

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

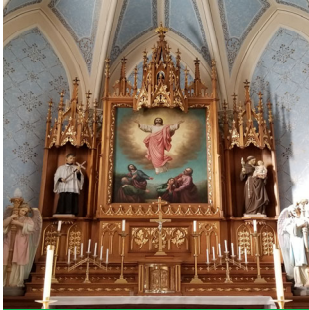
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NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

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ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

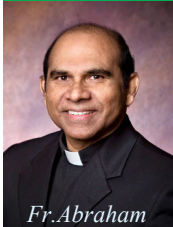


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
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Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time – September 14 & 15, 2024



Fr. Abraham

True Meaning of Being a Christian

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel Reading for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mk 8:27-35), Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Then Jesus speaks about his coming suffering, death and resurrection. This shocks the disciples, who struggle with the idea of a suffering Messiah. Peter rebukes him, but Jesus responds with, “Get behind me, Satan!” Jesus explains that following him means denying oneself and taking up the cross. Jesus reveals that his kingship involves suffering and death, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah’s suffering servant. (Isaiah 50:5-9)

This gospel passage teaches that while we naturally want to avoid pain, following Jesus often involves enduring suffering for a greater purpose. St. Therese's of Lisieux had intense sufferings and hardships in her life. For her the meaning of suffering is grounded in its unity with love. Suffering is an integral part of love, as God’s grace and privilege of love. They are inseparable because suffering is also an expression of the divine love of Jesus Christ to love and save all souls. St. Therese embraced suffering as a means to participate in Jesus’ redemptive works to save souls. She integrated her suffering with her simple and childlike desires to love Christ and make him loved on earth and in heaven.

We believe that Jesus is to us the “Messiah”, the Savior who is the “Way” to life. Believing in Jesus means following his path of self-denial and expressing faith through love. We also know that his way is “denying oneself, taking up one’s cross and losing oneself for his sake.” (Mk 8:34-35). Jesus says, “If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross, and follow me.” Then Jesus goes on to say, “whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

The personal cross that Jesus asks each of us to carry may not be the same for all. It may be personal sickness, pain, worry, rejection of love, the loss of loved ones, joblessness, and old age. Suffering in itself has not much value. Through suffering we become co- redeemers with Christ. Through suffering we come to glory. The Cross led to Christ’s glory and it will lead to ours as well.

The sacrificial love of Christians, the accepting of the cross is not only for ourselves but also for others. This is where the second reading from St. James (2:14-17) comes in. All that we do by way of sacrifice we do for others. The way of the Christian is the way of giving oneself for others. Our Lord invites us to take up our cross with love and with faith. Being a Christian means personally entrusting ourselves to Jesus, taking up our own cross daily, and living according to his teachings.

Rosary Intention: “For all college students that they remain strong in their Faith.”

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. 16		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Sep. 17	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Sep. 18	ST. B. ASC.	Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
<i>Thursday</i>	Sep. 19	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Sep. 20	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Sep. 21	ASC. ST. B. ST. B.	Prayers for Our Children: 11:00-1200pm Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Sep. 22	ASC. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Reminder that our E-giving platform has changed! If you have not done so yet, please take a minute to log in and set up your new account. We will be transitioning out of the current systems at the end of September. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email the office at busadmin@ascensionnya.org or busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org or call us at 952-467-3351. If you did not receive a letter or email with instructions on how to set up your new account, please let us know and we will send out the information. 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!

Youth Praise & Worship Night-Saint Joseph-Waconia
All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to an evening of Praise & Worship with SONAR WORSHIP, featuring speaker Pat Millea, **this Wednesday, September 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm** in the St. Joseph School Gym. This is a FREE event—come and be inspired!

Faith Formation Update:

FAITH FORMATION FUNDRAISER Ascension's CUF Council and our Faith Formation families are selling Elephant Joe's **packaged coffee** (grounds and beans) and Elephant Joe **gift cards**. Sales will run from Sept. 11 - 25. The donation back to our parish is very generous. Elephant Joe's coffee truck will also be in the church parking lot on 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 this bulletin with information for ordering the packaged coffee and gift cards. Thanks for supporting our youth.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 08/25/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,655.00
Weekly E-Giving:	420.00
Collections Budget YTD:	27,917.28
Actual Collection YTD:	27,366.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(551.28)
Capital Improvement Offering:	210.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	55.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$2,275.00



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!

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!

Enrich your Marriage and your Faith

Would you like to enrich your marriage and deepen your Catholic faith? Teams of Our Lady (Teams), a lay movement officially recognized by the Catholic Church, helps couples to grow closer in love and faith. Come find out more about this wonderful movement on Sunday, September 22 at 9:00 AM at Church of the Ascension in the Social Hall. For more information, contact Jeremy Gesinger at 952-212-2369 or Julie Gesinger at 952-807-6295 or j.gesinger@hotmail.com.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,100.00
Contributions 08-28 through 09-03-2024	2,430.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	23,854.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(1,883.52)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	136.00
Electronic Donations	271.00
Forward in Faith Total	407.00
Forward in Faith YTD	4,253.00



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!

You're Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Betty Ann Klein, mother of Stan Klein and Lynda Mellgren. Betty passed away on Tuesday, August 27th. Her funeral was on Thursday, September 5th. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Pray also for Betty's family.

Save the Date - 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 Raffle tickets, Quilt Chance sheet and an information letter are available in the Narthex. Please pick up yours today. Thank you.

Mass Ministry Schedule—September 21 & 22

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Luca Hoen & Volunteer	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Buckley Jones & Logan Pellegrino
Reader	Rob Wickenhauser	Cheryl Coyle	Brenda Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Margaret Wickenhauser (H); Monica Kooiman (C); Helen Nicklaus (C)	Irene Yaeck	Julie Clemensen (H); Victoria Arnst (C); Meghan Stusynski (C)
Ushers	Andy Kleindl & Ralph Laumann	Steve Coyle & tom Lano	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems
Greeters	Judy Glander	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Sept. 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 17 6:15 pm	Ascension	Tom Hoppe †
Wednesday	Sept. 18 6:30 pm	St. Bernard	Margaret Eiden † & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Fam.
Thursday	Sept. 19 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Souls in Purgatory
Friday	Sept. 20 8:00 am	Ascension	Father Abraham's Intention
Saturday	Sept. 21 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Bob & LaVonne Arnst †† & All Parishioners
Sunday	Sept. 22 8:00 am	Ascension	Del Lano †
Sunday	Sept. 22 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Gilbert Rademacher †

Readings for the week of Sept. 15, 2024
Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35 **Monday:** 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 7:1-10 **Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 7:11-17 **Wednesday:** 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35 **Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50 **Friday:** 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3 **Saturday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13 **Next Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

**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.

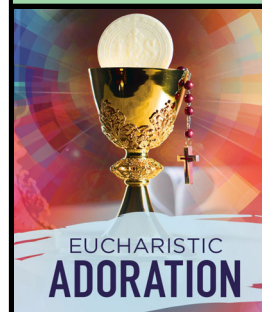
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

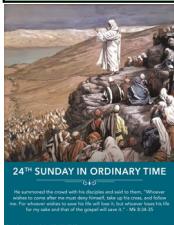
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



September 15, 2024 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



This morning I received a text message that a member of my extended family will likely die of cancer within the next few hours. His name is Luke. He is a 45-year-old husband and father of six. Though I am not as close to him as my sister (she is his sister-in-law and knows him well), I wonder: how can we, including Luke himself, manage such a terribly awful and unfair situation?

The words of this Sunday's Gospel offer a powerful and challenging path. Jesus says, **"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"** (Mark 8:34). Today I see with new freshness the starkness and strangeness of the words **take up**. The cross stands for suffering which is unjust, absurd, seemingly hopeless, and humiliating. Jesus doesn't say "accept" or "endure" or "tolerate," but "take up." Embrace it, actively. Choose it and lift it up for others to see what terrifies and sickens us. But somehow, for Jesus, this is the path to **"saving one's life."** A new world is breaking in, one in which love is everything, when no relationship can be wounded or die. I trust that in the embraced suffering of Luke and his loved ones, Jesus is taking up his cross and saving us all.

By the time you read this, barring a miracle, Luke will have died. He will be carrying his cross no longer. But we all still face suffering. This week let's not just endure, but take up our crosses, big and small. That's our only hope for saving our lives.

— Father John Muir

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