

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: 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

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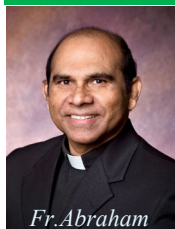
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

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Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 30 & 31, 2025



Jesus: Perfect Model of Humility

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The central theme of this Sunday's scripture readings is the virtue of humility. It seems increasingly rare in a world preoccupied with self-glorification and recognition. Yet, Scripture consistently reminds us that true greatness in the eyes of God is rooted in lowliness of heart. Jesus uses the setting of a banquet to teach a powerful lesson of humility (Luke 14:7-14). He advises the guests to choose the lowest place instead of seeking places of honor. So that the host may give them the place they deserve. This is not just about social etiquette, it's about the inner disposition of the heart. Jesus teaches that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. In other words, humility attracts God's blessing, while pride leads to downfall. Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach (3:17-18, 20, 28-29), encourages us to "conduct our affairs with humility." And if we are humble, we "will find favor with God", and others will love us. Sirach wisely counsels that "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are."

This Sunday readings present humility, not only as a virtue, but also as a means of opening our hearts and minds to the poor, the needy, the disadvantaged, and the marginalized of society. Humility is not false modesty or self-deprecation. It is honesty about who we are: recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. Therefore, we have no reason to boast, and we should never use our blessings to elevate ourselves above others. Humility and self-knowledge go hand in hand. Hence, humility means the proper understanding of our own worth. It requires us neither to overestimate nor to underestimate our worth.

We also recognize that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and that we are called to help build the kingdom of God with God-given gifts. We are of value, not because of those gifts, but because we are loved by God as his children, redeemed by the precious blood of his son, Jesus. Thus, humility is an attempt to see ourselves as God sees us. It is also the acknowledgement that our talents come from God who has seen fit to work through us. True humility is one's own personal recognition of one's true status before God. As Christians who have personally recognized our true status, we will joyfully accept all our gifts, talents and abilities as coming from God and will use them for the enrichment of others and for the glory of God.

Jesus himself is the perfect model of humility. As St. Paul tells us in Philippians (2:6-9), though Jesus was "in the form of God," he "emptied himself," taking on our humanity and became obedient unto death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him above all. Likewise, the Blessed Virgin Mary, in calling herself the "handmaid of the Lord," shows us that humility brings about exaltation. She is now honored as Queen of Heaven. St. Bernard declared, "Pride sends man from the highest elevation to the lowest abyss, but humility raises him from the lowest abyss to the highest elevation." When we live humbly, recognizing our place before God and living in service of others, we are promised a seat at the Heavenly Banquet.

Let us ask for the grace to imitate the example of Jesus, Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. May we grow in humility, not for recognition, but to become more like Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve.

Rosary Intention: 'May our youth grow in their knowledge and Love of God this school year.'

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. BERARDS' PARISHES

Monday	Sep. 1		No Mass:
Tuesday	Sep. 2	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Sep. 3	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	Sep. 4	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Sep. 5	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Sep. 6	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Sep. 7	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

The Parish Offices will be closed,
Monday September 1st for Labor
Day. We wish everyone a blessed
Labor Day!



Please mark your calendar and join us for food and fellowship at our Annual Joint Parish Potluck Picnic, Saturday September 13th! The picnic is at the Legion Pool Park in Norwood after the 4PM mass at Ascension. Church of the Ascension, the Knights of Columbus, and Catholic United Financial will supply pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs, and beverages. Ascension and St. Bernard families whose last names begin with A-K are asked bring salads and veggies. Those with last names beginning with L-Z please bring fruits and desserts. Hope to see you there!

Nickle Dickle 3 on 3 Basketball
Saturday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.,
St. Joseph Catholic School, Waconia
32nd Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.
3rd grade through adult. Find more information
and sign up your team at nickledickle.com.

Pope's monthly prayer intention

"Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons."

Faith Formation Update:

Our opening Faith Formation Night will be on September 10th at St. Bernard! There is still time to register for the 2025-26 year. You can register via the QR Code or by going to our Faith Formation Page on our website! Please note that any registration after September 3rd will have a \$25 late fee.



Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 08/17/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,557.00
Weekly E-Giving:	795.00
Collections Budget YTD:	22,278.90
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 23,703.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 1,424.10

Capital Improvement Offering:	0.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	200.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 1,400.00



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!

"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become."

-St. Clare of Assisi

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,339.13
Contributions 08-13 through 08-19-2025	3,344.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	18,537.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(3,860.89)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	151.00
Forward in Faith Total	160.00
Forward in Faith YTD	1,686.50



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!

Word of Life—If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

*Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
And God himself will always be with them.*

(Rv 21'3)

Mass Ministry Schedule September 6 & 7

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	Ava Hanson & Lily Hanson	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Dan Worm & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Julie Kleindl	Colleen Donnay	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Bernie Shambour	Irene Yaeck	Sarah Foley
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Dick Armst & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Andy Kleindl	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Colleen Donnay Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 1		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 2 6:15 pm	Ascension	George Greip †
Wednesday	Sept. 3 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden † † & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Fam.
Thursday	Sept. 4 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Joseph Mooney †
Friday	Sept. 5 8:00am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Sept. 6 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Janette Buesgens † & All Parishioners
Sunday	Sept. 7 8:00 am	Ascension	Living Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Sept. 7 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †

Readings for the week of Aug. 31, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14 **Monday:** 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30 **Tuesday:** 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37 **Wednesday:** Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44 **Thursday:** Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11 **Friday:** Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39 **Saturday:** Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5 **Next Sunday:** Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

**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.

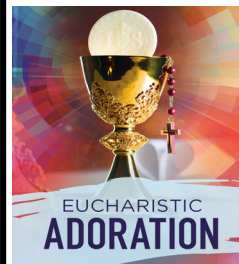
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00pm until 6:00 pm



August 31, 2025 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— Father John Muir ©LPi