

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
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# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

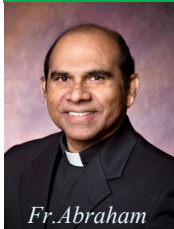


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**Website:** St-Bernard-Cologne.org  
**Paris Office Hours:**  
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-466-2031  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051  
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052  
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time – September 7 & 8, 2024



Fr. Abraham

### May Jesus Touch us and Heal us

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Gospel of this Sunday (Mark 7:31-37) is the fulfilment of God's promises in our First Reading from Isaiah (Isa 35:4-7). Isaiah says, "The deaf will hear...., .and those who cannot speak will shout for joy." By healing the deaf man who had a speech impediment, Jesus fulfils the signs that Isaiah says will help people to recognize the Messiah.

The way Jesus heals the man reminds us of the Sacrament of Baptism. He touched his finger on both the man's ears and tongue and said, "*Ephphatha*" which means "open". His ears were opened immediately and his tongue was released, and the man spoke plainly. Through baptism, our ears are opened to hear the Word of God and our tongues are loosened to speak about Christ to others. Baptism is a sign of our full incorporation into the Body of Christ, his Church. It involves a total commitment to the way of life that Jesus calls us to follow. An essential part of that commitment is a growing openness to hear what Jesus says to us and a growing ability to be able to share our faith with others.

Jesus shows great care and compassion to the deaf man. We see this, especially, in the way Jesus heals the man. Jesus takes him away from the crowd. Deaf people are often embarrassed by their situation. They can't understand the simplest question people ask them. He took him to have a personal encounter with the Messiah. The healing which Jesus manifested in the Gospel, brought great rejoicing in the hearts of the people and rekindled their hope in God. He calls us too away from the crowd, and away from the noise. Quiet before the Lord is so important for our spiritual and physical life.

As the prophet Isaiah urges us today, there is no need to be afraid, for surely our God comes to save us. No matter the challenges before us now, no matter how hard we may have tried in the past on our own to fix our problems and they seem not working out, we need to trust in the Lord again and again. We need to have the same faith exhibited today in the Gospel by those who brought the deaf and dumb man to Jesus (Mk 7: 32).

Today's gospel is inviting us to give Jesus an opportunity to touch our tongue to loosen it, and put his fingers in our ears and open them, spiritually. It invites us to set aside a few minutes for daily prayer to let Jesus do for us what he did for the man in the gospel. It invites us to let Jesus heal us of our deafness and dumbness. More concretely, it is to set aside a few minutes for daily prayer to give Jesus a chance to touch us, heal us and make us a whole person once again.

Today, September 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast of the **Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary**. Mother Mary is a role model for us of humility and unshakable trust in the providence of God. She believed that, "*nothing is impossible for God*". In times of crisis, disappointment, humiliation, and opposition, Mother Mary gently tells us 'Do not be afraid, God is with you; trust in Him and he will guide you and inspire you to convert the crisis into opportunity.'

**Rosary Intention:** "May our Joint Parish Picnic build up community for our parishes and the Kingdom of God."

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

<b>Monday</b>	Sep. 9		No Mass:
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sep. 10	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sep. 11	ST. B.  ST. B.	Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm  Opening Faith Formation Mass: 6:30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Sep. 12	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<b>Friday</b>	Sep. 13	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<b>Saturday</b>	Sep. 14	ASC.  ASC. ASC.	Prayers for Our Children: 11:00-1200pm Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Sep. 15	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

### 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@ascensionny.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionny.org) or [busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto: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!**

#### 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](mailto:j.gesinger@hotmail.com).

**Blest Art** will be visiting our parishes on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine next weekend, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and will be selling their beautiful pieces after every Mass. Their mission is to support those families in the Holy Land. They will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. They accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards.

**The Church of the Guardian Angels in Chaska** is seeking a full-time **Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry** to lead Faith Formation grades 1-10 for a small, but growing, program. Please consult our parish website, [www.gachaska.org](http://www.gachaska.org) (under About Us-Employment), for a more complete summary, a job description, and application instructions. Thank you!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 08/25/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	5,979.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,835.00
Collections Budget YTD:	24,815.36
Actual Collection YTD:	25,291.00
Total Collected Over ( <b>Under</b> ) YTD:	475.64
Capital Improvement Offering:	130.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	110.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$2,010.00



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 has reached 83% of their Catholic Service Appeal goal! We are \$1, 685 short of our \$9,773 goal.**

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,339.13
Contributions 08-21 through 08-27-2024	2,430.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	23,854.00
Total Actual Collection Over ( <b>Under</b> ) Budget	(1,883.52)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	100.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	100.00
Forward in Faith YTD	3,846.00



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!

**St. Bernard has reached 83% of their Catholic Service Appeal goal! We are \$1,825 short of our \$10,990 goal!**

**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.

**Word of Life** -“We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity.” USCCB, “Prayer to Heal Racial Division”

### Faith Formation Update:



Registration is still open for 2024-25 Faith Formation! You can scan the QR code to register. Join us this Wednesday at St. Bernard for our opening Mass at 6:30pm.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—September 14 & 15

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Rita Fahey	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Jack Lano	Nathan Duenow & Brianna Duenow	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
<b>Reader</b>	Julie Gesinger	Brian Willems	Julie Kleindl
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Jim Mulville (H); Cathleen Williams (C) Curt Wilson (C)	Jean Schmitz (H); Kathy Kloempken (C); Steve Helget (C)	Pam Kunkel
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Tim George & Don Whitaker	Dick Arnst & Leonard Hoen Jr.
<b>Greeters</b>	Pat Johnson	Colleen Donnay	Andy Kleindl
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	

### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 9		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 10	6:15 pm	Ascension
			Frank Svihel †
Wednesday	Sept. 11	6:30 pm	St. Bernard
			Faith Formation Students and Teachers.
Thursday	Sept. 12	8:00 am	St. Bernard
			Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser††
Friday	Sept. 13	8:00 am	Ascension
			Paul Simons †
Saturday	Sept. 14	5:00 pm	Ascension
			Robert Vanderlinde †
Sunday	Sept. 15	8:00 am	Ascension
			Darrel Knorr †
Sunday	Sept. 15	10:00 am	St. Bernard
			Helen Hilgers † & All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of Sept. 8, 2024**  
**Sunday:** Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37 **Monday:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11 **Tuesday:** 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19 **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:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17 **Next Sunday:** Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

**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](mailto:bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org) and [pquinn55322@hotmail.com](mailto:pquinn55322@hotmail.com)  
**Ascension** copy must be emailed to: [busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto: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

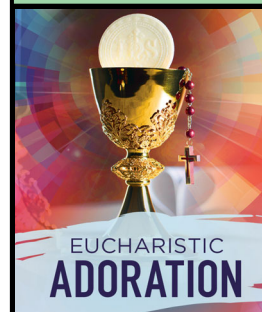
#### Communion for Homebound

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



## September 8, 2024 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the most touching YouTube videos I've ever seen is one in which a deaf woman receives new technology to heal her hearing. She hears her husband's voice for the first time — and her own, too — and bursts into tears of overwhelming joy. It must have been like an immovable wall between her and her loved ones came tumbling down.

We are all like this woman, to some degree. We believe in the presence of God's love, but we can't hear Him. We can't speak well about Him. The deaf man who can't speak properly in the Gospel today is an image of what God wants us to experience again and again. Jesus takes the man aside to a private place away from the crowd, touches his ears and tongue, and says, "**Ephphata!**" The man's ears are opened, and he speaks clearly. Contact with Christ has this effect on us.

This experience happens to us in our baptism, almost exactly. It happens to us in the liturgy. It happens in our private prayer. It happens when we hear the voice of God in our conscience. The more we engage these privileged channels of Jesus' healing, the more we are empowered to hear and speak of the presence of God's perfect love.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi