

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:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

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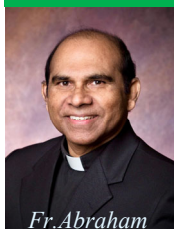
Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 25 & 26, 2025



Fr. Abraham

Stewardship: A Way of Life Rooted in Humility

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Over the past two weeks, we have been contemplating on the life of stewardship. Life of stewardship begins with an increased focus on **thanksgiving and prayer**. As faithful stewards, we are obliged to be with our Lord in prayer. Prayer is the foundation of stewardship.

This weekend, we are contemplating on another aspect of stewardship: **Stewardship requires humility**. Stewardship means living a committed life in Christ. When we make the decision to live a life of stewardship, we grow in humility. We begin to realize that all we have and all we are given comes from a loving and generous God. That is a humbling realization. To be humble is to recognize that we are not the authors of creation but stewards of that creation. The Genesis story of creation tells us that God made the heavens and the earth and put us here as stewards.

Jesus gives us a parable of the prayer of a Pharisee and a tax collector in order to teach us the importance of humility. (Luke 18: 9-14). The prayers of the tax collector and the Pharisee were very different. The Pharisee's prayer was in vain because he was prideful, despising all others including the tax collector and labeling them sinners. While the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even lift his eyes to God. He did not make any comparison. He confessed his sins and humbly asked for God's mercy: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This is the prayer of the humble steward. His only virtue was his humility.

Pride does not acknowledge the authorship of the Lord. Our first reading from Sirach (35:12-14; 16-21) is a perfect companion piece to the gospel parable. In one striking image from Sirach, the writer talks about humble prayer: "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal." Such prayers are heard because they come from the hearts of people who are humble.

Humility makes us use time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God and the wellbeing of others. Pride can trap us in an overwhelming financial mistake. When we live as humble stewards, we see money as a tool God has entrusted to us for his Kingdom. Stewardship is not ordering our finances in a way so we can spend whatever we want. But it is ordering our life in a way so God can spend us however he wants.

Pride stands as a barrier to fulfilling God's purpose in our lives. But humility opens the door to divine purpose. When we humbly acknowledge our need for the Lord in every aspect of our lives, we position ourselves to be shaped and guided by him. Humility is a central attitude of Jesus Christ. He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8).

Stewardship Ministry Form are available in the pews on this weekend and are to be filled out during Mass. Please take this opportunity to prayerfully reflect on the blessings you have received from God and consider how you can generously share your time, talents, and treasure in service to our parish and to others in need.

I am deeply thankful to all of you for your tremendous faith and unwavering commitment to our parish. Your willingness to share your unique gifts and talents brings light and life to our community in countless ways.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Stewardship Committee, who have worked diligently and with great care to prepare and guide this important initiative. Their dedication is a blessing to us all. May God continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: 'For all who share their time, treasure and talent to our parishes.'

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	Oct. 27		No Mass:
Tuesday	Oct. 28	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Oct. 29	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Oct. 30	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Oct. 31	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Nov. 1	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Nov. 2	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday: Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Stewardship Renewal:

This weekend a Stewardship Ministry Form is in the pews. A Ministry Directory is in the back of church at Ascension and the Narthex of St. Bernard if you desire further explanation of the ministries. Please complete the form and return in the baskets in the back of church of Ascension or St. Bernard's Narthex, or to the parish office by November 17th. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our parishes. To what ministry is God calling you?

Vatican Unveiled: The Archdiocese is hosting an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome at the Mall of American from January 10th to February 1st. This 19,000-square-foot exhibit was curated by Father Richards Kunst from the Diocese of Duluth and it is the largest collection of papal artifacts found outside of Vatican City. For more information and to Join the ticket waitlist go to www.archspm.org/vaticanunveiled/

Combined All Souls Memorial Mass—this year the Memorial Mass will be at St. Bernard on Saturday, November 1st in conjunction with the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass.

Faith Formation Update:

Ascension and St. Bernard are looking for new Alter Servers! We will be offering New Alter Server training on Wednesday, October 29th, at 6:30pm in the Ascension Sanctuary. If you are interested in signing up to serve, please fill out the packet in your family folder or contact Kara Wickenhauser to receive one. We also offer a flexible training if you do not attend Faith Formation or are not able to make it that evening. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to schedule training at a different time.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 10/12/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,227.00
Weekly E-Giving:	695.00
Collections Budget YTD:	47,740.50
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 45,176.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (2,564.50)
Capital Improvement Offering:	115.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 2,870.00



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!

Thank you to Erik Lemke with South Lake Ash Shield who came out at no charge to treat our Ash Tree in front and inspect the trees in our Cemetery. His generosity to our Parish is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Catholic Services Appeal! We have surpassed our 2025 goal!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,476.33
Contributions 10-08 through 10-14-2025	2,352.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	49,900.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	1,808.97
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	109.00
Electronic Donations	51.00
Forward in Faith Total	168.00
Forward in Faith YTD	3,124.00



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 welcome *Patrick Kristian Francis* and *Augustine James Francis*, sons of Sean and Mary Francis into the Catholic Church on October 5th. May God's light shine upon you each day of your life!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Catholic Services Appeal! We have reached our 2025 goal!

We are looking for a few individuals who would be willing to help go through the St. Bernard School Building and catalog items. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates **Respect Life Month**. We reflect on the gift of every human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

Mass Ministry Schedule November 01 & 02

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen	Nathan Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Daniel Worm & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Julie Kleindl	Cheryl Coyle	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Bernie Shambour	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Eugene Dvorak & Paul Lano	Leonard Hoen Jr. & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Andy Kleindl	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Oct. 27		No Mass
Tuesday	Oct. 28 6:15 pm	ASC.	For All Parishioners
Wednesday	Oct. 29 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Oct. 30 8:00 am	ST. B.	Robert Nicklaus †
Friday	Oct. 31 8:00am	ASC.	Respect For All Life
Saturday	Nov. 1 5:00 pm	ST.B	In Memory of all the people who have passed away this past year. 10-16-24 to 10-15-25
Sunday	Nov. 2 8:00 am	ASC.	Eugene J. and Mary Ellen Blau ††
Sunday	Nov. 2 10:00 am	ST. B	Janette Buesgens † & All Paishioners

Readings for the week of Oct. 26, 2025

Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14 **Monday:** Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/Lk 13:10-17 **Tuesday:** Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16 **Wednesday:** Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30 **Thursday:** Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/Lk 13:31-35 **Friday:** Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6 **Saturday:** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a **Next Sunday:** Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

**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@ascensionnysa.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.

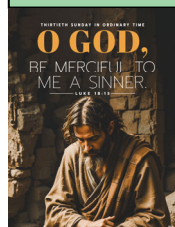
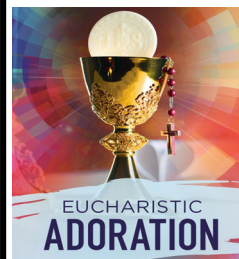
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00pm until 6:00 pm



October 26, 2025 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: “I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God’s sons and daughters.” His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride’s sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable’s penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might “go home justified.”

There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, “Have mercy on us,” during Mass or when we repeat the “Jesus Prayer” in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ’s example — finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi