

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE952-856-1050
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:

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

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

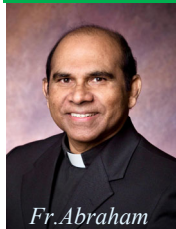
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 20 & 21, 2025



Use Earthly Resources Wisely for Eternity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 16:1-13), Jesus tells a challenging and unusual parable about a steward who was dishonest in managing his master's wealth. Facing the return of his master and an audit of his accounts, the steward cleverly converted the debtors of his master into his own debtors. He bought friends with his master's money. His dishonest plan would serve the purpose: the debtors would be grateful to him and would support him financially when he was out of his job.

At first glance, this parable seems confusing. Why would Jesus use the example of a dishonest steward? But Jesus is not praising the steward's dishonesty, he is pointing to the steward's quick action and cleverness in handling a crisis. The steward recognized he had limited time and used the resources available to him to prepare for what was coming.

The steward acted with urgency and cleverness to secure his future. Jesus wants us to show that same kind of prudence and urgency, not just for worldly success, but for our eternal salvation. We often invest great energy in worldly success, careers, finances, and personal goals. But how much time and effort do we put into caring for our soul, building a relationship with God, or helping others in need? If we look back over the past week, how much time did we dedicate to prayer, learning our faith, charity or serving others? God gives us wealth, time, talents, and opportunities not just for our benefit, but to grow spiritually and help others. Are we using these gifts wisely?

Jesus reminds us that earthly possessions are temporary, but they can be used in ways that lead to eternal life. When we use them to help the poor, care for the suffering, and support others, we are investing in something that lasts forever. Through acts of generosity and compassion, we store up treasure in heaven. This parable challenges to think seriously about how we use the blessings we have been given. It reminds us that we are not owners, but stewards. One day, we will be called to give an account. Will we be able to show that we used our time, money, talents, and opportunities in ways that honored God and helped others.

Just as the steward acted quickly to protect his future, we are called to act wisely in caring for our soul and serving others. Jesus challenges us to be just as wise and proactive about our eternal life. If we were as committed to our spiritual lives as we are to our worldly concerns, we would be much closer to God and be rewarded.

Rosary Intention: *'For all Priests, past and present, who ministered to us at Ascension and St Bernard parishes.'*

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

Monday	Sep. 22		No Mass:
Tuesday	Sep. 23	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Sep. 24	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	Sep. 25	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Sep. 26	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Sep. 27	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Sep. 28	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Mark your Calendars! St. Bernard Soup Social is 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!

SouthWest Options for Women – 2025 Miracles Gala
Every day at SouthWest Options for Women, we witness the hand of God in the tiniest of heartbeats—each one a living testimony to His power, His mercy, and His perfect plan. These fragile beginnings inspire mothers to choose life, families to embrace hope, and all of us to believe that Every Heartbeat Matters. On Thursday, October 9, 2025, join us for our 5th Annual Miracles Gala at the breathtaking Club at Golden Valley. This is our largest and most anticipated event of the year—an evening of celebration, vision, and life-saving impact. Guests will be moved by powerful testimonies, transformed by stories of courage from the women we serve, and filled with hope as we unveil the bold future God is calling us toward in 2026 and beyond. Seats will fill quickly—last year we sold out weeks in advance. Don't wait. Secure your table or ticket today and be part of the miracle.

□ Register at: swoptionsforwomen.org
à Events

□ Come ready to be inspired. Leave ready to change the world—one heartbeat at a time.



Faith Formation Update:

We will be having food safety training on Wednesday September 24th at Ascension after the Faith Formation meal at approximately 6:30 pm. We encourage anyone from Ascension or St. Bernard who serves food on behalf of Faith Formation or other events at both churches to attend! Please contact the office or Kara if you able to make it.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 09/07/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,173.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,000.00
Collections Budget YTD:	31,827.00
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 30,779.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (1,048.00)

Capital Improvement Offering:	70.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 1,935.00



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!

A big Thank You to all the volunteers who helped coordinate and assist with our Joint Parish Picnic! We appreciate your help and dedication to make this event possible!

“A special thank you to the Ascension Knights of Columbus and Ascension CUF who donated funds towards Parish Picnic”?

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,080.27
Contributions 09-03 through 09-09-2025	3,110.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	28,960.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(2,938.06)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	8.00
Electronic Donations	200.00
Forward in Faith Total	208.00
Forward in Faith YTD	2,325.00



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!



We welcomed **Matthew Leo Meulenens**, son of Adam and Joleen Meulenens, into the Catholic Church on September 7th. May God's light shine upon you each day of your life!

Word of Life- “Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: ‘there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance’ (Lk 15:7).”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion”

Mass Ministry Schedule September 27 & 28

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Volunteer	Cheryl Coyle	Doris Mielke
Servers	Volunteers	Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh	Brooklyn Hoen & Luca Hoen
Reader	Brian Willems	Jean Schmitz	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Pat Johnson	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Steve Coyle & Eugene Dvorak	Tom Dahl. & Leo Willems
Greeters	Janet Fahey	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Steve Helget & Steve Lemmer	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 22		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 23 6:15 pm	Ascension	Ann Nielson †
Wednesday	Sept. 24 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Robert G. Fritz †
Thursday	Sept. 25 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †
Friday	Sept. 26 8:00 am	Ascension	All the Unborn Children
Saturday	Sept. 27 5:00 pm	Ascension	Del Lano †
Sunday	Sept. 28 8:00 am	Ascension	Carol Pawelk †
Sunday	Sept. 28 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Richard Worm † And All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Sept. 21, 2025
Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18 **Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21 **Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6 **Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9 **Friday:** Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22 **Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45 **Next Sunday:** Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

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

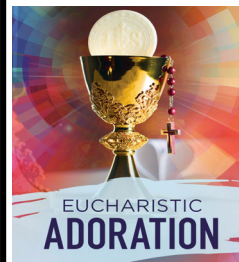
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

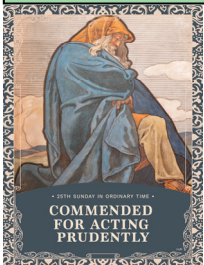
St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00pm until 6:00 pm



September 21, 2025
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand-new laptops to managers in other stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. “Really great work, John,” he said. “I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay.” I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus' brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the **“master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently” (Luke 16:8)**. What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don't care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good he *wants* us to use his stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it! — *Father John Muir*