and rehabilitation. Please be as
generous as you are able.

Our **GLAD DAYS** booth was a great success! We
have to thank many people for their support—our bak-
ers, our volunteers, the many people who stopped by
to shop and visit, and our youth volunteers. Many in
our community are repeat customers—they look for our
booth each year and are happy to see the presence of
the church at the celebration. The totals are ice cream
sales—\$2333.50 and the bake sale—\$810. This was a
record year, despite the heat. **THANK YOU** to St Ber-
nard Catholic United Financial for their support of this
community event!

"Love is shown more in deeds than in words"
- St. Ignatius of Loyola

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 07/27/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,378.00
Weekly E-Giving:	774.00
Collections Budget YTD:	12,730.80
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 15,290.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	2,559.20
Capital Improvement Offering:	120.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 750.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or
want to make a one time donation? Scan
here to donate to the Church of the Ascen-
sion. Thank you for your generosity!

**Ascension is \$472 short of their 2025 Catholic Ser-
vices Appeal goal! The Parish receives back a por-
tion of the amount if the goal is met, so please con-
sider giving to this appeal.**

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,095.25
Contributions 07-23 through 07-29-2025	1,461.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	10,313.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(2,067.50)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	71.50
Forward in Faith Total	80.50
Forward in Faith YTD	1,158.50



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or
want to make a one time donation? Scan
here to donate to the Church of St. Ber-
nard. Thank you for your generosity!

**St. Bernard is \$869 short of their 2025 Catholic
Services Appeal! The Parish receives back a por-
tion of the amount if the goal is met, so please con-
sider giving to this appeal.**

Word of Life—"Although we may feel unsure how best to
comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their
time of suffering. Miscarriage touches the lives of many peo-
ple, yet all too often this tragedy remains unaddressed. This
lack of response not only often leads to unresolved grief but
also fails to clearly manifest our belief that each person, from
conception onward, is precious and unique." USCCB Secre-
tariat of Pro-Life Activities ["Solace and Strength in the Sor-
row of Miscarriage"](#)

Faith Formation Update:

**Registration for the 2025-26 Faith
Formation Year is open! You can reg-
ister by scanning the QR Code! We
look forward to welcoming everyone
back in September!**



Mass Ministry Schedule—August 14,15,16 & 17

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Thurs. 6:15pm	Ascension Fri. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Sherry Witte	Doris Mielke	Volunteer	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Ava Hanson & Emma Panning	Brianna Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Cohen Starkey & Lily Starkey
Reader	Julie Kleindl	Julie Gesinger	Judy Glander	Sue Tellers	Sarah Foley
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Jean Schmitz	Bernie Shambour (H); Julie Clemensen; (C) Monica Kooiman (C)	Steve Coyle	Victoria Arnst (H); Helen Nicklaus (C); Meghan Stusynski (C)
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Andy Kleindl	Eugene Dvorak & Volunteer	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Tim George & Richard Tellers	Dick Arnst & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Volunteer	Volunteer	Barbara Knorr	Sue Schultz	Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Aug. 11		No Mass
Tuesday	Aug. 12 6:15 pm	Ascension	Fr. Abraham's Intention
Wednesday	Aug. 13 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Vernon Walter †
Thursday	Aug. 14 6:15pm	St. Bernard	Richard Paul †
Friday	Aug. 15 8:00 am	Ascension	Bonnie Frahm
Saturday	Aug. 16 5:00pm	St. Bernard	Janette Buesgens † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Aug. 17 8:00 am	Ascension	Darlene Mondor †
Sunday	Aug. 17 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †

Readings for the week of Aug. 10, 2025

Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b)/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 **Monday:** Dt 10:12-22/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Mt 17:22-27 **Tuesday:** Dt 31:1-8/Dt 32:3-4ab, 7, 8, 9 and 12/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 **Wednesday:** Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20 **Thursday:** Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:21—19:1 **Friday:** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/ Lk 1:39-56 **Saturday:** Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15 **Next Sunday:** Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

**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@ascensionnva.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.....952-484-96281

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

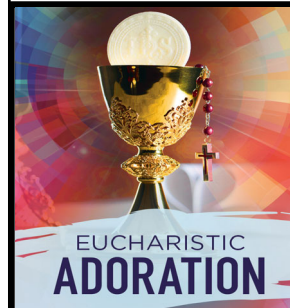
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

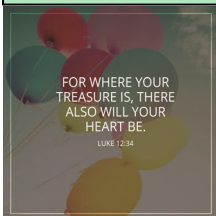
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



August 10, 2025 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



There was a young mother in my parish community who was depressed due to financial strain. She prayed for help. One morning before Mass, she placed on the counter a zip-lock bag filled with jewelry and old coins. Smiling, she explained she had been fixing an old cabinet and found the items hidden deep within the walls of her home. One particular coin could be worth as much as \$900,000. The contents of the bag—previously unknown to them—were now their prized possession. Their plans changed that week. They had to learn how much it was worth.

This week, the Lord tells us, **“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:34).** Our lives revolve around what we treasure. When we discover the treasure the Father gives us—the kingdom of God—everything changes. We might not know its precise value, but we rearrange our lives around it. The joy of this discovery should never be far from our minds.

Sometimes we go through times when we can't find this treasure. It seems hidden. Or it appears like dirty old coins and worthless jewelry in a Ziploc bag. But how crazy would my parishioners be if they tossed it away without knowing the cash value? How much crazier are we if we center our hearts on any treasure except that of Jesus and his kingdom? Remember, the Father is pleased to give it to us. That's why we put our hearts there, even when it is hidden.

— Father John Muir ©LPi