

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
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:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

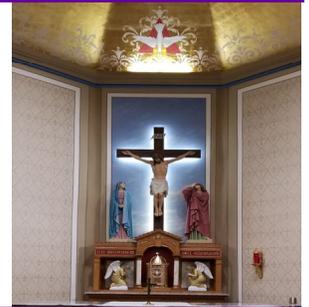
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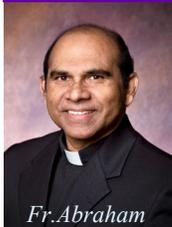
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Second Sunday Of Lent – February 28 & March 01, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Transfiguration for our own Transformation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church gives us two powerful moments of transformation: the call of Abram (Genesis 12:1–4) and the Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1–9). Though separated by centuries, both stories speak to us about faith, trust, and the courage to be changed.

In Genesis, God says to Abram, “Go forth from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” Abram is asked to leave behind security, comfort, and familiarity. He steps into uncertainty with nothing but trust in God’s word. And Scripture tells us, “Abram went as the Lord directed him.” That is faith, not knowing all the details, not having guarantees. But going because God said, “Go.”

Lent is our Genesis moment. It is our invitation to respond as Abram did. God asks us to leave behind what is comfortable but not life-giving — habits that distance us from Him, patterns of sin, spiritual complacency. Like Abram, we are called to step forward in trust.

In the Gospel, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. There he is transfigured before them. His face shines like the sun. His clothes become dazzling white. This is a glimpse of glory. A revelation of who Jesus truly is. And standing with him are Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. Everything in salvation history points to Jesus.

Peter wants to remain there: “Lord, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents.” But the mountain is not the final destination. It is preparation. After the vision, Jesus leads them back down toward Jerusalem, toward the Cross.

Why does the Church give us this Gospel of the Transfiguration in the middle of Lent? Because the Lenten journey can feel demanding. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving require sacrifice. The road toward Calvary is not easy. So, before we walk further into the season, we are given a glimpse of glory and hope. Jesus shows his disciples his divine glory so that when they see him crucified, they will not lose faith. The same is true for us. God gives us moments of clarity, consolation, and grace, so we can endure the valleys of sadness and distress.

We are reminded who Jesus truly is. The Father’s voice from the cloud gives a simple command: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” Not just build tents for him, but listen to him. That is the heart of Lent, **listening**: listening in prayer, listening to Scripture, listening in silence, listening even when Christ calls us to something challenging. Abram listened, and left everything. The apostles listened, and followed Jesus down the mountain toward Jerusalem.

The transfiguration invites us for our own **transformation**. The Transfiguration shows us what happens when divine light shines from within. Lent invites us to that same interior change, not minor adjustments, but real conversion of heart. As Abram trusted and went forth, and as the apostles followed Jesus down the mountain, may we also trust, listen, and allow Christ to transform us. May his light shine more clearly in our lives, so that others may see in us a reflection of his love and glory.

Rosary Intention: For all police officers and firefighters who daily risk their lives to save ours.

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

Monday	Mar. 2		No Mass:
Tuesday	Mar. 3	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Mar. 4	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	Mar. 5	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Mar. 6	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Fish Fry: 11am-7pm Stations of the Cross: 6:00pm
Saturday	Mar. 7	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Mar. 8	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community



Lent 2026 Reconciliation Services

- February 25 at 7:00 pm**
ST. MARY'S IN WAVERLY
- March 10 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**
ST. VICTORIA IN VICTORIA
- March 10 at 7:15 pm**
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE IN MOUND
- March 11 at 6:30 pm**
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION IN NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA
- March 11 from 8:30 am - 7:00 pm**
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE AT ST. MARK CHURCH IN SHAKOPEE
- March 17 from 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm**
HOLY NAME OF JESUS IN WAYZATA
- March 19 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
ST. HUBERT'S IN CHANHASSEN
- March 19 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**
ST. THERESE IN DEEHPHAVEN
- March 27 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**
HOLY NAME OF JESUS IN WAYZATA
- March 29 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**
ST. JOSEPH IN WACONIA

The Ascension KC Fish Fry is this Friday! Come out between 11:00am-7:00pm (or under the fish is gone) and have a delicious meal! Prices are \$18 for 18+. \$8 for 6-12, and 5 and under are free!

Faith Formation Update:

FUNDRAISER - Tuesday, March 10 — Enjoy a delicious meal at NorthSide Grill in NYA and support Ascension's Catholic United and Faith Formation program. A percentage of the sales **for the day** (dine in and take out) will be donated to our organization.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/15/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,460.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,030.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 105,029.10
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 104,620.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (408.70)
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,385.00



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!

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank ALL our volunteers!! Your many hours of dedicated service are greatly appreciated. New volunteers are always welcome any time!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,259.83
Contributions 02-11 through 02-17-2026	4,034.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	120,156.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(8,214.03)

Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	10.00
Electronic Donations	154.00
Forward in Faith Total	164.00
Forward in Faith YTD	8,212.00



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!

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!

SAVE THE DATE—The annual "Soup Social" will be Sunday, October 25th, 2026 from 11am to 3pm. Mark your calendars and plan your donations for the Silent Auction, Bake Sale and Farmers' Market. Watch the bulletin for more information in the future.

Word of Life—The Gospel of Life is "meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!" (*The Gospel of Life* 5).

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 7th & 8th

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Marshall Panning & Emma Panning	Volunteers	Isaac Schrupp & Chloe Storms
Reader	Roger Storms	Jean Schmitz	Helen Nicklaus
EMHC	Bernie Shambour	Steve Lemmer	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Richard Tellers	Dick Arnst & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Steve Coyle	Volunteer
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Colleen Donnay Grp B: Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Mar. 2		No Mass
Tuesday	Mar. 3 6:15 pm	ASC.	Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday	Mar. 4 8:00 am	ST. B.	Members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Thursday	Mar. 5 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Family of Merlyn & Margaret Eiden
Friday	Mar. 6 8:00am	ASC.	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Mar. 7 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser †† and All Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 8 8:00 am	ASC.	Members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Mar. 8 10:00 am	ST. B.	Albert & Clara Wickenhauser ††

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

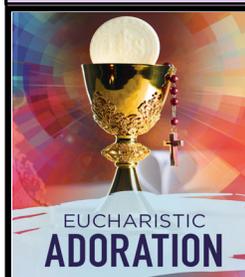
St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-484-9628

Anointing of the Sick

Call the parish office at any time.

Readings for the week of Mar. 1, 2026
Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 **Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12 **Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28 **Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31 **Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 **Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 **Next Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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

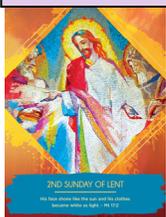
Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm

March 1, 2026 2nd Sunday of Lent



When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, **“his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light” (Matthew 17:2).** That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the “artifact” you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

— Father John Muir ©LPi