

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

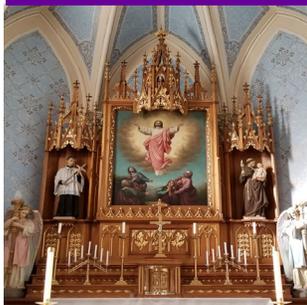
## PASTOR

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

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

### Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

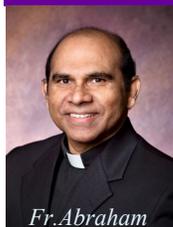
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## First Sunday Of Lent – February 21 & 22, 2026



Fr. Abraham

### Entering the Holy Season of Lent

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We have once again entered the holy Season of Lent by receiving ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. These ashes, traced in the form of a cross, remind us of the purpose of these forty days: to unite ourselves with Jesus in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. At the beginning of Lent, the Church always presents the Gospel of the Lord's temptations in the desert. This reminds us that temptations come not only to Jesus but also to each of us. We are tempted by selfish pleasures, by the lure of power, glory, and wealth, and by the desire to achieve worldly success through unjust or sinful means.

Today's Gospel presents the three temptations Jesus faced and how he overcame each one. **The First Temptation: To turn the stone into bread.** Here Jesus is tempted to use his divine power for his own benefit. While his physical hunger was real, the deeper temptation was to abandon his mission and focus only on himself. Jesus responds with Scripture: *"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."* By this, he teaches us that God's kingdom is not built on material comfort but on fidelity to God's Word and care for the needs of others.

**The Second Temptation: To jump off the parapet of the Temple.** Satan challenges Jesus to put his Father to the test, to demand a dramatic rescue as proof of divine protection. This temptation also suggests using spectacular miracles to gain admiration and followers. Jesus again answers with Scripture: *"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."* We, too, may sometimes test God with conditions: *"If this prayer is answered... then I will believe."* Jesus teaches us to trust God without demanding signs.

**The Third Temptation: To worship the devil to win the world of political power.** The devil offers Jesus political power, influence, and an easier path, a kingdom without the cross. It is a temptation to compromise with evil "just a little" to achieve a good end. Jesus firmly replies: *"Worship the Lord your God."* He rejects the temptation to use dishonest or immoral means. Instead, he embraces the Father's will, even when it leads to suffering.

In every instance, Jesus conquers temptation through the power of God's **Word**, through trust, and through obedience. He gives us the perfect example for our own spiritual battles. During this holy season, we are invited to strengthen our hearts through **fasting, prayer, the reading of Scripture** and **acts of charity**. Participation in the Holy Mass, especially by participating regularly in the holy Mass on Sundays. If you are not already attending weekday Mass, consider coming at least once a week during Lent as a way to deepen your relationship with God. Lent is also a time for true repentance and renewal. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful means of healing and grace. Let us use this season well, allowing the Lord to transform us so that we may conquer temptation and grow in holiness.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** *To grow closer to God this Lent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.*

**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>Feb. 23</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feb. 24</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Quilting Group</b> 9:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm <b>Confession:</b> 5:45-6:05pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feb. 25</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 7:30am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2pm-6pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Feb. 26</b>	<b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Stations of the Cross:</b> 6:00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30pm-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 1</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Donut Sunday After Mass</b> <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

**BINGO IS BACK!!** Save the dates of March 15, and April 19th for a joyful afternoon of bingo, fellowship, and laughter brought to you by the Knights of Columbus at the Ascension Social Hall. 1:00 pm start. All ages are welcome—bring a friend and your best “Bingo!” voice. Prizes will be won, including a \$100 coverall game. 3 meat raffles and concessions also available.



Is this the year you are being called to attend the WELCOME Retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia? The Women’s retreat will be February 28th –March 1st and the Men’s Retreat will be April 11th-12th. You can register by scanning the QR Code going online to [www.stjosephwaconia.org/ministries/welcome-retreat](http://www.stjosephwaconia.org/ministries/welcome-retreat)



**Go into the Deep with Undivided Love, Women's Lenten Retreat: Saturday, February 28, 9am - 6pm | Saint John's in Jordan-** Gina will help us reflect on how our identity and true worth can only be realized in our personal “yes” to believing and belonging to God. Come for the whole day or part of it. Wonderful food, Adoration, Confession, and Mass! Please RSVP through the Saint John's website: [sibjordan.org](http://sibjordan.org) or call the Parish Office: 952-492-2640.

### Faith Formation Update:

**FUNDRAISER - Tuesday, March 10** — Enjoy a delicious meal at NorthSide Grill in NYA and support Ascension’s Catholic United and Faith Formation program. A percentage of the sales **for the day** (dine in and take out) will be donated to our organization.

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 02/08/2026

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 3,182.70
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	1,207.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	675.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	\$ 101,846.40
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 101,130.40</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>\$ (716.00)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	215.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	25.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 6,275.00</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!

**The Stewardship Committee would like to thank ALL our volunteers!! Your many hours of dedicated service are greatly appreciated. New volunteers are always welcome any time!**

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,259.83
<b>Contributions 02-04 through 02-10-2026</b>	<b>1,719.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	116,122.00
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>(8,988.20)</b>

<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	130.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>130.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>8,048.00</b>



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of St. Bernard. Thank you for your generosity!

**The Waconia KC's Fish Fry night to benefit St. Bernard will be on March 27th! Watch for more details to come!**

**SAVE THE DATE**—The annual “Soup Social” will be Sunday, October 25th, 2026 from 11am to 3pm. Mark your calendars and plan your donations for the Silent Auction, Bake Sale and Farmers’ Market. Watch the bulletin for more information in the future.

Buckley Jones will be selling raffle tickets after Mass on February 21st and 22nd for St. John the Baptist Catholic School as a part of the 37th Annual Cadillac Dinner fundraiser. 1st prize is a 2025 Ford Maverick Supercrew XLT from Wolf Motors or \$25,000 cash, 2nd prize \$5000, 3rd and 4th \$2,500. Tickets are \$100. Contact Brenda Buckley Jones 952-239-9436 for tickets. Dinner tickets at The Ridges in Jordan are also available for \$60 per person. Dinner and the Event starts at 6pm.

# Mass Ministry Schedule—February 28th & March 1st

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Brian Willems	Cheryl Coyle	Doris Mielke
Servers	Payton Stender & Hailey Stender	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Dan Worm & Chloe Storms
Reader	Julie Gesinger	Sue Tellers	Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Jean Schmitz	Kathy Kloempken	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Rick Ulrich & Curt Wilson	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Bob Symanitz & Volunteer
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Sue Schultz	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Ann & Dave Dettmann Grp B: Tim George & Steve Helget	

## Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Feb. 23	No Mass	
Tuesday	Feb. 24 6:15 pm	ASC.	Ann Nielson †
Wednesday	Feb. 25 8:00 am	ST. B.	Clarissa Wickenhauser †
Thursday	Feb. 26 8:00 am	ST. B.	Stanley Paul †
Friday	Feb. 27 8:00am	ASC.	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Feb. 28 5:00 pm	ASC.	Dolores Bohlinger †
Sunday	Mar. 1 8:00 am	ASC.	Betty O'Neil †
Sunday	Mar. 1 10:00 am	ST. B.	Laura Schroeder † And All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of Feb. 22, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 **Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46 **Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15 **Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32 **Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12 **Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26 **Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 **Next Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

**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@ascensionny.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.

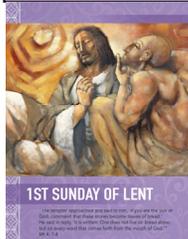
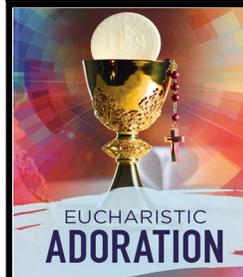
## Eucharistic Adoration

### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm



## February 22, 2026 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1).** The word “led” denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

**Lenten Challenge:** This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one “desert” into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi