

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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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:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

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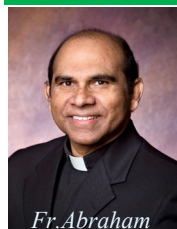
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Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time – July 25 & 26, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Christ, Our Greatest Treasure

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What do you treasure the most? In other words, what is the most valuable thing you possess? For some, it may be a family inheritance, a wedding ring, a treasured photograph, or a cherished relationship. Yet Jesus invites us to look beyond the things of this world and discover what has lasting value.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 13:44–52), Jesus shares three parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. In the first two, he compares the Kingdom to a **“Treasure hidden in a field”** and to a **“Merchant who discovers a pearl of great price”**. In both parables, those who discover these treasures joyfully sell everything they have in order to possess what they have found. The striking detail in these stories is not what the people give up but the joy with which they do it. They are not acting out of obligation or fear. They have encountered something so valuable, that everything else seems small in comparison. That is what life with Christ is meant to be. Faith is not simply about following rules or fulfilling religious duties. It is about discovering that a relationship with God is the greatest treasure we could ever receive.

Yet many of us know how easy it is to become distracted by lesser treasures. We can devote ourselves to success, comfort, possessions, or recognition, believing they will satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. While these things have their place, they can never replace the lasting peace and purpose that come from knowing God's love. Jesus invites us to examine our priorities. What occupies our thoughts? What shapes our decisions? What do we treasure most?

The final parable, a **“Net thrown into the sea”**, reminds us that our choices matter. Just as fishermen sort the good fish from the bad, there will come a time when each of us will stand before God. This is not meant to frighten us but to encourage us to live each day with eternity in mind. God's mercy is abundant, and he continually offers us opportunities to turn back to him, grow in holiness, and become faithful disciples.

Just as a dragnet catches every kind of fish in the sea, so the Church acts as God's instrument for gathering in all who will come. Just as the dragnet does not discriminate, so the Church does not discriminate people as good and bad. But there will come a time of separation, a time of judgment. God, in the end, will give the good and the bad the reward they deserve.

As we gather for the Eucharistic celebration this weekend, we are reminded that the greatest treasure is already in our midst. Christ gives himself to us in his Word and in the Blessed Sacrament. **He is the pearl beyond all price**, the treasure hidden in the field of ordinary life, waiting to be discovered again and again. May we have the wisdom to recognize his presence, the courage to let go of whatever keeps us from him, and the joy to place him at the center of our lives. For when Christ becomes our greatest treasure, we discover that we have gained everything that truly matters.

This weekend, we celebrate the **“World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly”**, a special occasion to honor and give thanks for the wisdom, faith, love, and sacrifices of our older generations. Our grandparents and elderly members of our community are treasured gifts, whose stories, prayers, and witness continue to strengthen our families and our Church. May we remember them with gratitude, offer them our love and care, and pray that they may always experience God's presence, comfort, and joy.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: *‘For Grandparents and the Elderly’*

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	July. 27		No Mass:
Tuesday	July. 28	ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	July. 29	ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	July. 30	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	July. 31	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Aug. 02	ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Aug. 02	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

We are looking for a Faith Formation Director:

Ascension/St. Bernard are currently looking for someone to take over the Faith Formation Program! If anyone is interested in learning more about the position please contact Virginia at 952-467-3351 or email busadmin@ascensionnya.org.

Ascension will be hosting the Stiftungsfest Sunday Service this year on August 30th at 9am in the Big Musik Tent. Please note that there will be no 8am Mass at Ascension. Mass will still be held at 10am at St. Bernard and Saturday evening at Ascension.

WINE in the Vineyard – Sunday, Aug. 30, 4-8 p.m., Sovereign Estate Winery, Waconia

Join WINE for the 5th Annual WINE in the Vineyard—an enchanting evening of elegance, faith, music, and joy for men and women at beautiful Sovereign Estate Winery in Waconia. The evening begins with Mass in the vineyard at 4 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Hebda, followed by fabulous food expertly paired with Sovereign Estate wines. Enjoy an inspiring concert by acclaimed Catholic singer-songwriter Marie Miller. Find more information and registration at catholicvineyard.com/event/wine-in-the-vineyard-aug-30-2026.

“In the twilight of our life, we shall be judged according to love.” - St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Faith Formation Update:

Mark your Calendar! Registration for the 2026-27 Faith Formation Program will open on August 1st. Save \$25 by registering before September 1st. We will still have our weekly meal and are so thankful to the individuals who are stepped up to take it over! We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 07/12/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,211.54
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,733.00
Weekly E-Giving:	860.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 6,423.08
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 4,503.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (1,920.08)
Capital Improvement Offering:	295.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 456.00



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!

Homebound Ministry is looking for additional volunteers to take communion to our Ascension Community who are home bound. If you are interested in joining this special ministry please contact Sue Tellers or the Parish Office.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Totals as of 07/12/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,500.00
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	2,884.00
Weekly E-Giving	0.00
Collection Budget YTD:	7,000.00
Actual Collection YTD:	7,047.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	47.00
Capital Improvement Offering:	150.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	0.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	501.00



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!



Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Hilary A. Drees whose funeral was Friday, July 17th . Please keep his family in your prayers during this time.

Word of Life—“Assisted suicide proponents are pursuing an aggressive nationwide campaign to advance their agenda through legislation, ballot measures, litigation, and public advertising, targeting states they see as most susceptible to their message. Some polls indicate that the public is receptive to the general concept of assisted suicide. But the same polls show that when the public learns about the dangers of assisted suicide, especially for those who are poor, elderly, disabled, or without access to good medical care, their views shift against the practice.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. “Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide”

Bishop Kevin Kenney, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Remember in your daily prayers, Rosary or If possible offer a holy hour for him before the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass Ministry Schedule—August 1st, & 2nd

Mass ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Kathy Kloempken	Doris Mielke
Servers	Ava Hanson & Lily Hanson	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Dan Worm & Lexy Allison
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Sue Tellers	Sarah Foley
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Tom Dahl	Justin Buckentin & Eugene Dvorak	Bob Symanitz & Kieran Allison
Greeters	Roger Storms	Colleen Donnay	Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	July 27		No Mass
Tuesday	July 28 6:15 pm	ASC.	Terrance J. Fahey †
Wednesday	July 29 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Thursday	July 30 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & The living & deceased members of the Eiden Family
Friday	July 31 8:00am	ASC.	For All Parishioners
Saturday	Aug. 1 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Vernon Walter † & All Parishioners
Sunday	Aug. 2 8:00 am	ASC.	Dolores Schrupp †
Sunday	Aug. 2 10:00 am	ST. B.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††

Readings for the week of July 26, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 **Monday:** Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35 **Tuesday:** Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43 **Wednesday:** Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42 **Thursday:** Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53 **Friday:** Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58 **Saturday:** Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12 **Next Sunday:** Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

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@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.

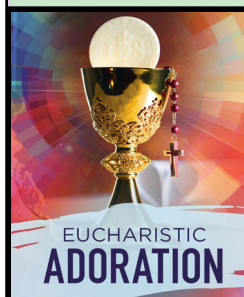
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



July 26, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, **"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field."** He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— Father John Muir ©LPi