

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

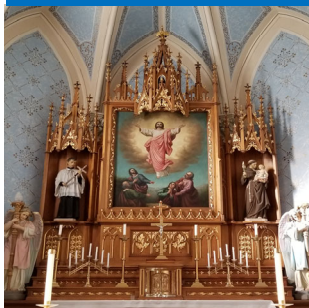
PASTOR

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:

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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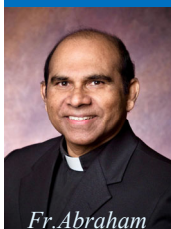
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Fourth Sunday Of Easter – April 25 & April 26, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Recognizing the Voice of the Good Shepherd

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**, a time to reflect on what it means to say that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Jesus tells us that his sheep recognize his voice and follow him. This raises an important question for each of us: do we truly recognize his voice in our daily lives? Many voices compete for our attention—voices of anxiety and fear, voices of pressure and achievement, voices of worldly pleasures and attractions. If we do not learn to recognize the voice of our Good Shepherd, we can easily lose our way. Not every voice leads to life; some only bring confusion and draw us away from who we are meant to be.

The voice of the Good Shepherd is different. Jesus calls us by name. His voice leads rather than forces, corrects without humiliating, and invites rather than manipulates. Most importantly, his voice always leads to life abundantly. This “abundant life” does not mean a life free from difficulty. Rather, it is a life filled with purpose, peace, and a deep sense of belonging.

In a world that often feels noisy and uncertain, one of the most important things we can do is learn to listen through prayer, Scripture, sacraments, and in the quiet moments we often overlook. When we begin to recognize his voice, we follow him not out of obligation, but out of trust; not out of fear, but out of love. In doing so, we discover the fullness of life he promises.

Jesus also says, “I am the gate.” A gate both protects and provides access. It keeps danger out while opening the way to safety and nourishment. When Jesus describes himself as the gate, he reveals that he is our protection, our path to freedom, and the way to the life we truly seek. We often search for fulfillment in other “gates” like achievement, possessions, control, or approval, but these cannot satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart. Only Jesus leads us to lasting peace and fulfillment.

This Sunday is also the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The Good Shepherd continues his work through those called to serve in the Church as priests, deacons, and religious. We are invited to pray for vocations and to encourage young people to remain open to God’s call. At the same time, vocation is not limited to a few. Each of us is called to listen to the Shepherd’s voice and reflect his care in our daily lives - within our families, workplaces, and communities.

This weekend is especially meaningful for our parish as eight of our children receive Jesus in their **First Holy Communion**. We pray that they continue to grow in faith and live as children of God. We also offer our sincere thanks to all who have helped prepare them, the parents, catechists, sponsors, and Faith Formation staff, for their dedication and guidance.

Congratulations, the First Communicants and the Newly Confirmed.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: “For all the children celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.”

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>	Apr. 27		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Apr. 28	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Apr. 29	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Apr. 30	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	May. 1	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	May. 2	St. B. St. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	May, 3	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

The Blessing of the Quilts will be on May 6th at St. Bernard after the 8:00am Mass! They will remain up through Mother's Day Weekend.

The Archdiocese is hosting a Young Adult Prayer and Listening session with Archbishop Hebda and all young adults from Ascension and St. Bernard's are invited! The event will be on Tuesday May 5th, from 6:30 -9 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Paul with a social hour just prior, from 5:30-6:30. More information can be found at: <https://www.archspm.org/events/young-adult-prayer-and-listening/>

Capital Campaign Update:

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Ice Cream Social on Tuesday the 21st and who have given to the Capital Campaign so far. Your support in greatly appreciated.

If you missed the Ice Cream Social open house at Ascension, we will be having a special Linger Longer after both Masses at St. Bernard on May 2nd and 3rd and volunteers will be available to answer any questions you may have and to assist with filling out pledge cards. Now that both churches have reached our goals, our Parishes will be getting 80% of the pledges back!

Faith Formation Update:

Congratulations to all our 2nd Graders who are making their First Communion this weekend!

We would also like to thank all our volunteers who dedicated their time and talent this 2025-26 Faith Formation year, to ensure that the youth of our Parish grown in their Faith and Catholic Community. Without you, this program would not exist!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 04/12/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,680.00
Weekly E-Giving:	800.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 130,490.70
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 131,808.90
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 1,318.20
Capital Improvement Offering:	220.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 8,965.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$266,700-121%



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 KC's will be selling Tootsie Rolls after Mass this weekend at Ascension and St. Bernard. Funds collected will be donated to the Special Olympics and programs for people with mental disabilities.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 04/12/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,169.58
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	6,028.00
Weekly E-Giving	150.00
Collection Budget YTD:	156,539.92
Actual Collection YTD:	160,289.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	3,749.08
Capital Improvement Offering:	155.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	54.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	9,714.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$329,962 -127%



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!

Catholic United Scholarships-Deadline this week

Catholic United Financial Scholarship application period is open from March 1 — April 30 of each year. Any member (any age) studying for their first degree after high school can apply. Applicants must have been a member for at least 2 years by the application deadline and when the scholarship is awarded. **Awards of \$500 for attending a Catholic college or \$300 for an accredited non-Catholic school.** Applications are available at: www.catholicunitedfinancial.org

SAVE THE DATE—October 25, 2026 SOUP SOCIAL

As you plan/plant your garden. Think of items that can be grown for sale at the Produce/Country Store of the Soup Social. Your consideration is GREATLY APPRECIATED. HAPPY SPRING !!

Mass Ministry Schedule—May 2nd & 3rd

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Brian Willems	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Marshall Panning & Chloe Storms	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Volunteer & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Roger Storms	Jean Schmitz	Mary Sue Thaemert
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Eugene Dvorak & Paul Lano	Andy Kleindl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Leon & Kay Trout	Janet Fahey	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Steve & Cheryl Coyle Grp B: Tim George & Steve Helget	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
Monday	Apr. 27		No Mass
Tuesday	Apr. 28 6:15 pm	ASC.	Stephanie Hill
Wednesday	Apr. 29 8:00 am	ST. B.	Elvira Winkler † & Mildred Paul †
Thursday	Apr. 30 8:00 am	ST. B.	Bernard Quinn †
Friday	May 1 8:00am	ASC.	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	May 2 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Vernon Walter † & All Parishioners
Sunday	May 3 8:00 am	ASC.	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jean ††
Sunday	May 3 10:00 am	ST. B.	Living & Deceased Members of St. Bernard Branch of Catholic United Financial

Readings for the week of Apr. 26, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10 **Monday:** Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18 **Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30 **Wednesday:** Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50 **Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20 **Friday:** Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6 **Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14 **Next Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7/ Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

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.

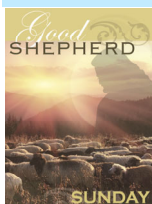
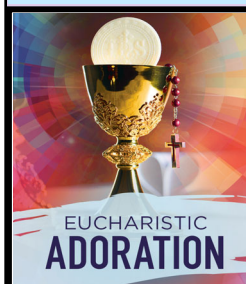
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



April 26, 2026 4th Sunday of Easter

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, “I just want you to know, I’m willing to die for these files.” She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel: **“I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep.”** (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: **“He is out of his mind.”**

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John’s Gospel won’t let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd’s madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi