

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

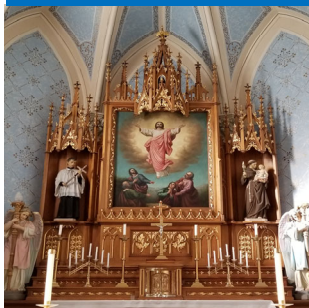
PASTOR

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:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

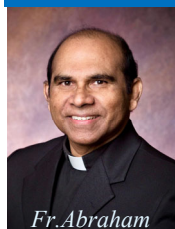
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Fifth Sunday Of Easter – May 02 & May 03, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (John 14:1–12), Jesus speaks words that bring both comfort and challenge: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He knows what lies ahead. The disciples are anxious, confused, and afraid of losing him. Yet instead of offering a detailed plan or clear timeline, Jesus offers them something greater, his very self: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” This is not just a theological statement; it is deeply personal. Jesus does not say, “I will show you a way,” but rather, “I am the way.” The path to God is not a set of directions to follow, but a relationship to embrace.

How often do we long for clarity more than trust? We want to know where life is going - our future, our struggles, our purpose. Like Thomas, we may find ourselves asking, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus answers not with a roadmap, but with an invitation: remain with me, walk with me, trust in me.

Philip then asks to show the Father, and Jesus responds with a quiet urgency: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” In Jesus, we encounter the very face of God. If we wish to know God, we look to Christ: in his compassion, his forgiveness, his healing, and his sacrificial love. Then comes a surprising promise. Jesus tells his disciples and us that we will do the works that he does, and even greater ones. At first, this may seem overwhelming. How can we possibly live up to such a calling? The answer lies not in our own strength, but in believing in him and staying connected to him. Through prayer, the sacraments, and love of neighbor, we remain rooted in Christ. His life then flows through us, and his work continues in the world through ordinary people like us.

Every act of kindness, every word of truth, every moment of forgiveness becomes a sign of his presence. When we comfort the troubled, we echo his words. When we choose love over fear, we make visible the God whom others cannot see.

This Gospel, then, is both a source of comfort and a call to mission. The comfort is that we are not alone Christ is with us and guiding us as the way. The mission is that we are called to make that way visible to others.

In a world where many hearts are troubled by uncertainty, division, and suffering, our lives can bear witness to hope. There is a path forward. That path is not a place, but a person. May we place our faith in Jesus Christ, set aside unnecessary fear and worry, and rejoice in the Lord.

May is the month of devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary: It has been a long-standing Catholic tradition to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as “the Queen of May”. In honor of the Blessed Mother during the month of May, I encourage you to pray Rosary daily and ask Blessed Mother’s intercession for your families and the parish families.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: “For the grace to follow in our Mother Mary’s footsteps as she leads us closer to Jesus.”

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	May. 4		No Mass:
Tuesday	May. 5	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	May. 6	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	May. 7	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	May. 8	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	May. 9	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	May. 10	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

The Blessing of the Quilts will be this Wednesday, at St. Bernard after the 8:00am Mass! They will remain up through Mother's Day Weekend.

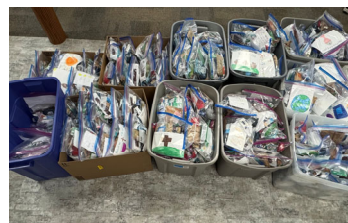
The Archdiocese is hosting a Young Adult Prayer and Listening session with Archbishop Hebda and all young adults from Ascension and St. Bernard's are invited! The event will be on Tuesday May 5th, from 6:30 -9 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Paul with a social hour just prior, from 5:30-6:30. More information can be found at: <https://www.archspm.org/events/young-adult-prayer-and-listening/>

Capital Campaign Update:

If you missed the Ice Cream Social open house at Ascension, we will be having a special Linger Longer after both Masses at St. Bernard this weekend, and volunteers will be available to answer any questions you may have and to assist with filling out pledge cards. Now that both churches have reached our goals, our Parishes will be getting 80% of the pledges back!

Faith Formation Update:

Our last day of Faith Formation, grades 1-5, as well as some bonus volunteers, made 200 Blessing Bags that will be brought to Sharing and Caring Hands and distributed to people without housing. THANK YOU to the Cologne Fire Relief, K.C. and individuals who donated to make this possible!



Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 04/19/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,819.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,515.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 133,673.40
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 135,142.90
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 1,469.50
Capital Improvement Offering:	150.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	210.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 9,325.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$303,200-137%



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!

We want to acknowledge the amazing work that the Ascension CUF Branch does for Faith Formation, and thank them for they continuous support. They are the behind the scenes of organizing and hosting the retreats, decorating the tables every week, organizing multiple fundraisers a year, and much more. Our program would not be the same without their support!



Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 04/19/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,169.58
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,845.00
Weekly E-Giving:	425.00
Collection Budget YTD:	159,709.50
Actual Collection YTD:	162,879.09
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	2,849.50
Capital Improvement Offering:	55.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	9,809.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$349,462 -134%



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!

Congratulations to the 2026 Confirmation Class, who were confirmed on April 18. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless you each and every day of your lives.



Mass Ministry Schedule—May 9th & 10th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Payton Stender & Alex Umess	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Luke Allison & Lexy Allison
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Cathleen Williams (H); Pat Johnson (C); Steve Lemmer (C)	Volunteer (H); Steve Coyle (C); Kathy Kloempken (C)	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Justin Buckentin & Curt Wilson	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos
Greeters	Volunteer	Grace Cook	Monica Kooiman
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Occasion	Intention
Monday	May 4		No Mass
Tuesday	May 5 6:15 pm	ASC.	For All Parishioners
Wednesday	May 6 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased of the Eiden Family
Thursday	May 7 8:00 am	ST. B.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Friday	May 8 8:00am	ASC.	Father Abraham's Intention
Saturday	May 9 5:00 pm	ASC.	Dolores Bohlinger †
Sunday	May 10 8:00 am	ASC.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Sunday	May 10 10:00 am	ST. B.	Laura Schroeder † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of May 3, 2026

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12 **Monday:** Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26 **Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a **Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8 **Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11 **Friday:** Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17 **Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21 **Next Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

**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.

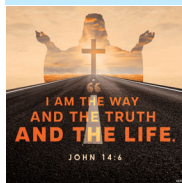
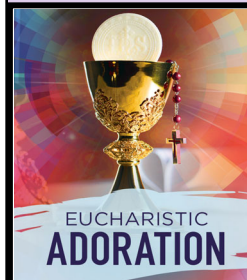
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



May 3, 2026 5th Sunday of Easter

We generally approach life with the question, “What can this do for me?” We try a new workout, a low-carb diet, intermittent fasting, or a new career path, hoping it will make us healthier, stronger, happier. The assumption is that if I invest in this, I’ll eventually reap some benefit, or I won’t do it.

It is easy to think of faith the same way: if I really practice my faith, what will it do for me? Will it make me calmer, more moral, more successful?

But in today’s Gospel, Jesus says something astonishing. He doesn’t present himself as a teacher who shows us the way to life. He says, **“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** (John 14:6) He is not merely a guide toward some higher benefit. He *is* the benefit itself. To know him is to know Life.

Thomas Aquinas explains that every desire in the human heart — love, joy, meaning, all of our restless cravings — is really an indirect cry for life. Even despair testifies to this longing: people despair precisely because they feel they are not, and might never be, fully alive.

The good news is that Jesus is not simply the means to a better life; He is Life itself. To believe in him is to share in God’s own eternal vitality. Not simply later but even now. Faith is not a transaction that produces results — it is a union that fills us with joy. To be in communion with Christ is to be truly, fully alive. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi