

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

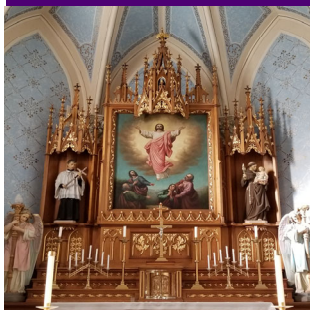
PASTOR

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

Parish Office Hours:

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

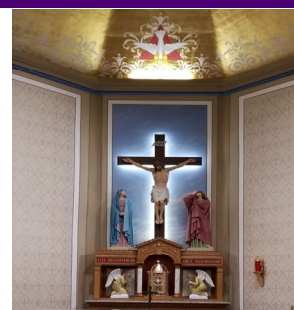
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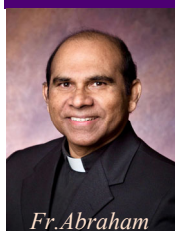
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The Fifth Sunday Of Lent – April 5, & 6, 2025



Fr. Abraham

God's Boundless Love and Mercy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday Gospel presents the story of a woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11). Imagine the feelings of anger, guilt, and fear she must have experienced standing in the midst of the crowd, condemned by everyone. Yet, Jesus does not condemn her; instead, he forgives her. In that moment, he restores her dignity and self-esteem. No one had ever believed in her before, so she couldn't believe in herself. But Jesus believed in her. This is the essence of how God the Father and Jesus operate. God's forgiving love never degrades us; rather, it lifts us up and assures us that we are deeply loved, even when we feel unlovable. Her life could never be the same again. This is conversion in its purest and most beautiful form.

When a sinner repents and turns to God, the entire family is healed from the wounds caused by the sinner's actions. Repentance reconciles us with God and restores the relationships we have damaged with others through sin. Sin weakens our bonds within others, but repentance and reconciliation heal and strengthen those connections. Christ came to heal the wounds of our brokenness.

This Gospel story reveals the mercy and love of a compassionate God who invites everyone to receive it abundantly. It reminds us of the importance of repenting for our own sins and seeking God's mercy in our daily lives. Moreover, it calls us to show mercy to others, especially those who have drifted away from God. Why didn't the Pharisees and scribes throw stones at the woman? Perhaps each of them examined their own hearts and realized they, too, were sinners. Today, "stones" are not just physical; they are the gossips, judgments, and unkind words we often cast at others. If God were to expose each of us, who among us would be able to hold their head high?

We should strive to heal one another with our compassionate and merciful hearts. When we show mercy and love, we begin to heal our own brokenness. The Church is called to be an agent of healing in the world. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful means of healing and restoration. We are called to be agents of healing and forgiveness, not condemnation. This is the essence of our Christian calling. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we make a conditional request: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." To receive forgiveness for our own sins, we must forgive others. It is not optional—it is a mandate and a commitment.

We never hear of Jesus turning away a sinner. Even on the Cross, he forgave the sins of a repentant thief and promised him salvation. The same Jesus extends forgiveness to all who come to him with a repentant heart and a desire for conversion. The Church has given us the incredible gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us take the time to examine ourselves and cleanse our hearts through this sacrament, allowing God's grace to renew and restore us.

Rosary Intention: *'For all the youth celebrating the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and Confirmation.'*

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>	Apr. 7		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Apr. 8	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Apr. 9	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Apr. 10	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Apr. 11	ASC. ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross 6:00pm
<i>Saturday</i>	Apr. 12	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Apr. 13	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

**What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community**

Surrounding Area Reconciliation Services:

- April 10: St. Hubert's in Chanhassen-6:00-8:00 pm
- April 13: St. Joseph in Waconia- 4:00-6:00 pm

Holy Week Scheduled:

Holy Thursday– St. Bernard at 7pm
Good Friday-Living Stations at Ascension at 3pm
 Good Friday—St. Bernard at 7pm
 Easter Vigil– Ascension at 8pm

**GUARDIAN ANGELS PRESCHOOL
ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT**

With joy and gratitude to God, we announce that **Guardian Angels Catholic Preschool, opening in Fall 2025, is now accepting enrollment!** We invite you to learn more and secure a place for your child by registering at gachaska.org/preschool and may our children grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Volunteers are needed to help with the St. Bernard night at the St. Joseph Fish Fry on Thursday April 10th from 3-6pm and Friday April 11th 3-8pm! See the link on the St. Bernard Web Page on our joint Website to sign up for a slot! If you are not able to volunteer, stop by for a delicious dinner and support our Parish! We receive a portion of the funds raised back to St. Bernard Parish!

Word of Life—“Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe”

Church of Ascension

**Ascension Weekly Collection Report
Totals as of 03/23/2025**

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,720.00
Weekly E-Giving:	2,025.00
Collections Budget YTD:	117,872.96
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 126,784.85
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	8,911.89
Capital Improvement Offering:	250.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	75.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 9,770.00



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!

Reminder to keep decluttering those closets and collecting items for our CUF Fundraiser in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation of MN! The trailer will be parked in the Ascension Parking Lot from April 22nd- May 6th! More information can be found on our website under the Bulletin page in the March 9th insert. Thank you for your support!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,790.10
Contributions 03-19 through 3-25-2025	2,326.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	149,783.30
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	15,908.37
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	9.00
Forward in Faith YTD	35,726.96



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!

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Clarissa Wickenhauser, who passed away on Thursday, March 20th. Clarissa’s funeral was on Saturday, March 29th. May she rest in peace and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Also pray for peace and comfort for her family.

Faith Formation Update:

We will be assembling blessing bags for Sharing and Caring hands for our service night on April 23rd. If parishioners have any unopened toiletry items they are looking to get rid of, or would like to donate any, we are gladly accepting them through April 14th! They can be dropped off to either Parish office or put in the basket in the back of Ascension or the Narthex of St. Bernard. Thank you for your generosity!

Mass Ministry Schedule—April 12 & 13

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Brian Willems	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Alex Urness & Bryce Urness	Charlie Friendshuh & Kendra Michesl	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Jean Schmitz & Cathleen Williams	Colleen Donnay & Brian Willems	Helen Nicklaus & Patricia Quinn
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim Mulville	Steve Lemmer	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Justin Buckentin & Eugene Dvorak	Vern Elke & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Grace Cook	Judy Glander
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	April 7		No Mass
Tuesday	April 8 6:15 pm	Ascension	Fr. Abraham's Intention
Wednesday	April 9 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	April 10 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Harriet Meuleners †
Friday	April 11 8:00 am	Ascension	Pope Francis
Saturday	April 12 5:00 pm	Ascension	Ben Vanderlinde †
Sunday	April 12 8:00 am	Ascension	Jeanne C. Kreger †
Sunday	April 13 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Adrian Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of April 6, 2025
Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 **Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:12-20 **Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30 **Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42 **Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59 **Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42 **Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56 **Next Sunday:** Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56

**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.

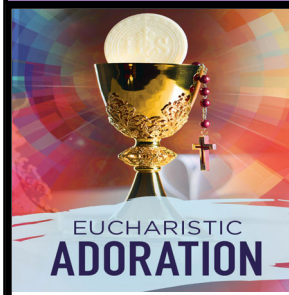
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



5th Sunday Lent



“The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle” (John 8:3). Why do they make her stand in the middle? Why not expose her on the periphery? The reason is something that affects us practically every day.

The center is what stabilizes a community's identity. We humans tend to center ourselves around an accused and condemned victim — though we rarely admit it. This renews our fragile communities and our power as those who weaponize the accusation. This is effective because it is often a victim who represents something truly dangerous for the group. In this case, adultery stands for the breakdown of a community and those within it, because it forces questions like: who is my father? Whose child is this? Is this child one of us, or that of an outsider? The accusers place the adulteress in the center because their community, like most, is built around turning an enemy into a victim.

Once you understand this, you'll see it almost anywhere humans group together (families, politics, workplaces, sports, schools, etc.). The good news is Jesus exposes this dynamic by deftly pointing out the sin-infected hearts of everyone besides the woman. They all leave, symbolizing the breakdown of the old order, and she is **“left alone before him.”** A new community has begun, structured around the merciful love of Christ.

What is in your center? What is in the center of our parish and family communities? Strive to center on Christ's forgiveness, and we experience the new, lasting community we call the Church. — *Father John Muir* ©LPI