

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

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

Business Administrator:

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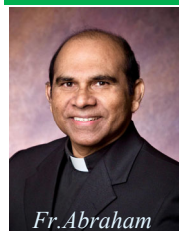
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Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 29 & 30, 2026



Fr. Abraham

The Cost and Joy of Discipleship

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday, we heard how quickly St. Peter responded when Jesus asked the apostles, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus called Peter blessed for this profession of faith.

Today’s Gospel (Mt 16:21–27) follows immediately. Jesus begins to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer greatly, be put to death, and rise again. Once again, Peter is quick to respond: “*Lord, this must never happen to you.*” But Jesus’ response is startling: “*Get behind me, Satan.*” Why does Jesus speak so strongly to Peter? Peter’s words may have come from love and concern for Jesus. But they had become an obstacle, a stumbling block, to Jesus’ mission and to the will of the Father. Jesus makes this clear when he tells Peter, “*You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.*”

We can sometimes react like Peter. When difficulties, suffering, or disappointment enter our lives, we may wonder why God allows these things to happen. We may assume that a successful Christian life should be free from suffering and sacrifice. Yet Jesus teaches us that the way of discipleship is not always the way of worldly success.

After correcting Peter, Jesus gives three conditions for those who wish to be his disciples: *deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.*

First, deny yourself. Self-denial does not mean rejecting who we are or neglecting our legitimate needs. Rather, it means refusing to allow selfish desires and tendencies to control our hearts. It means placing God’s will before our own and learning to love others with a generous and self-giving heart.

Second, take up your cross. To carry the cross with Jesus means accepting the pain and sufferings that are part of our lives. For Jesus, the cross meant embracing his Father’s will, even when that path led to suffering and death. We, too, are called to trust God in the midst of our struggles. Each of us has a cross to carry, and each person’s cross is different.

Third, follow me. Following Jesus means more than simply believing in him. It means allowing his teachings to shape our choices, our relationships, our priorities, and the way we treat others. It means walking with him each day and seeking to live according to his example.

The Gospel challenges us to examine our hearts and ask: What am I holding on to that prevents me from following Jesus more faithfully? Perhaps it is a selfish desire, an unhealthy attachment, resentment, fear, or even a relationship that draws us away from God’s will. To follow Jesus is not always the easiest path, but it is the path that leads to true life. May we have the courage to deny ourselves, embrace our crosses with faith, and follow Christ wherever he leads us.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: *May our youth grow in their knowledge and Love of God this school year.*

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	Aug. 31		No Mass:
Tuesday	Sep. 01	ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm
		ASC.	Confession: 5:45-6:05pm
		ASC.	Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Sep. 02	ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am
		ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
		ST. B.	Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	Sep. 03	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Sep. 04	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Sep. 05	ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm
		ST. B.	Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Sep. 06	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
		ST. B.	Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Our Office Schedule for next week is the following:
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday—Ascension
Tuesday—St. Bernard.
 We wish you all a blessed Labor Day Weekend.

Online Book Group: Wisdom the Good Life Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 14, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., virtual - Join St. Paul's Monastery for a lunch-hour five-week book study (online via Zoom) of Wisdom: The Good Life: Wisdom Literature and the Rule of Benedict by Benedictine scholar Sister Irene Nowell, OSB. Drawing from the rich wisdom books of the Old Testament alongside the enduring insights of the Rule of St. Benedict, Nowell offers a practical and deeply spiritual guide for anyone longing to live with greater purpose, joy, discernment, and peace. Find more information and registration at benedictinecenter.secure.retreat.guru/program/book-group-wisdom-the-good-life.

Silent Retreat for Men and Woman-Sept. 24-27, Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, Prior Lake. Peace is a given among 60 acres of woods and prairie grass with lovely lakeside sunsets. The gorgeous nature beckons reflection and restoration as you breathe deeply, releasing your struggles, burdens, and racing thoughts toward a sense of serenity. Sit with yourself and Jesus over four days of quietness. Immerse yourself in guided prayer, themed conferences, confession, adoration and Mass. Private bedroom suite with meals cooked onsite. Pray with the labyrinth and outdoor Stations of the Cross. Find more information and registration at franciscanretreats.net/silent-catholic-retreat-men-women-september-.

Faith Formation Update:



Scan the QR Code to register today for the 2026-27 Faith Formation year! Mark your calendars for our opening Mass on Wednesday, September 9th at St. Bernard. We are pleased to share that all registered Parishioners from St. Bernard and Ascension receive free tuition this year!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 08/16/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,211.54
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,776.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,195.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 22,480.78
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 16,629.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (5,851.78)
Capital Improvement Offering:	40.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	235.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 2,277.00



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 pray for the repose of the soul of *Marlene Wirtz* who passed away on August 17th. Her funeral will be held on Thursday, September 3rd at Ascension. Please keep her family in your prayers during this time.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 08/16/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,500.00
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	1,560.00
Weekly E-Giving	445.00
Collection Budget YTD:	24,000.00
Actual Collection YTD:	18,821.75
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	(5,678.25)
Capital Improvement Offering:	110.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	154.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	2,678.25



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!

Our Joint Parish Picnic will be hosted by St. Bernard on September 19th after the 5:00pm Mass. This year it will be held on the St. Bernard grounds! As always we are looking for volunteers to help. If you are able to assist, please reach out to Doris Mielke. Hope to see everyone there!

Word of Life—If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion"

www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

Mass Ministry Schedule—September 5th, & 6th

Mass ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 9:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Monica Kooiman	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Marshall Panning & Chloe Storms	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Kieran Allison & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Rob Wickenhauser	Cheryl Cole	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Kathy Kloempken	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Eugene Dvorak & Paul Lano	Dick Arnst & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Roger Storms	Steve Coyle	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Cheryl Coyle & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Aug. 31		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 1 6:15 pm	ASC.	Rita & Leo Gestach ††
Wednesday	Sept. 2 8:00 am	ST. B.	Connie Mendenwaldt †
Thursday	Sept. 3 8:00 am	ST. B.	Sister Christa Rein SSND †
Friday	Sept. 4 8:00am	ASC.	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Sept. 5 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Benjamin Jenkins †
Sunday	Sept. 6 8:00 am	ASC.	Pauline Fahey †
Sunday	Sept. 6 10:00 am	ST. B.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Aug. 30, 2026

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27 **Monday:** 1 Cor
2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102/Lk
4:16-30 **Tuesday:** 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps
145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31
-37 **Wednesday:** 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-
13, 14-15, 20-21/Lk 4:38-44 **Thursday:** 1
Cor 3:18-23/ Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk
5:1-11 **Friday:** 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-
6, 27-28, 39-40/Lk 5:33-39 **Saturday:** 1
Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/Lk
6:1-5 **Next Sunday:** Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2,
6-7b, 7c-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

**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.

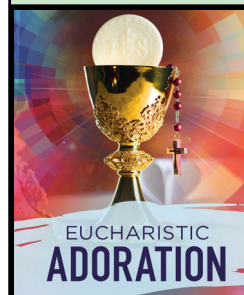
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

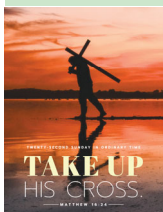
St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



August 30, 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, **"Get behind me, Satan."**

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. **"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."** In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— Father John Muir ©LPi