

# 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:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

[bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org](mailto: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](mailto:busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org)

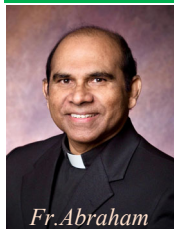
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

[bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org)



## The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – March 1 & 2, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### Preparation for the Season of Renewal and Growth

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday marks the final Sunday before Ash Wednesday, signaling the start of our Lenten journey. Today's scriptural readings invite us to prepare for this sacred, forty-day season of spiritual renewal. Lent is a time for renewal and growth. As we embark on this journey, we are called to assess what we need to carry with us and what we need to leave behind. Let us heed the Lord's invitation to shed all excess and move forward with faith, trusting that the Lord who comes to us in the Eucharist will be our Bread for the journey.

In today's Gospel (Lk 6:39-45), Jesus teaches us that good trees bear good fruit, but to do so, we must first receive proper spiritual nourishment by hearing God's word. Lent is the perfect time for this spiritual renewal and bear good fruit.

Lent invites us to look inward, to reflect on our thoughts and feelings, and to examine the state of our hearts. Jesus reminds us that the quality of our hearts determines the quality of our words and actions: "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good; an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

Additionally, Jesus warns us to be careful in judging others. Rather than focusing on the faults of others, we are called to look inward first. We have no right to criticize unless we are free of our own faults. As the saying goes, "There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, that it ill behooves any of us to find fault with the rest of us."

Through these teachings, Jesus invites us to reflect on the movements within our hearts and minds, especially in how we relate to others. The first reading, from the Book of Sirach (27:4-7) reminds us that what is within us is revealed through our words. Let us allow our hearts to be filled with joy and gratitude for what God has given us through Christ, so that we can praise Him with sincerity and cheerfulness.

In essence, these readings challenge us to look at our lives and the world around us with clarity and reflection. Are there areas in our lives that need more careful tending? Are there "branches" that need to be pruned, so that our prayer, ministry, and service can bear more fruit? How can we more effectively share our time, talents, and material goods to help others bear fruit in their own lives? The Season of Lent is an opportunity for us to "get back to the basics," focusing on the quality of our discipleship.

**Ash Wednesday (March 5):** All are invited to participate in the Ash Wednesday Liturgy: 5:00 pm at St. Bernard and 6:45 pm at Ascension.

Everyone aged 14 and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent. Everyone between the ages of 18 and 59 is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

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

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. BERNARDS' PARISHES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mar. 3</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mar. 4</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>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Adoration:</b> 1:00-4:00pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:45pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Fish Fry:</b> 11am-7pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar. 8</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 9</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

**Ash Wednesday Services will be at 5:00pm at St. Bernard and 6:45pm at Ascension. There will be no 8:00am Mass at St. Bernard that day. Adoration at St. Bernard on March 5th will be from 1:00pm-4:00pm.**

**Our Combined Lent Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday March 12th at Ascension starting at 6:30pm.**

**Mark your Calendars!  
The Ascension K-C Fish Fry  
will be on Friday March 7th  
from 11:00am-7:00pm.**

If you are able to help serve, scan here  
and pick a time!



The combined **Stewardship Committee**, along with each parish's **Catholic United Financial group**, is hosting a **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION** at each parish to thank all of our wonderful community of volunteers who keep our parishes running smoothly. The gathering for **St. Bernard** will be held **Sat. March 15** after the 5:00 pm Mass. The gathering at **Ascension** will be on **Sat. March 22** after the 5:00 pm Mass. Spouse and family of the volunteer welcome.

Ascension Bible study will be starting the Spring session on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> after the 8am Mass and concluding on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be studying the Seven deadly sins-Seven Lively Virtues- Word on Fire by Archbishop Barron. Join us for this 8 week engaging presentation concerning the seven deadly sins, those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our flourishing in relationship with God and one another. Cost will be around \$10. There is a sign up sheet in the back of church if you are interested in joining!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/16/2025

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 3,101.92
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	851.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	945.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	102,363.36
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 110,908.40</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>8,545.04</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	60.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	225.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 8,605.00</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!**

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of **Betty O'Neil** who passed away on February 16th and whose funeral was this Saturday. We prayer for her family in your prayers during this time.



## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,987.52
<b>Contributions 02-12 through 2-18-2025</b>	<b>2,117.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	128,105.55
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>8,378.54</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	159.00
Electronic Donations	151.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>310.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>14,659.46</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!**

At this moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life-threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. If you'd like to do something to help those in need, please pick up a **Rice Bowl** from the table in the narthex. For more information about CRS Rice Bowls, go to: [csrricebowl.org](http://csrricebowl.org)

## Faith Formation Update:

**UPDATE for the CUF Clothing Drive - The Ascension's CUF Council will be collecting clothing/cloth items from Tuesday, April 22 - Tuesday, May 6. There will be a trailer in the church parking lot for donations. This is a matching grant for CUF with proceeds coming back to the parish.**

**More information to follow in the upcoming weeks**

## Mass Ministry Schedule—March 8 & 9

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Rita Fahey	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Noah Kerber & Volunteer	Greta Buckentin & Lacey Buckentin	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Brian Willems	Mary Sue Thaemert
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Mulville	Steve Lemmer	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Rick Ulrich	Justin Buckentin & Richard Tellers	Vern Elke & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Julie & Jeremy Gesinger	Pat Johnson	Victoria Amst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Mar. 3		No Mass
Tuesday	March 4	6:15 pm	Ascension For those in Purgatory
Wednesday	Mar. 5	5:00 pm	St. Bernard Reverend Paul Ardlof †
Wednesday	Mar. 5	6:45 pm	Ascension For those entering the Church
Thursday	Mar. 6	8:00 am	St. Bernard Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased Members of the Eiden Family
Friday	Mar. 7	8:00 am	Ascension Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Mar. 8	5:00 pm	Ascension Living and Deceased of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Mar. 9	8:00 am	Ascension Respect for All Life
Sunday	Mar. 9	10:00 am	St. Bernard Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser †† & 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

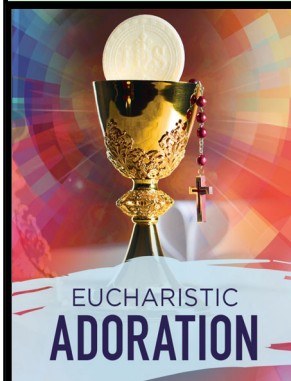
**Communion for Homebound**  
Ascension - Sue Tellers.....612-247-6881  
St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-484-9628

**Anointing of the Sick**  
Call the parish office at any time.

**Readings for the week of Mar. 2, 2025**  
**Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45  
**Monday:** Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27  
**Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31  
**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32  
**Next Sunday:** Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

**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](mailto:bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org) and [pquinn55322@hotmail.com](mailto:pquinn55322@hotmail.com)  
 Ascension copy must be emailed to: [busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto: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



**March 2, 2025**

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

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, **“For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles”** (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the “figs” and “grapes” of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer *and* service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

— Father John Muir ©LPi