

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

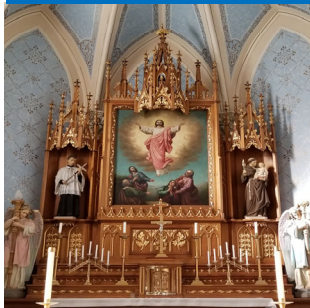
PASTOR

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—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

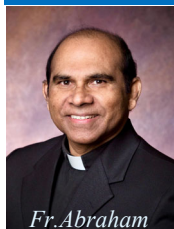
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Baptism Of The Lord – January 10 & 11, 2026



“You are My Beloved”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The **Baptism of the Lord** concludes the Christmas season and opens the door to Jesus' public ministry. All three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke, recorded the baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel (Matthew 3: 3:17) Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan not because he needs cleansing, but because *we* do. He enters those waters for us.

John the Baptist recognizes that Jesus is the sinless One. But Jesus insists: “*Allow it now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*” These words tell us something beautiful about God. Jesus does not remain distant. He gets in the water with us - into the muddy, crowded, ordinary water where sinners stand. This is the heart of the Incarnation: God draws close. If you have ever felt unworthy, ashamed, or like you don't quite belong in God's presence, remember this moment. Jesus chooses to stand beside sinners before he ever asks them to stand with him.

As Jesus is baptized, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father proclaims: “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*” Jesus is indeed the beloved Son of God. In that moment, God reassures us that he is well pleased with Jesus. Jesus knew once and for all that God was with him and he was with God.

What does this mean for us today? Through our own baptism, we receive that same identity. We become beloved sons and daughters of God. Baptism is not simply a ritual or a distant memory, it is the foundation of who we are. Many spend their lives searching for identity through achievements, relationships, titles, or possessions. Yet from the moment of our baptism, God gives us our deepest truth: *You are loved. You belong. You are God's child.* By baptism we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Christ, members of the Church, and temples of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is the same once we become aware of this identity. We can never doubt God's unconditional love for us or fail to see our own dignity. If we truly lived from this identity, knowing we are God's beloved, imagine the peace, confidence, and freedom that would fill our lives.

Just as Jesus' public ministry begins with his baptism, so too our baptism is both a gift and a calling. We are not baptized merely to “be good,” but to be Christ's presence in the world: people of compassion in a culture of indifference, witnesses of truth amid confusion, builders of peace where conflict divides, and messengers of hope where people feel forgotten. Today the Church invites us to remember our identity and live our vocation with renewed conviction: “*You are my beloved.*” May these words echo in our hearts and shape the way we live each day.

I will be leaving on January 11th to visit my family in India and will return in the second week of February. Please keep me in your prayers for a safe journey. Know that I keep all of you in my prayers as well. I would also like to express my gratitude to my brother priests who will be celebrating Mass here during my absence.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: ‘For the safety of Father Abraham as he travels to India’

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	Jan. 12		No Mass:
Tuesday	Jan. 13	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Jan. 14	ST. B. ST. B.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Jan. 15	ST. B.	Communion Service 8:00am
Friday	Jan. 16		No Mass:
Saturday	Jan. 17	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 18	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Bishop Izen will be celebrating Mass at Ascension and St. Bernard on Sunday, January 18th. Please extend a warm welcome to him after the Masses!

Join our joint Quilting Group that meets every Tuesday at 9am, at St. Bernard in the Narthex! All levels of experience are welcome! Contact Irene Yaeck with any questions.

Vatican Unveiled- Jan. 10-Feb. 1, Mall of America, Bloomington. In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting Vatican Unveiled, an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome. Father Richard Kunst, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, serves as curator of the exhibit. Father Kunst has a deep knowledge of the items and a passion for telling their stories. Find more information at archspm.org/vaticanunveiled.

WINE: Catholic Women's Conference-Saturday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., St. John Neumann, Eagan. The day begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hebda and features inspirational talks by Barbara Heil, Dr. Kerry McMahon, and Leila Benoit, as well as the amazing music of Teresa Peterson. Opportunities for confession, adoration, shopping, prayer teams, and more! An optional Friday evening gathering includes a tremendous dinner, praise & worship, networking, and entertainment. Find more information and registration at catholicvineyard.com/event/wine-womens-conference.

Faith Formation Update:

Thank you to everyone who donated to our STBAFF Sponsorship Program again this year! Your continued support of our joint Faith Formation Program and the Youth of our Parishes is greatly appreciated!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/28/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,799.00
Weekly E-Giving:	700.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 82,750.20
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 86,644.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 3,894.20

Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	25.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 5,195.00



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!

If you are able to stay after the 8:00am Mass on Sunday, January 11th, to help take down and move the Christmas Decorations, the decorating committee would greatly appreciate the help! Thank you!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	5,300.00
Contributions 12-23 through 12-30-2025	1,725.50
Christmas Budget	13,300.00
Christmas Contributions	10,897.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	100,559.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(5,025.68)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	559.00
Electronic Donations	71.50
Forward in Faith Total	630.50
Forward in Faith YTD	6,236.50



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!

Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church for Christmas. The Christmas Decorations will be taken down after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 11th. **(TODAY)** Thank you for your help.

Word of Life -"Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own. Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world. Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying. Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "A Prayer for Hope"

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 17th & 18th

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Monica Kooiman	Kathy Kloempken	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen	Brianna Duenow & Nathan Duenow	Luke Allison & Lexy Allison
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Sue Tellers	Helen Nicklaus
EMHC	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Andy Kleindl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Eugene Dvorak	Tom Dahl & Brian Vox
Greeters	Barbara Knorr	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Volunteers Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 12		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 13 6:15 pm	ASC.	Mike McGough †
Wednesday	Jan. 14 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion service
Thursday	Jan. 15 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 16		No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 17 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Allen Storms † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan. 18 8:00 am	ASC.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Sunday	Jan. 18 10:00 am	ST. B.	Robert G. Fritz †

Readings for the week of Jan. 11, 2026
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17 **Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20 **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28 **Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39 **Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45 **Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12 **Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17 **Next Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

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@ascensionnva.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

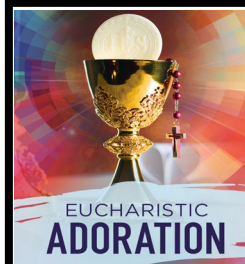
Communion for Homebound

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

January 11, 2026 The Baptism of the Lord

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”** It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir

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