

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

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

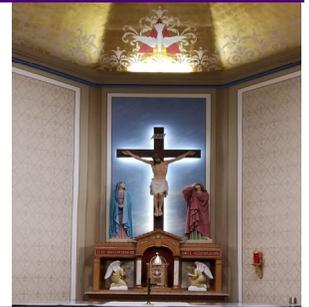
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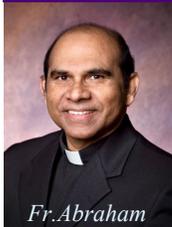
Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Third Sunday Of Lent – March 07 & 08, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Thirst for Eternal Life

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The account of the Samaritan woman at the well in Gospel of John (John 4:5–42) is a powerful reflection on our deepest human longing—the thirst for eternal life. When Jesus encountered the woman, he broke with the normal practice of Jews by asking her for a drink. What followed was a conversation unfolding on two levels. The woman thought only of the physical water in the well, while Jesus spoke of “living water,” the life of grace that alone can satisfy the human heart.

Jesus told her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst.” Like the Samaritan woman, we often focus on material and temporary needs. Yet within every heart there is a deeper thirst that no earthly success, possession, or relationship can fully quench. There is a restlessness that only God can satisfy.

The living water Jesus offers is nothing less than God’s own life within us. As St. Paul the Apostle teaches in Epistle to the Romans (Romans 5:5), “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” Through baptism and grace, we receive this divine life now, with the promise of immortality in the resurrection. It frees us from clinging to what is temporary and directs our hearts toward what is eternal. This divine life begins now and reaches its fullness in the resurrection. It liberates us from clinging to merely material things and draws us toward what is eternal.

This living water is also closely connected to conversion and forgiveness. Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away the sin of the world—but we must first acknowledge our need for mercy. In her encounter with Jesus, the Samaritan woman experienced truth, forgiveness, and transformation. Changed by grace, she left her water jar behind and ran back to her town to share her discovery. Her joy and new life were evident. Because of her witness, many Samaritans came to believe in him and invited him to remain with them.

Especially during Lent, this Gospel invites us to come to the source of living water—to come to the only one who can truly satisfy our thirst. Lent is a season of renewal for the whole community by prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. These practices open our hearts to receive more deeply the grace Christ offers. He stands before us, as he stood before the Samaritan woman, ready to satisfy our thirst and lead us to eternal life.

Lenten Reconciliation: Wednesday, March 11 at 6.30 pm at Ascension.

All are warmly invited to attend. Like the Samaritan woman who encountered Christ and experienced forgiveness, and transformation, come and receive God’s mercy and the grace of new life.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: *In thanksgiving to God for all He has given us*

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. BRARDS' PARISHES

<i>Monday</i>	Mar. 9		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Mar. 10	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Mar. 11	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Mar. 12	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Mar. 13	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross: 6:00pm
<i>Saturday</i>	Mar. 14	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Mar. 15	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

We will be having the Anointing of the sick next weekend. Ascensions will be on Saturday March 14th after the 5pm Mass and at St. Bernard on Sunday March 15th after the 10am Mass.

Our Joint Lenten Reconciliation Service will be at 6:30pm at Ascension. Faith Formation Students will attend with their class throughout the evening.

Come out next Sunday for Bingo and an afternoon of Family Fun hosted by the Ascension KC's starting at 1pm in the Ascension Social Hall!

Next weekend we observe Global Solidarity Sunday with the theme "Embracing God's Light" (Ephesians 5:8). This theme is an invitation for all to reach out in solidarity to share God's love, mercy, and peace with our brothers and sisters around the world by offering financial support during Lent. This appeal supports the pastoral needs of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, and humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and share God's love for your brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you

Lent 2026 Reconciliation Services in the Area

- March 10th 6:30pm-7:30pm at St. Victoria
- March 10th at 7:15pm at Our Lady of the Lake
- March 17th 8:30am-7:00pm at St. Mark
- March 17th 5:45pm-8:00pm at Holy Name of Jesus
- March 19th 6:00pm-8:00pm at St. Hubert's
- March 19th 6:30pm-8:00pm at St. Therese
- March 27th 10am-12pm at Holy Name of Jesus
- March 29th 4:00pm-6:00pm St. Joseph

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/22/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,686.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,450.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 108,165.10
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 108,803.10
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (638.00)
Capital Improvement Offering:	67.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	250.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,702.00



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!



Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Jim Richter whose funeral will be on Tuesday March 10th at 11am as Ascension. There will also be a gathering with the family at Ascension on Monday March 10th from 4pm-7pm and Tuesday from 10am-11am. Please keep his family in your prayers during this time.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,339.13
Contributions 11-12 through 11-18-2025	2,199.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	65,835.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	1,166.71
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	150.00
Forward in Faith YTD	4,372.50



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

The Waconia KC's Fish Fry night to benefit St. Bernard will be on March 27th! Please consider signing up for a shift to help! Sign up can be found under the St. Bernard page of our website or in the back of the Narthex. If you are not able to sign up to help, please consider coming out for a delicious meal or bring home the takeout option! Thank you for your support!

Faith Formation Update:

FUNDRAISER - THIS Tuesday, March 10 — Enjoy a delicious meal at NorthSide Grill in NYA and support Ascension's Catholic United and Faith Formation program. A percentage of the sales for the day (dine in and take out) will be donated to our organization.

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 14th and 15th

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	Jonah Gesinger & Payton Stender	Nathan Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Luke Allison & Lexy Allison
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Brian Willems	Helen Nicklaus
EMHC	Cathleen Williams	Steve Helget	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Rick Ulrich	Eugene Dvorak & Justin Buckentin	Tom Dahl & Brian Vos
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Sarah Foley
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B: Steve & Cheryl Coyle	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Mar. 9		No Mass
Tuesday	Mar. 10	6:15 pm	ASC. Father Abraham's Intention
Wednesday	Mar. 11	8:00am	ST. B. The family of Merlyn & Margaret Eiden
Thursday	Mar. 12	8:00 am	ST. B. Luke Meuleners †
Friday	Mar. 13	8:00am	ASC. Paul Simons †
Saturday	Mar. 14	5:00 pm	ASC. Don and Dolores Bohlinger ††
Sunday	Mar. 15	8:00 am	ASC. For all Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 15	10:00 am	ST. B. Richard Paul † And All Parishioners

Readings for the week of **Mar. 8, 2026**
Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30 **Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35 **Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23 **Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34 **Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14 **Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

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

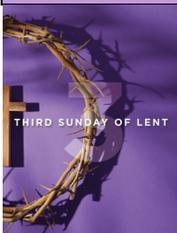
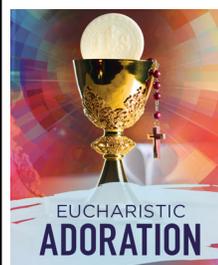
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



March 8, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, “Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way.” That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: **“One sows and another reaps” (John 4:37)**. He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi