

# 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



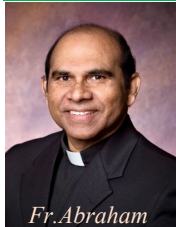
Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org)

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
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  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052  
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## The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 8 & 9, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### The Divine Call

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As described in Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6:1-8) and in the call of St. Paul (I Cor 15:1-11), the Lord's invitation is a direct and personal one, meant to bring about both purification and an invitation to serve. In Isaiah's case, the touch on his lips represents a purification that allows him to speak for God. Similarly, St. Paul, though unworthy due to his past persecution of Christians, experiences the transformative grace of God, which makes him a willing servant of the Gospel.

Both Isaiah and Paul acknowledge their unworthiness when faced with the call of the Lord. This awareness of personal sin is not a barrier to God's invitation but rather a prelude to the purification that is necessary for fulfilling God's purpose. As Isaiah says, "I am a man of unclean lips," and St. Paul admits, "I am the least of the apostles," both recognizing their flaws yet experiencing the grace of God's transformation.

The key to the transformation is not just the call of God, but our willingness to respond, as seen in the story of Peter. Though he initially doubts, Peter's eventual obedience to Jesus' command leads to a miraculous catch of fish, symbolizing how obedience to God's call leads to abundance, even when human efforts fall short. This action of surrendering to God's word and allowing Him to work through us is essential for spiritual growth.

The idea that God calls the unworthy is a central theme of this reflection. By choosing figures like King David, Mary Magdalene, and even the penitent thief, the story of salvation shows that God's mercy and grace are not limited by human standards of worthiness. This gives all believers hope, as it shows that no one is beyond the reach of God's transformative love.

In the story of the miraculous catch of fish, we see how Jesus enters into the hopelessness of the disciples' situation and transforms it into a moment of abundance. (Luke 5:1-11). This is a powerful metaphor for how, when we invite Jesus into the challenges of our own lives, He can bring hope, healing, and renewal.

This Scripture reflection calls us to listen to God's invitation in our lives. Just as God purified Isaiah and Paul, and transformed Peter's doubt into faith, he invites us to surrender to his will. Despite our weaknesses, past mistakes, or doubts, God's grace is sufficient to make us new. By acting on Jesus' words, we open ourselves to his miracles and the opportunity to become witnesses of his kingdom. As he invited the disciples to follow him, so too he calls us to experience his abundant grace and share that hope with others.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI  
Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** *Through Prayer and Fasting this Lent, we may come to better know 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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Feb. 10</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feb. 11</b>	<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>	<b>Feb. 12</b>	<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>Faith Formation</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 15</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feb. 16</b>	<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! \$16.5 for Adults; \$6 Kids 6-12; 5 and under free!

#### **Deacon Discernment Day-Saturday, Apr. 26, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., The Saint Paul Seminary, St. Paul**

If you are considering a vocation as a permanent deacon, your first step is to attend a Deacon Discernment Day. Discerners and their wives (if applicable) will learn about the vocation of the permanent deacon and The Saint Paul Seminary Institute for Diaconate Formation. Find more information and registration at [saintpaulseminary.org/event/deacon-discernment-day-spring-2025](http://saintpaulseminary.org/event/deacon-discernment-day-spring-2025).

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](mailto:mattewturek59@gmail.com) for the Men's Retreat or Janice Matlon [jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org) for the Women's retreat, or Pam Kunkle at St. Bernard and Kathy Kloempken at Ascension.

#### **Beef and Sausage Dinner Guardian Angels, Chaska**

**Today** Sunday, February 9, 2025; School Gym: 11am-1:00pm; Serving since 1949 by the Guardian Angels Men's Club. **Sit -Down and Take- Outs**

#### Faith Formation Update:

**The Ascension's CUF Council will again be sponsoring a Spring Clothing Drive in conjunction with the Epilepsy Foundation of MN. The exact dates are still to be determined, but please keep this in mind as you clean out your closet in the next couples of months!**

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 01/26/2025

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 3,101.92
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	1,440.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	1,175.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	93,057.60
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 102,461.40</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>9,403.50</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	130.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	75.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 7,860.00</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	2,900.15
<b>Contributions 01-22 through 1-28-2025</b>	<b>2,645.50</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	117,712.55
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>6,948.10</b>

#### Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	159 00
Electronic Donations	71.50
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>230.50</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>10,307.00</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!**

**Thank you !** Thanks to all who have donated items to the Bountiful Basket Food shelf. In recent weeks a total of **48 pounds of food** has been donated. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Always in need of Cereal, Oatmeal, peanut butter, hearty canned soups, Tuna, canned meats, canned fruits and diapers all sizes.

**JUST A REMINDER:** If you would like a notice posted on the kiosk, there is an "In Basket" in the St. Anne's Room. Unauthorized notices will be removed.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—February 15 & 16

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Brooklyn Hoen & Luca Hoen	Brianna Duenow & Nathan Duenow	Emma Panning & Marshall Panning
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Jean Schmitz	Mary Sue Thaemert
Eucharistic Ministers	Margaret Wickenhauser	Steve Helget	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Justin Buckentin & Don Whitaker	Bob Symanitz & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Judy Glander	Dave & Colleen Donnay	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Dave & Ann Dettmann	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
Monday	Feb. 10		No Mass
Tuesday	Feb. 11 6:15 pm	Ascension	For Pope Francis
Wednesday	Feb. 12 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Merlyn † & Margaret † Eiden and Living and Deceased Members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Feb. 13 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Loren & Linda Vondrun ††
Friday	Feb. 14 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Feb. 15 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Harriet Meuleners †
Sunday	Feb. 16 8:00 am	Ascension	Jeanne C. Kreger †
Sunday	Feb. 16 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser † and 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

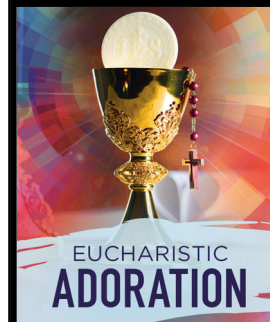
Call the parish office at any time.

#### Readings for the week of Feb. 9, 2025

**Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11 **Monday:** Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56 **Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13 **Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23 **Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30 **Friday:** Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37 **Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10 **Next 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

**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.**



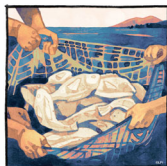
### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm



Feb 9, 2025

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

My parents' garage is full of old junk that no longer serves any purpose in my life. As a 46-year-old man, I admit that's pretty lame. Either due to my sentimentality or laziness (or both, probably), I just couldn't get myself to throw things away. But a few days ago, by a grace of God, I thought: "I'll hire my nephew Ryan to throw a bunch of my stuff away — he couldn't care less about my junk!" And you know what? It worked. In one day, Ryan chucked the majority of his uncle's useless stuff. I feel so free, ready for a new junk-free chapter in my life.

This kind of thing happens in this Sunday's Gospel. Peter's net is full of useless junk. Luke says he and the others are cleaning their nets after catching no fish. Imagine them dejectedly and impatiently removing a nasty assortment of seaweed, sticks and muck. The Lord teaches and calls them once their nets are cleared out. So it goes with us. Spiritual life begins by removing that which is useless and merely taking up space in our hearts, minds and lives. Then Jesus teaches and acts in a marvelous way in our lives, too.

So what's junking up your net? What habits, attachments, possessions, preoccupations? If, like me, you struggle to clean your nets by yourself, ask the Lord to send you someone like my nephew to be your "Peter" and help you clean it out. It is well worth it. Once Peter's net is clean, he is free to make a wonderful catch. — *Father John Muir*