

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

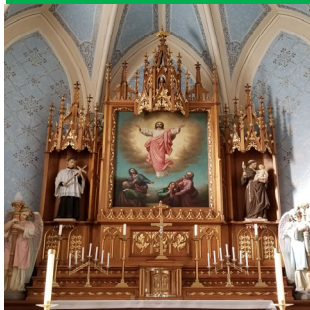
323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



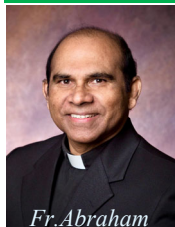
Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org)

**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  
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**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
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## Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time – September 21 & 22, 2024



Fr. Abraham

### Understanding the Holy Mass - 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Catholics, the Holy Mass is the center of our faith and Christian living. We celebrate the Mass every day. We know all the responses and the gestures. But we may have many questions and doubts about the meaning of Mass, its prayers and gestures. In the coming weeks, we will walk-through the explanation of the prayers of the Mass step-by-step. I hope, it will help us to deepen our understanding of the Holy Mass, to appreciate its meaning and importance in our lives.

**1. The Sign of the Cross.** The Mass begins with the Church's most fundamental prayer: "The *Sign of the Cross*." It is both a gesture and a vocal prayer. Pope Benedict XVI described this simple action as "a kind of synthesis of our faith." It is a summary of the core doctrines of Christianity. It proclaims the Trinity of persons in the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the sign of the cross, we pray that our whole lives may be lived in ever greater harmony with the Triune God who dwells within us. Jesus commissioned his disciples in these words: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19). In the sign of the cross, we call upon the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a powerful prayer that is meant to pour out tremendous blessings on our lives. In making this sign, we invoke God's presence and invite him to bless us, assist us and guard us from all harm.

By the sign of the cross, we also acknowledge the means of our redemption: the cross of Calvary, whose sacrifices is made present for us in the Mass. The Sign of the Cross is a reminder of God's love for us. He sent his only Son Jesus to save us from sin. Jesus was willing to undergo the most humiliating death on the cross for our sake. It also reminds us of our baptism. We were all baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Making the Sign of the Cross takes no more than a few seconds, but it speaks volumes of truth and sounds the depth of Theology. We should make every sign of the cross with careful attention and reverence. We should avoid signing ourselves in a hurried way.

**2. Greetings.** There are many greetings throughout the Mass. All of them come from the scriptures. These greetings are not ordinary greetings like a good morning or good evening. These greetings convey the reality of God's presence with the community of believers assembled in his name. The liturgical greeting also expresses profound reality of God's life dwelling within our souls by virtue of baptism.

The opening greeting of the Mass comes from the words of St. Paul used in his epistles, which again invokes God as the Blessed Trinity: "**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**" (2 Corinthians 13:13). Other option is, "*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Romans 1: 7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2) Another option is, "**The Lord be with you.**" (Ruth 2:4). The greeting a bishop uses at Mass, "*Peace be with you,*" (John 20:26) is the greeting of the Risen Lord when he appeared before the Apostles in the locked upper room. The Bishops are the direct successors of the Apostles and share their apostolic mission with their priests. These greetings communicate the message of peace that comes from God the Father and Jesus Christ.

The response "**And with your spirit**" is inspired by passages that conclude four of St Paul's epistles: Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; 2 Timothy 4: 22 and Philemon 1: 25. When we make that response, we are acknowledging the Holy Spirit's unique work through the priest during the sacred liturgy by virtue of his ordination. "And with your spirit," is actually a theological statement about what we Catholics believe regarding ordained ministers. Through Holy Orders, Christ has forever configured the Priest's soul to Himself in a special way, by the power of the Holy Spirit. By specifically referencing the Priest's spirit, we can affirm this transformation and pray for his ministry.

**Rosary Intention:** "For a bountiful harvest and the safety of all harvesters."

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

<i>Monday</i>	Sep. 23		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Sep. 24	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Sep. 25	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation:
<i>Thursday</i>	Sep. 26	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Sep. 27	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Sep. 28	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Prayers for Our Children: 11:00:-1200pm Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Sep. 29	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

### Check out our new Website!

We are excited to share that we have a new joint website-[www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org). The old websites are no longer active, so please use this new website to access Bulletins, parish updates and upcoming events, as well as Faith Formation information!

**Reminder that our existing E-giving platforms will be transitioned out at the end of September. If you have not done so already, please take a minute to sign up for a ParishSOFT E-giving account! You can scan the QR Code under the weekly collection report or also on our website under the Ascension or St. Bernard page. If the Parish office set up your E-giving, please contact us and we can cancel your previous donation. Thank you for your continued support of our Parishes and Ministries!**

### Faith Formation Update:

**FAITH FORMATION FUNDRAISER:** Our Faith Formation fundraiser is coming to an end. Elephant Joe's packaged coffee (grounds and beans) and Elephant Joe gift cards can be ordered from the Faith Formation families or by contacting Pam Stoks @ 952-240-5004. Orders will be taken until Wednesday, Sept. 25. The donation back to our parish is very generous. Elephant Joe's coffee truck will also be in the church parking lot Sunday, Oct. 6 from 7:30 -10:30 a.m. We will receive \$1.00 from each beverage sold that morning. Win-Win! Good coffee for you and more funds for our Faith Formation program. See the flyer in last week's bulletin with complete information. Thanks for supporting our youth. Ascension's CUF Council.

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 09/08/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,255.00
Weekly E-Giving:	710.00
Collections Budget YTD:	31,019.20
Actual Collection YTD:	<b>29,331.00</b>
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	<b>(1,688.20)</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	50.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	290.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	<b>\$2,615.00</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!

**Ascension Bible Study will be starting up Sunday October 6th after the 8am Mass.** This will be a 7 week course and we will be studying "*Conversion: Following the Call of Christ*". Cost is \$12 for the workbook. Call or text Chris George at 763-898-9854 to register!

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,100.00
Contributions 09-04 through 09-10-2024	<b>2,286.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	29,190.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	<b>(2,747.52)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	220.00
Electronic Donations	171.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>391.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>4,237.00</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!

**St. Bernard's "Soup Social"** (formerly Chili Feed) and Cash Raffle is scheduled for Sunday, October 6th from 11:00 am. To 4:00 pm. Or the soup is gone. Envelopes with extra Raffle tickets and Quilt Chance sheet are available in the Narthex. A box for your money and Raffle ticket stubs is also on the table in the narthex. Please help us make this a Hugh success. Thank you.

**Word of Life**—"The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40)."  
\*NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.  
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Live the Gospel of Life"  
[respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)

## Mass Ministry Schedule—September 28 & 29

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Florian Schindler	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Luca Hoen & Marshall Panning
Reader	Cheryl Coyle	Jean Schmitz	Julie Kleindl
Eucharistic Ministers	Steve Coyle	Lisa Whitaker	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Richard Tellers & Curt Wilson	Justin Buckentin & Steve Schrupp	Tom Dahl & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Sue Schultz	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Sept. 23		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 24 6:15 pm	Ascension	Living & Deceased Members of the Bfraunwarth-Dupont Family
Wednesday	Sept. 25 6:30 pm	St. Bernard	Allen Storms †
Thursday	Sept. 26 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Robert G. Fritz †
Friday	Sept. 27 8:00 am	Ascension	For Pope Francis
Saturday	Sept. 28 5:00 pm	Ascension	Darrel Knorr †
Sunday	Sept. 29 8:00 am	Ascension	Dolores Schmitz †
Sunday	Sept. 29 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Myron Dack † & All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of Sept. 22, 2024**  
**Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37 **Monday:** Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Lk 8:16-18 **Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21 **Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6 **Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9 **Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22 **Saturday:** Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45 **Next Sunday:** Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 (9a)/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**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.

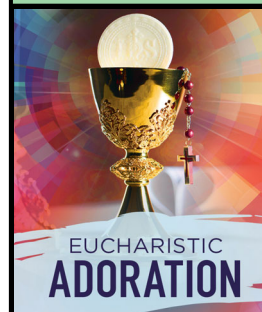
### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm



**September 22, 2024**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**



When I was a wet-behind-the-ears seminarian, I was sent for an immersion with the poor. For one month, I lived in a home for adults with developmental disabilities. It was a challenge for me because the residents had significant communication issues. A 30-year-old man there named Robin was totally deaf and mute. He had Down's Syndrome. He looked like a Viking, with a shock of red hair and a fine beard. But I felt awkward and disconnected from him. All my normal ways of interacting failed. I resigned myself to the fact that we'd never connect.

Then one morning something amazing happened. He was on the living room floor quietly playing with toys. Watching him from a chair, I sensed Jesus' words float into my mind, "**Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me**" (Mark 9:37). I thought, "Jesus, you must somehow be *in* Robin." I sheepishly made sure no one else was in the room, and then I spoke in a clear voice: "Jesus, are you there?" Robin did not turn to me and say, "Hi, John. Yes, it's me, Jesus." He kept playing with his toys in silence.

But something changed in *me*. From that moment on, it was easier to just be with Robin, to joke around with him, to try sign-language with him, to let him be himself, and for me to be myself. His "disabilities" were no longer obstacles to overcome. He became just Robin, my friend.

Who in your life seems awkwardly distant or uncomfortable to be with? Next time you see him or her, quietly invoke the name of Jesus, and see how the barriers disappear in you.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi