

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:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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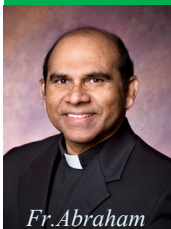
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Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 08 & 09, 2026



Keep Our Eyes on Jesus

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The account of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee is one of the best-known passages in the Gospel of Matthew (14:22-33). The disciples are caught in a violent storm, far from shore, and filled with fear. When they see Jesus walking toward them on the water, they are frightened, but Jesus immediately reassures them: *“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”*

Peter responds with faith and asks Jesus to call him out onto the water. For a moment, Peter trusts completely and steps out of the boat. But when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses on the strong wind and waves around him, fear takes over, and he begins to sink. He cries out, *“Lord, save me!”* Jesus immediately reaches out his hand and saves him.

Peter’s experience reflects our own journey of faith. Like Peter, we often find ourselves facing storms in life—uncertainty, illness, grief, struggles in our families, and challenges in our communities. Jesus invites us to step forward in faith and trust that he is with us. When Peter focused on Jesus, he was able to walk on the water; when he focused on the storm, he began to sink. The same is true for us. When we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, we discover the courage and strength to face whatever difficulties come our way.

Peter represents all believers who begin their journey with confidence in Jesus but sometimes lose sight of him when life becomes difficult. Yet even in moments of weakness, Peter remembered to call upon the Lord, and Jesus was there to save him. This reminds us that God’s grace is always greater than our fears and failures.

The storms of life are not signs that God has abandoned us. Illness, suffering, or hardship do not mean that we lack faith. In fact, difficult moments can often open our hearts more deeply to God’s presence. A broken heart can become a place where Christ enters and brings healing, hope, and peace.

Storms reveal our need for God and remind us that our true strength comes from him. The presence of Jesus brings peace in the midst of anxiety, sorrow, doubt, temptation, and fear. When Christ enters our lives, the storms within our hearts can become calm. Through prayer, Scripture, and an active sacramental life, we grow in our relationship with Jesus and receive the grace to say with St. Paul, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

The Lord does not promise that we will never experience storms, but he does promise that he will never abandon us. His hand is always reaching out to lift us up. May we always hear his words of comfort: *“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”*

Let us place our lives, our families, and our parish community into the loving hands of Christ, trusting that he will guide us safely through every storm.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: That our families stay connected and, together, grow closer to Jesus.

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. BERARDS' PARISHES

Monday	Aug. 10		No Mass:
Tuesday	Aug. 11	ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Aug. 12	ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	Aug. 13	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Aug. 14	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Aug. 15	ST. B.	Adoration 4:30pm-5:00pm Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm Linger Longer:
Sunday	Aug. 16	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 9:30am-10:00am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer:

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

The Holy Day of Obligation for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary has been lifted and there is no Obligation of Mass on Saturday August 15th. We will have our normal weekend schedule for Mass.

Mission Appeal -August 22nd and 23rd the **Franciscan Brothers of Peace** are very honored to present their mission to the Parishes of Saint Bernard and Ascension. Based in St. Paul, MN, the Franciscan Brothers of Peace are daily called by God to defend the Gospel of Life in all its states and stages. Their mission is, through prayer, penance and works of mercy, to offer free, whole-hearted service to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of poor individuals and families within our midst. The Brothers look forward to sharing with you practical examples of how they live out our mission, and to appeal to your generosity in fulfilling it.

Faith Formation Update:

We are pleased to announce that Carla LaBore has accepted the position of Faith Formation Director! Carla has a Doctorate in Law, as well as a Masters in Religious Education. Carla worked as a Social Worker for 6 years as well as practiced law for 30 years. Carla most recently served for 13 years as Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry director at Our Lady of the Lake in Mound. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to her!



Scan the QR Code to register today for the 2026-27 Faith Formation year! Mark your calendars for our opening Mass on Wednesday, September 9th at St. Bernard.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 07/26/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,211.54
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,248.00
Weekly E-Giving:	765.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 12,846.16
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 9,324.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (3,522.16)
Capital Improvement Offering:	310.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	75.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 1,421.00



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!

Ascension will be hosting the Stiftungsfest Sunday Service this year on August 30th at 9am in the Big Musik Tent. Please note that there will be no 8am Mass at Ascension. Mass will still be held at 10am at St. Bernard and Saturday evening at Ascension.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 07/26/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,500.00
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	2,195.00
Weekly E-Giving	459.00
Collection Budget YTD:	14,000.00
Actual Collection YTD:	12,948.75
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	(1,051.25)
Capital Improvement Offering:	85.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	91.50
Capital Improvement YTD:	1,496.50



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!

Our Joint Parish Picnic will be hosted by St. Bernard on September 19th after the 5:00pm Mass. As always we are looking for volunteers. If you are able to assist, please reach out to Doris Mielke.

Our **GLAD DAYS** booth was a great success! We have to thank many people for their support—our bakers, our volunteers, the many people who stopped by to shop and visit, and our youth volunteers. Many in our community are repeat customers—they look for our booth each year and are happy to see the presence of the church at the celebration. The totals are ice cream sales—\$2093.75 and the bake sale—\$1051.50. Given the extreme heat of Sunday, these totals are fabulous. **THANK YOU** to St Bernard Catholic United Financial for their support of this community event! A special **THANK YOU** to the Carver County American Dairy Association for the use of their ice cream machine.

Mass Ministry Schedule—August 15th, & 16th

Mass ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Monica Kooiman	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Marshall Panning & Emma Panning	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Kieran Allison & Lexy Allison
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Colleen Donnay	Julie Kleindl
EMHC	Carol Hoen (H); Monica Kooiman (C); Volunteer (C)	Steve Helget	Meghan Stusynski (H); Sarah Foley (C); Andy Kleindl (C)
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Tim George	Dick Arnst & Brian Vos
Greeters	Roger Storms	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Aug. 10		No Mass
Tuesday	Aug. 11 6:15 pm	ASC.	Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday	Aug. 12 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased Members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Aug. 13 8:00 am	ST. B.	Esther Heldt †
Friday	Aug. 14 8:00 am	ASC.	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Aug. 15 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Clarissa Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners
Sunday	Aug. 16 8:00 am	ASC.	Chris Heille †
Sunday	Aug. 9 10:00 am	ST. B.	Living & deceased members of the Myron Dack's Family

Readings for the week of Aug. 9, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33
Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 12:24-26 **Tuesday:** Ez 2:8-3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 **Wednesday:** Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:15-20 **Thursday:** Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62/Mt 18:21-19:1 **Friday:** Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12 **Saturday:** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56 **Next Sunday:** Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

**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.

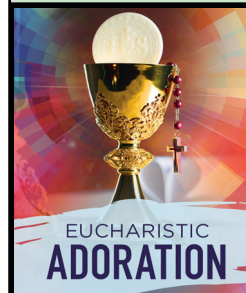
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



As a young, newly ordained priest, I admired a senior priest who was gifted, beloved, and had changed countless lives. But soon I learned that he had fallen in catastrophic and destructive ways. The painful juxtaposition of good and evil was complex to process. How could someone so seemingly good also be so broken and deceptive?

It forced me to confront a sobering truth: leadership in the Church is no guarantee against weakness or sin.

Peter teaches that truth in this week's Gospel. When he sees Jesus walking on the sea, Peter does what leaders do. He goes first. **"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."** But when he sees how strong the wind is, he becomes frightened and, beginning to sink, cries out, **"Lord, save me."** Immediately, Jesus stretches out his hand and catches him.

St. Thomas Aquinas observes that Peter overcomes the greater danger of the waves but falters before the lesser threat of the wind. This is the paradox leaders often face. It is not always the great trials that undo us, but the smaller, quieter temptations, such as subtle fears and compromises, that lead us to sink.

The good news is that Jesus does not abandon Peter. He saves him before it is too late. Our frail humanity lives within a rhythm of grace, risk, failure, and mercy. Jesus helps Peter overcome both the obvious and hidden sources of fear, and he promises to do the same for us. So, let us pray for all, especially our spiritual leaders. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi