

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:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

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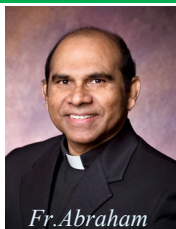
Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 27 & 28, 2025



The Rich Man and Lazarus: A call to Compassion

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The parable of Lazarus and the Rich man (Luke 16:19–31) is one of the famous parables of Jesus. Jesus told the parable to reprove the Pharisees for their love of money and their lack of mercy toward the poor. In this story, the poor man is given a name Lazarus, while the rich man remains unnamed. By leaving the rich man nameless, Jesus invites us to consider whether we might be that person. The story becomes personal, an open invitation for self-examination.

Why is the rich man condemned to hell? It is not for being rich. After all, he didn't directly harm Lazarus. He didn't chase him away from his gate or forbid him from eating the scraps from his table. His sin, however, was not one of commission (doing wrong), but of omission (failing to do what was right). He was guilty of indifference and neglect. He led a life of luxury and self-indulgence, totally ignoring the cry of the poor Lazarus lying at his doorstep. He shut his eyes and heart to the suffering that was right in front of him.

The rich man failed to live out the teachings of Sacred Scripture, which consistently call us to care for the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. His wealth was not the problem, his lack of compassion and mercy was. This parable is not meant to offend or discourage those who have worked hard and honestly for their success. It is not a condemnation of wealth itself, but a warning against allowing wealth to isolate us from the needs of others. It challenges us to *ask: What am I doing with the blessings I have received?*

The core message of this parable is a call to responsibility, a call to bring God's mercy to others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. It is an invitation to open our eyes and hearts to the suffering around us and to share our blessings generously. The parable reminds us that failing to respond to the needs of others is a serious moral failure with eternal consequences.

Today, the same sin of omission is committed over and over again. The gap between the "Rich" and "Lazarus" continues to grow. Millions cry out for food, shelter, justice, and dignity, and often their cries go unheard. The Christian can never be at ease while a brother or sister suffers in vain. The Church, in her mission, continues to reach out to the poor and suffering across the world. As members of the Body of Christ, we must not allow our wealth, status, or comfort to make us blind or indifferent.

We are all rich in some way: whether in material resources, health, education, talents, time, or influence. These are gifts from God, entrusted to us not for selfish gain, but for the good of others. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a clear warning: the selfish and extravagant use of God's blessings, without sharing them with the poor and the needy, is a sin that leads to separation from God. Let us not make the same mistake. Let us be people who see, who feel, and who act - bringing mercy where there is misery, and hope where there is despair.

Rosary Intention: For a deeper awareness of our call to compassion toward the poor and hungry.

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. BERARDS' PARISHES

Monday	Sep. 29		No Mass:
Tuesday	Sep. 30	ASC.	Adoration: 3:00pm-6:00pm
		ASC.	Confession: 5:45-6:05pm
		ASC.	Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Oct. 01	ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am
		ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
		ST. B.	Adoration: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Oct. 02	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Oct. 03	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Oct. 04	ST. B.	SOUP SOCIAL!! 3:00-8:00pm
		ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm
		ST. B.	Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Oct. 05	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
		ASC.	Donut Sunday
		ST. B.	Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Mark your Calendars! St. Bernard Soup Social is THIS Saturday, October 4th from 3pm-8pm (or until the soup is gone!) Cost is free will offering. There will be a Quilt, Cash, and Meat raffle as well as a Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and Kids Bingo from 6:30pm-7pm. We hope to see you all there!

Women Doctors of the Church Retreat
Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Patrick, Edina
Join women from the Archdiocese for a Women's Day Retreat! Speakers will discuss the spirituality of the four Women Doctors of the Church. Learn about these saintly Women & how we can relate to them as women in today's world. The day will include: a light breakfast, Catholic speakers, Mass, Adoration & Rosary, catered lunch, Social Hour, Door Prizes & shopping! Join us for a joyful, spirit-filled, fun day! A petition for St. Faustina to be declared a Doctor is underway! We will talk about her too. Find more information and registration at stpatrick-edina.org/sretreat.

Catechetical Institute: Three Ages of the Interior Life -Tuesdays, Oct. 14-Nov. 11, 7-9 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina

Expand your Knowledge of the Spiritual Life and Contemplative Prayer! Examine the powerful prayer methods of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila in this five-session course, from The Saint Paul Seminary Catechetical Institute. Taught by Deacon Dan Gannon, Taught by Deacon Dan Gannon, director for Ongoing Clergy Formation, Three Ages of the Interior Life will help you understand the essential dispositions needed to progress in holiness and teach you practical ways to enter into the life of grace. Learn more and register at cistudent.com/course-information-carmelite

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 09/14/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,089.00
Weekly E-Giving:	770.00
Collections Budget YTD:	35,009.70
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 34,638.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (371.70)
Capital Improvement Offering:	145.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 2,130.00



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!

"You cannot have God for your Father if you do not have the Church for your mother."-St. Cyprian

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,080.27
Contributions 09-10 through 09-16-2025	8,979.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	37,929.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	2,960.67
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	61.00
Forward in Faith Total	70.00
Forward in Faith YTD	2,395.00



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 join in celebrating the baptism of *Patrick Kristian Francis and Augustine James Francis* after the 10am Mass October 5th. All are welcome.

Word of Life- "The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).***NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Live the Gospel of Life" respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Faith Formation Update:

CUF and Faith Formation students will be selling Elephant Joe's bagged coffee grounds and gift cards from Sept. 17 - Oct. 1. You can order through the students, the order form in the bulletin or call/text Pam Stoks at 952-240-5004. Thank you for supporting our Faith Formation program!

Mass Ministry Schedule October 04 & 05

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Emma Panning & Marshall Panning	Greta Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Daniel Worm & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Mary Sue Thaemert	Sue Tellers	Julie Kleindl
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Kathy Kloempken	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Leo Willems	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Dick Arnst & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Roger Storms	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Tim George & Steve Helget Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 29		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 30 6:15 pm	Asc.	For Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday	Oct. 01 8:00 am	St. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden family
Thursday	Oct. 02 8:00 am	St. B.	Sr. Rose Zimmer OFM †
Friday	Oct. 03 8:00am	Asc.	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Oct. 04 5:00 pm	St. B.	Leonard Sr. & Lorraine Hoen †† & All Parishioners
Sunday	Oct. 05 8:00 am	Asc.	Living & Deceased of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Oct. 05 10:00 am	St. B.	Marcy Wickenhauser †

Readings for the week of Sept. 28, 2025
Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31 **Monday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51 **Tuesday:** Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56 **Wednesday:** Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62 **Thursday:** Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10 **Friday:** Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16 **Saturday:** Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24 **Next Sunday:** Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

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

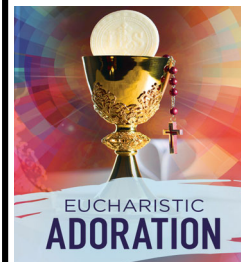
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

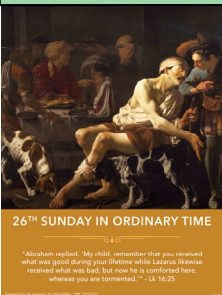
St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00pm until 6:00 pm



September 28, 2025
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: **“My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented” (Luke 16:25).** Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved *that*, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.