

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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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

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Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

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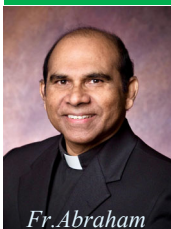
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Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time – September 05 & 06, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Loving Correction and Reconciliation

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today's readings are about an important responsibility of correcting a brother or sister who has done wrong. Correcting others is never easy, especially because we are all aware of our own weaknesses and shortcomings. What does Jesus mean when he tells us to point out the fault of another? In today's Gospel (Mt 18:15–20), Jesus gives us a path toward correction and reconciliation. First, it is important to understand what Christian correction is *not*. We are not called to act as a morality law enforcement officer or a judge. Rather, we are called to approach a brother or sister with genuine concern and love.

Correction is different from criticism. Even when our intentions are good, criticism can easily hurt another person and may produce the opposite of what we hope to achieve. Christian correction should never be motivated by anger, pride, or a desire to prove that we are right. Its purpose should always be to help the other person to turn away from what is wrong, and return to a right relationship with God and others.

At the same time, we are not called to gossip about someone's wrongdoing or damage his or her reputation. Neither should we simply ignore serious wrongdoing. As Christians, we are called to help one another grow in holiness and to bring one another closer to the truth—but always in a charitable and Christ-like manner.

The purpose of correction is reconciliation: reconciliation with God, with our brothers and sisters, and within ourselves. The whole thrust of today's Gospel is that we should work toward reconciliation rather than punishment. St. Paul expresses this beautifully in today's second reading (Rom 13:8–10): *"Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence love is the fulfillment of the law."* It is precisely this loving concern that sometimes requires us to correct someone who is doing what is wrong.

There is a close connection between the Gospel and today's first reading from the prophet Ezekiel (Ez 33:7–9). God tells Ezekiel that he has a responsibility to warn the wicked to turn away from their sinful ways. If he fails to warn them, he will be held responsible for not speaking up. But if he faithfully gives the warning and the person refuses to change, that person remains responsible for his or her own choice.

This is an important lesson for all of us, especially parents. We have a responsibility to guide and correct our children when they go astray. We should do our best to teach them what is right, encourage them to make good choices, and lead them toward God. But we are not ultimately responsible for their decisions. Once we have sincerely done our best, we need not carry unnecessary guilt over the choices and behavior of another person. This Sunday liturgy challenges us, as members of the Body of Christ, to help one another grow in holiness through loving correction. This requires humility, patience, courage, and, above all, love.

Finally, Jesus reminds us of the importance of praying together: *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."* Prayer gives us the grace to correct one another with charity rather than judgment. It helps us to seek reconciliation rather than punishment and to remember that Christ is present in the midst of his people. May our words and actions always lead us toward reconciliation - with God, with one another, and within our own hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI, Pastor

Rosary Intention: For the Faith Formation students, their families and teachers.

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	Sep. 07		No Mass:
Tuesday	Sep. 08	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Sep. 09	ST. B. ST. B.	Adoration: 2pm-6pm Mass: 6:30pm
Thursday	Sep. 10	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Sep. 11	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Sep. 12	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Sep. 13	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Our Joint Parish Picnic will be hosted by St. Bernard on September 19th after the 5:00pm Mass. This year it will be held on the St. Bernard grounds! Ascension & St. Bernard families whose last names begin with A-K are asked to bring salads and veggies. Those with last names beginning with L-Z please bring fruits & desserts. As always we are looking for volunteers to help. If you are able to assist, please reach out to Doris Mielke. Hope to see everyone there!



Join us on Saturday October 3rd for a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, WI! The day will be filled with Mass, Prayer and fellowship. Meeting time is 7:00am at St. Bernard where a bus will take you down to The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Cost for the trip is \$25.00 and does not include food. Please plan on bringing your own food and beverages, or purchasing a lunch at the Café. Contact Pam Kunkle or the Parish Office for more information or scan the QR Code to Register!

Online Evening Prayer with Young Adults.

Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with other young adults and School Sisters of Notre Dame from across the U.S. and Canada on **Tuesday, September 22 at 7 p.m. CT.** Experience evening prayer in the gentle rhythm of the Liturgy of the Hours (psalms, scripture and intercessions), with time for faith sharing in breakout groups. Please register in advance for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/9-22-26/.

Faith Formation Update:

Reminder that our opening Mass is this Wednesday at St. Bernard at 6:30pm! Out first day of class will be Wednesday September 16th at Ascension!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 08/16/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,211.54
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,987.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,440.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 25,692.32
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 20,056.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (5,636.32)
Capital Improvement Offering:	70.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	75.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 2,4227.00



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!

Join the Ascension KC's for their first Donut Sunday of the season on Sunday September 20th after the 8:00am Mass!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 08/23/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,500.00
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	3,775.00
Weekly E-Giving	361.50
Collection Budget YTD:	28,000.00
Actual Collection YTD:	22,958.25
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(5,041.75)
Capital Improvement Offering:	260.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	91.50
Capital Improvement YTD:	3,029.75
Mission Appeal	1,143.00



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!



Please prayer for the repose of the soul of **Lorraine L. Pexa** whose funeral was this past Wednesday . Please keep her family in your prayers during this time.

Word of Life—"Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that "the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable".

Pope Francis, Homily of the Canonization of Mother Teresa, September 4, 2016

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Pray the Rosary daily

Mass Ministry Schedule—September 12th, & 13th

Mass ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 9:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Cheryl Cole	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers (2)	Jayden Michels & Kendra Michels	Marshall Panning & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Amber Michels	Judy Glander
EMHC	Colleen Donnay (H); Pat Johnson C); Volunteer (C)	Steve Lemmer (H); Steve Coyle (C); Steve Helget (C)	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Tim George & Steve Schrupp	Andy Kleindl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Cathleen Williams	Sue Schultz	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Steve Lemmer & Steve Coyle Grp B: Tim George & Dave Donnay	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 7		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 8 6:15 pm	ASC.	Donna Meuleners Family
Wednesday	Sept. 9 6:30 pm	ST. B.	Linda Zimmer †
Thursday	Sept. 10 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Friday	Sept. 11 8:00am	ASC.	Pope Leo XIV
Saturday	Sept. 12 5:00 pm	ASC.	Curtis Witte †
Sunday	Sept. 13 8:00 am	ASC.	Chris Heille †
Sunday	Sept. 13 10:00 am	ST. B.	Living & Deceased members of the Myron Dack Family

Readings for the week of Sept. 6, 2026

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20 **Monday:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11 **Tuesday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 **Wednesday:** 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26 **Thursday:** 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38 **Friday:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42 **Saturday:** 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49 **Next Sunday:** Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

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@ascensionnyny.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.

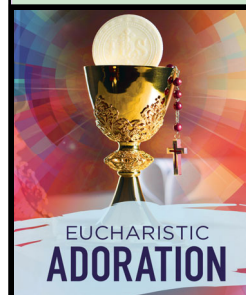
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



September 6, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily *together* with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, **"Go and tell your brother his fault,"** He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, **"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother,"** we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen. — Father John Muir ©LPi

