

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

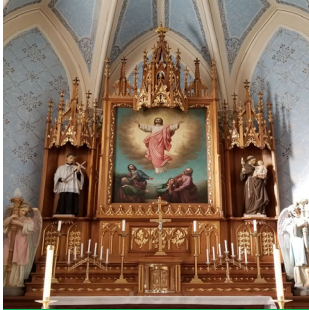
## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE ... ..952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://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](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

[bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org)

### Parish Office Hours:

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

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

### Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051

[busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org)

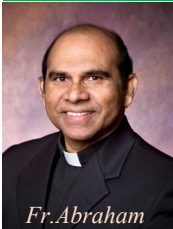
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

[bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org)



## The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 15 & 16, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### “Blessed are they who Trusts in the Lord.”

Dear Sisters and brothers,

On this Sunday Gospel, we are presented with Luke’s version of the Beatitudes. (Lk 6:17, 20-27) Unlike Matthew, who presents eight Beatitudes, Luke offers four. Luke’s Gospel is distinct because it is primarily addressed to Gentile converts to Christianity, a community that was poor and persecuted. In this context, Luke places Jesus on a plain, symbolically positioning him on the same level as the people, identifying himself with the poor, the suffering, and the persecuted.

The central theme of today’s readings is trust in the Lord. In the first reading, (Jeremiah 17: 5-8), we hear the words: “Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings... But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.” Jesus illustrates this trust through the Beatitudes, contrasting them with woes. He says, “Blessed are you who are poor... But woe to you who are rich.” The poor are blessed because they have a deeper reliance on God, while the rich may become self-reliant and forget their need for him.

Those who are materially poor often recognize their dependence on God rather than on possessions. However, I have encountered many wealthy people for whom material wealth holds little significance. What matters most to them is having Jesus Christ in their lives. They are deeply grateful to God for their blessings and generously share their wealth with those in need.

Sadly, the number of people who suffer from material poverty and hunger is still shockingly high, even in our technologically advanced 21st century. As disciples of Christ, we are called to be agents of his love, which requires us to reach out and work towards abolishing poverty, hunger, and the deep unhappiness that afflicts so many.

The poor are blessed as long as they continue to trust in the Lord. Likewise, the rich are blessed when they trust in the Lord and are willing to share their wealth with others. Wealth becomes a curse when it is hoarded and not shared with those in need. In the society that Jesus envisions, there are no distinctions between rich and poor, but rather a community where resources are shared according to need.

In two weeks, we will begin the holy season of Lent, a time that emphasizes trust in the Lord. During this season, the Church encourages us to sacrifice some of the things that are most important to us. We may fast from food, dedicate more time to prayer, and give alms to support the poor. These practices are meant to help us grow in our trust in God and cultivate a deeper reliance on Him, rather than on our possessions or our own strength.

In conclusion, today’s readings challenge us to examine where we place our trust, whether in human strength or in the Lord. They call us to follow Jesus’ example of humility and generosity, reaching out in love to those in need and recognizing that true wealth lies in trusting God and sharing with others.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI

Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** *That all parishioners be open to their call to serve.*

**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

<b>Monday</b>	Feb. 17		No Mass:
<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb. 18	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Quilting Group</b> 9am-12pm <b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm <b>Confession:</b> 5:45-6:05pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb. 19	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 7:30-7:50am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2:00-6:00pm <b>Catechist/Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</b> <b>No Faith Formation Classes</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Feb. 20	<b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Friday</b>	Feb. 21	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 22	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 23	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

### What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

**Mark your Calendars! The Ascension K-C Fish Fry will be on Friday March 7th from 11:00am-7:00pm** (or until the fish is gone). Crispy Alaskan Pollock, Potato, Coleslaw, Baked beans, beverages, & dessert! \$16.50 for Adults; \$6 Kids 6-12; 5 and under free!

**Ash Wednesday Services will be at 5:00pm at St. Bernard and 6:45pm at Ascension. There will be no 8:00am Mass at St. Bernard that day. Adoration at St. Bernard on March 5th will be from 1:00pm-4:00pm.**

**Our Combined Lent Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday March 12th at Ascension starting at 6:30pm.**

The *Welcome* retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia is coming up! The Men's retreat will take place February 22nd-23rd and the Women's Retreat will take place March 1st-2nd. If you have any questions you can reach out to Matt Turek at mattewturek59@gmail.com for the Men's Retreat or Janice Matlon jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org for the Women's retreat, or Pam Kunkle at St. Bernard and Kathy Kloempken at Ascension.

### Faith Formation Update:

**There will be no Faith Formation this Wednesday, February 19th.**

**Thank you to all our Catechists and Volunteers who give of their time every week to make our Faith Formation Program so successful! It would not be possible without all of you!**

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/02/2025

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 3,101.92
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	2,228.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	775.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	96,159.52
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 105,464.40</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>9,304.88</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	140.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	50.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 8,050.00</b>



**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!**

**Birthright in Hutchinson** would like to extend their gratitude for the generosity of the Parishioners who donated baby items over the past year. Many babies will be blessed by the gathered donations. Thank you! And a special thank you to Roger and Lucy Kostecka for bringing the items out to Birthright.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,987.52
<b>Contributions 01-29 through 2-04-2025</b>	<b>7,638.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	125,350.55
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>11,598.58</b>

#### Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	594.00
Electronic Donations	351.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>945.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>11,252.00</b>



**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!**

**We are still in need of a Pianist or Organist who can help with some of the weekend Masses. We have an incredible opportunity for someone to learn to play the Organ, and so if you have always wanted to learn to play and share your new talent at weekend Masses, please contact the Parish Office!**

### 44th Annual MN Food Share March Campaign

March 1st, 2025, to April 6th, 2025

Now in its 44th year, the Minnesota Food Share statewide campaign brings awareness to the need for food shelves while collecting critical food and funds at a time when inventories are at their lowest following the holidays.

#### **How to get involved with MN Food Share March Campaign:**

**Donate Funds:** With our buying power, we can stretch your dollars up to 10x!

**Donate Food:** check the website for needed items.

**Donate a Silent Auction Item:** New this year - Bountiful Basket will be hosting an online silent auction! To donate, contact [pati@bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org](mailto:pati@bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org). We can also arrange for a volunteer to pick up your item

## Mass Ministry Schedule—February 22 & 23

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Ann Dettmann	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Noah Kerber & Volunteer	Allison Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Buckley Jones & Marshall Panning
<b>Reader</b>	Julie Gesinger	Brian Willems	Brenda Jones
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Cathleen Williams	Irene Yaeck	Helen Nicklaus
<b>Ushers</b>	Tim George & Tom Lano	Steve Coyle & Eugene Dvorak	Dick Armst & Tom Dahl
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Mulville	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	Dave & Colleen Donnay	N/A

Mass Times Intentions			
<b>Monday</b>	Feb. 17		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Feb. 18 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	Dennis Benfield †
<b>Wednesday</b>	Feb. 19 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Bernard & Blanche Schuld ††
<b>Thursday</b>	Feb. 20 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
<b>Friday</b>	Feb. 21 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Paul Simons †
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 22 <b>5:00 pm</b>	Ascension	Richard R. Ulrich Family
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 23 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Diane Vogel †
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 23 <b>10:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Andrew Schwartz & All Parishioners

**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.

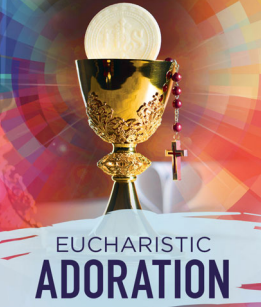
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Ascension: Tues. 5:45pm - 6:05pm  
St. Bernard: Wed: 7:30am-7:50am  
Saturday: 4:30pm—4:50pm  
at parish hosting the Mass  
By appointment with Father- Call 952-856-1050

**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.

**Readings for the week of Feb. 16, 2025**  
**Sunday:** Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26  
**Monday:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21  
**Wednesday:** Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26  
**Thursday:** Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33  
**Friday:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 8:34—9:1  
**Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19  
**Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

**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.**



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Ascension**  
Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm  
**St. Bernard**  
Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm

### February 16, 2025 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": **"Woe to you who are rich... who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of"** (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the *purpose* of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes." — *Father John Muir* ©LPi