

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

# PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# 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](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

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Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

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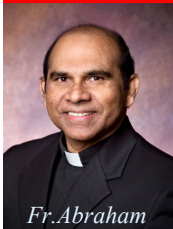
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## Pentecost Sunday – May 23 & May 24, 2026



Fr. Abraham

### Come, O Holy Spirit

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary in tongues of fire. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles boldly preached the Gospel, and through St. Peter's preaching, three thousand people were converted to the Christian faith. Pentecost is, therefore, the official birthday of the Church.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who strengthens, guides, and sanctifies the Church. We encounter Jesus through the sacramental mysteries of the Church, and the Holy Spirit is at the heart of the Church's sacramental life. Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders are sacraments through which believers receive the seal of the Holy Spirit. It would be impossible for us to receive Jesus in the Eucharist without the descent of the Holy Spirit during the Epiclesis of the holy Mass. Through the Spirit, the Apostles received the authority to forgive sins: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:23). These beautiful words, which inseparably unite the presence of the Holy Spirit with the gift of forgiveness, are directly reflected in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

How beautiful is the thought that the Holy Spirit lives within us! St. Paul reminds us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 3:16). The Spirit helps us pray (Rom 8:26), deepens our relationship with Jesus (1 Cor 12:3), and fills our hearts with his love. May the Holy Spirit renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and inspire us to live as joyful witnesses of Christ.

**"Food For The Poor":** Father Martin Ahiaba will be visiting our parishes during the weekend of May 30-31, 2026 to share a personal witness about the mission of Food For The Poor and its work of caring for the destitute as a way of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. Please welcome Fr. Ahiaba and prayerfully consider supporting this great ministry with your generosity.

### 40 HOURS ADORATION

St. Bernard, Cologne (Thu. June 4 – Sat. 6)



Sign up sheets are located at St. Bernard and at Ascension. You may also sign up by scanning the QR code. Contact Pam Kunkel [pkunkel654@gmail.com](mailto:pkunkel654@gmail.com) Mobile # 952- 564-1832 or Doris Mielke, Mobile # 612- 910-2365 with any questions or concerns.

*All are welcome to join us for 40 Hours Adoration.*

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** *For favorable weather for a fruitful growing season.*

**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**

<i>Monday</i>	May. 25		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	May. 26	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	May. 27	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	May. 28	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	May. 29	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	May. 30	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	May. 31	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

**Our Memorial Day Mass will be held at Ascension this year at 8:45am. Please have all cemetery decorations picked up by June 1st for our mowers.**

**Mark your Calendars for the Joint Parish Picnic! It will be hosted by St. Bernard this year on September 19th after the 4:00pm Mass. As always we are looking for volunteers to help. If you are able to help, please reach out to Doris Mielke.**

**Food For The Poor:** Please join us the weekend of May 30 -31, 2026 to hear Rev. Martin A. Ahiaba speak at all the Masses about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Father Ahiaba will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. A devoted shepherd and theologian, Fr. Ahiaba brings over 20 years of ministry in healthcare, parish, and correctional settings. With a PhD in Systematic Theology, he offers compassionate spiritual care, guiding individuals with wisdom, faith, and a deep commitment to holistic ministry. Please welcome Fr. Ahiaba and prayerfully consider supporting this worthy cause with your generosity.

**Capital Campaign Update:**

**As we wrap up our Waves of the Campaign, we want to thank everyone who participated in supporting the future of both our Parishes and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.**

**Faith Formation Update:**

**Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Faith Formation/Epilepsy Foundation Fundraiser! It was another very successful year. Stay tuned for the results from our fundraisers this year!**

**Church of Ascension**

**Ascension Weekly Collection Report  
Totals as of 05/10/2026**

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,843.00
Weekly E-Giving:	985.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 143,221.50
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 142,794.51
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>\$ (426.99)</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	225.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 10,101.00

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$363,620-165%**



**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!**

**Knights of Columbus – Volunteers Needed!**

The Knights of Columbus are looking for helping hands for our annual Winstock bartending fundraiser. It's a fun night of service and community support.  
**Shift:** Friday, June 19 • 8:00 PM–12:30 AM  
**Requirements:** Must be at least 18 years old  
**To Volunteer:** Call or text Bob Willems to sign up or with questions. 612-430-3295.  
Come join us for a great night supporting a great cause!

**Church of St. Bernard**

**St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure  
Totals as of 05/10/2026**

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,197.52
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	3,557.00
Weekly E-Giving	150.00
Collection Budget YTD:	169,274.13
Actual Collection YTD:	171,152.50
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD</b>	<b>1,878.31</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	10.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	54.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	10,547.50

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$389,062 –150%**



**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!**

**Word of Life** -“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

USCCB Respect Life flyer quoting Pope Francis’ “Day for Life Greeting”  
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In honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Please Pray the Rosary daily during the month of May.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—May 25th, 30th & 31st

Mass Ministry	Ascension Memorial Day 8:45am	Ascension Sat 5:00 am	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Rita Fahey	Rita Fahey	Kathy Kloempken	Doris Mielke
Servers	Volunteers	Jonah Gesinger & Alex Urness	Brianna Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen
Reader	Cheryl Coyle	Brian Willems	Colleen Donnay	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Steve Coyle	Cathleen Williams	Steve Coyle	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Paul Lano & Tom Lano	Dave Donnay & Steve Schrupp	Dave Donnay & Tom Lano	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Grace Cook	Sue Schultz	Grace Cook	Brian Vos
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	Grp A-Cheryl & Steve Coyle Grp B-Colleen & Dave Donnay	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Intention
Monday	May 25 8:45 am	ASC. Military Veterans
Tuesday	May 26 6:15 pm	ASC. For All Parishioners
Wednesday	May 27 8:00 am	ST. B. Bob & LaVonne Arnst ††
Thursday	May 28 8:00 am	ST. B. Adrian Wickenhauser †
Friday	May 29 8:00am	ASC. Fr. Abraham's Intention
Saturday	May 30 5:00 pm	ASC. Allan Schmitt †
Sunday	May 31 8:00 am	ASC. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kosek ††
Sunday	May 31 10:00 am	ST. B. Clarissa Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of May 24, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23 **Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34 **Tuesday:** 1 Pt 1:10-16/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Mk 10:28-31 **Wednesday:** 1 Pt 1:18-25/ Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 10:32-45 **Thursday:** 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/ Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/ Mk 10:46-52 **Friday:** 1 Pt 4:7-13/ Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk 11:11-26 **Saturday:** Jude 17, 20b-25/ Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 11:27-33 **Next Sunday:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

**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.

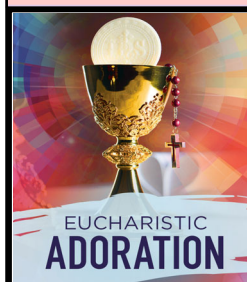
### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm



**May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**John 20:19-23**



*“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” (John 20:22–23)*

For those of us who go to confession regularly, there is often a familiar frustration: “Why do I keep confessing the same sins?” It can feel like a loop, cleansed but unchanged.

Pentecost reveals a hopeful perspective. When the Risen Jesus breathes on his ashamed and fearful disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, he echoes Genesis, when God breathes life into Adam. This is not just primarily the removal of guilt, but new creation. In confession, we receive more than forgiveness. We receive a fresh outpouring, the breath of the Spirit, and a renewed mission. Jesus does not say to us, “You’re forgiven, now go back to your old life.” He says, so to speak, **“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”** (John 20:21)

That is why penance is not just saying a few prayers. It is reorientation. It is the Spirit summoning us to live differently: with mercy and healing.

Just as Adam was sent into the world, and the Apostles were sent out after Pentecost, so too we are sent from the confessional — not just clean, but consecrated.

**Pentecost Challenge:** After your next confession, ask the Holy Spirit for one way you can participate in Christ’s healing will for you. Then take one small, concrete step, and do not look back. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi