

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

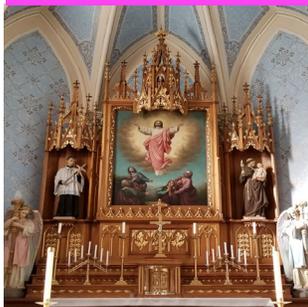
PASTOR

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—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

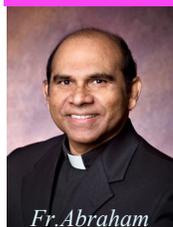
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Fourth Sunday Of Lent – March 14 & March 15, 2026



Fr. Abraham

From Blindness to Light

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel for the 4th Sunday of Lent presents the powerful story of the healing of the man born blind (John 9:1–41). The disciples see a problem and ask, “Who sinned?” Jesus sees a person. While others look for blame, Jesus reveals glory. He declares, “I am the light of the world,” and restores sight to the man who had never seen.

This miracle is about more than physical blindness. It is about spiritual sight. The blind man’s first understanding of Jesus is that he is a “mere man”. As the story unfolds, his vision deepens. He calls Jesus a prophet. Then he recognizes him as one sent from God. Finally, he worships him as Lord. His physical sight leads to spiritual insight.

Meanwhile, those who claim to see, the Pharisees, remain spiritually blind. They are so certain of their own understanding that they cannot recognize the Light standing before them. The true blindness in this Gospel is not the inability to see with one’s eyes, but the refusal to see with one’s heart.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8–11). Notice he does not say we were *in* darkness—he says we *were* darkness. But through Christ, we have been transformed. Baptism removes our spiritual blindness and opens our eyes to Jesus, the light of the world. The light of Christ dispels the darkness of sin. Even though we are already baptized, Christ continues to confront us with himself, his person, his teachings and his sacraments. If we are really willing to open up our hearts to him, he will light up the darkest corners of our hearts. St. Paul reminds Christians of their responsibility to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. “Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness” (Eph 5:10-11). When we choose honesty over deception, compassion over indifference, and courage over comfort, we walk in the light.

The healed man in the Gospel faced rejection and ridicule. Yet he remained steadfast in his testimony. Once blind, he would not deny what he now saw. Living in the light sometimes means standing firm when others question or criticize our faith.

This week, we might ask ourselves: Where am I still blind? What habits or fears keep me in darkness? Do I truly want Christ to open my eyes? Jesus still says to us, “Go, wash.” He invites us to trust him, to step forward in faith, and to see as he sees. When we do, our lives become witnesses. Like the healed man, we can say with confidence: “I was blind, but now I see.” Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices may serve to heal our spiritual blindness so that we may see our God who lives in us and others, and love them as children of God. May we walk always as children of the Light, reflecting Christ’s light in a world that longs to see.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: *May our lives bring Light to those in Darkness.*

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	Mar. 16		No Mass:
Tuesday	Mar. 17	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Mar. 18	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	Mar. 19	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Mar. 20	ASC. ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross: 6:00pm
Saturday	Mar. 21	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:00pm Linger Longer
Sunday	Mar. 22	ASC. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer

**What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community**

Holy Week Schedule:

Holy Thursday– Ascension 7pm
Good Friday Living Stations– Ascension 3pm
Good Friday– St. Bernard 7pm
Easter Vigil– St. Bernard 8pm

This weekend we observe Global Solidarity Sunday with the theme “Embracing God’s Light” (Ephesians 5:8). This theme is an invitation for all to reach out in solidarity to share God’s love, mercy, and peace with our brothers and sisters around the world by offering financial support during Lent. This appeal supports the pastoral needs of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, and humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and share God’s love for your brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you

Lent 2026 Reconciliation Services in the Area

- March 17th 8:30am-7:00pm at St. Mark**
- March 17th 5:45pm-8:00pm at Holy Name of Jesus**
- March 19th 6:00pm-8:00pm at St. Hubert's**
- March 19th 6:30pm-8:00pm at St. Therese**
- March 27th 10am-12pm at Holy Name of Jesus**
- March 29th 4:00pm-6:00pm St. Joseph**

Faith Formation Update:

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Faith Formation Fundraiser at Northside Grill on the 10th! We greatly appreciate the support of our program and Ascension Parish!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 03/01/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,462.00
Weekly E-Giving:	975.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 111,394.50
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 110,232.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (1,162.10)
Capital Improvement Offering:	80.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,865.00



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 everyone who supported our Ascension KC Fish Fry! It was another successful year thanks to everyone who came out! A special thank you to everyone who helped to volunteer to make it possible!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,074.18
Contributions 02-25 through 03-03-2026	6,533.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	130,719.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(3,984.54)

Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	325.50
Forward in Faith Total	334.50
Forward in Faith YTD	8,596.50



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!

Easter Flower Donation is now available online through E-Giving. Remember to include your In Memorial Of!

The Waconia KC’s Fish Fry night to benefit St. Bernard will be on March 27th! Please consider signing up for a shift to help! Sign up can be found under the St. Bernard page of our website. If you are not able to sign up to help, please consider coming out for a delicious meal or bring home the take-out option! Thank you for your support!

Word of Life—“To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ” (*The Gospel of Life* 84).

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 21st & 22nd

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Evelynn McInnis & Elijah McInnis	Brianna Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Marshall Panning & Emma Panning
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Janet Fahey	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Margaret Wickenhauser	Irene Yaeck	Monica Kooiman
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Volunteer	Steve Coyle & Tom Lano	Dick Arnst & Tom Dahl
Greeters	Barbara Knorr	Sue Schultz	Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Mar. 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Mar. 17 6:15 pm	ASC.	For All Souls In Purgatory
Wednesday	Mar. 18 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Thursday	Mar. 19 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Friday	Mar. 20 8:00am	ASC.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Saturday	Mar. 21 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Clarissa Wickenhauser † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 22 8:00 am	ASC.	Carol Pawelk †
Sunday	Mar. 22 10:00 am	ST. B.	Elvira Winkler †

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.

Readings for the week of Mar. 15, 2026

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 **Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54 **Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16 **Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30 **Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a **Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53 **Next Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

**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.**

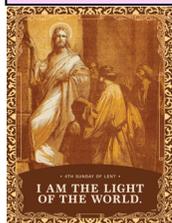
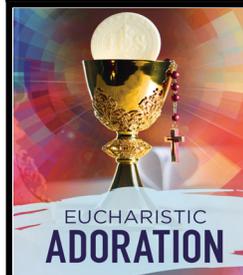
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



March 15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, **"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (John 9:2)** They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: **"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."** He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: **"I am the light of the world" (John 9:5)**. He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you *not* see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi