

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

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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

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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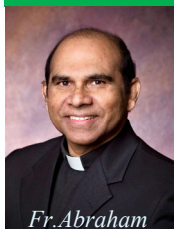
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Second Sunday In Ordinary Time – January 17 & 18, 2026



Living the “Lamb of God” in Daily Life

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we move beyond the celebration of the Christmas season and the Baptism of the Lord, we now continue the Ordinary Season with the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. In today's Gospel (Jn 1:29-34), John the Baptist points out the Savior to the world, declaring, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” In doing so, John fulfills the mission for which he was called. He perfectly and obediently carries out God's will, serving as the forerunner of Christ, the Savior of the world.

John the Baptist's life offers us a powerful example of how we, too, are called to respond to God's will. His mission was not about himself but about pointing others to Jesus. Similarly, each one of us is invited to help people encounter Christ. There is no greater service we can offer than guiding others to the love and mercy of God. We do not do this in our own strength—our efforts are confirmed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As Scripture reminds us, “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the power of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3). It is the Spirit that enables us to understand Christ more deeply and to live out His teachings in our daily lives.

Every time we say, “Lamb of God” in the Mass, we are reminded not only of the sacrifice of Jesus but also of the mission he entrusts to each of us. We are called to follow him by embracing sacrificial love, caring for our families, neighbors, and all those around us. This is how God's love becomes real in the world—through our willingness to serve, to forgive, and to bear witness to Christ in our words and actions.

Let us pray for the grace to faithfully carry out our mission, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us. May we, like John the Baptist, have the courage and humility to point others to the Lamb of God, making Christ known in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Welcome to Bishop Michael Izen: We extend a warm welcome to Bishop Izen and thank him for celebrating Mass with us at Ascension and St. Bernard on Sunday, January 18th. We are grateful for his presence and pastoral ministry, which were a blessing to our parish communities.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all of my brother priests who will be celebrating Mass with us during my absence. Please welcome them and show them the wonderful hospitality.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: For Bishop Michael Izen and for his pastoral ministry.

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	Jan. 19		No Mass:
Tuesday	Jan. 20	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Jan. 21	ST. B. ST. B.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Jan. 22	ST. B.	Communion Service 8:00am
Friday	Jan. 23		No Mass:
Saturday	Jan. 24	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 25	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

All are welcome to attend a Respect Life Breakfast this Sunday, the 18th, in the St. Joseph School Commons from 8:00am-12:30pm. Free-will offering is welcomed! All donations will go to support Enkrateia:House of Hope and SouthWest Options for Woman.

Vatican Unveiled- Jan. 10-Feb. 1, Mall of America, Bloomington. In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting Vatican Unveiled, an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome. Father Richard Kunst, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, serves as curator of the exhibit. Father Kunst has a deep knowledge of the items and a passion for telling their stories. Find more information at archspm.org/vaticanunveiled.

Holy Trinity School in Winsted: Family Fun Fest / Open House: Save the date and spread the word! **Sunday, January 25th** from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This is a free event at the school - a day of games, food, and exciting activities including an inflatable obstacle course for the whole family! You and your family are invited.

All Scouts (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Heritage Girls) are invited to the Archdiocesan Scout Mass on Saturday, February 28th at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina celebrated by Archbishop Hebda. The event will begin at 10am and includes recognition for accomplishments this past year. All are welcome!

Faith Formation Update:

Thank you to everyone who donated to our STBAFF Sponsorship Program again this year! Your continued support of our joint Faith Formation Program and the Youth of our Parishes is greatly appreciated!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 01/04/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,444.00
Weekly E-Giving:	840.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 85,932.90
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 88,928.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 2,995.50

Capital Improvement Offering:	0.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 5,245.00



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!

Thank you to everyone who brought in items to go to BIRTHRIGHT in Hutchinson. Your donation and support mean so much to the mothers and babies that benefit from your generosity. Thank you!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,251.34
Contributions 12-31 through 01-06-2026	3,402.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	101,961.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(4,875.02)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	69.00
Electronic Donations	254.00
Forward in Faith Total	321.50
Forward in Faith YTD	6,559.50



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!

Thank you to all who helped taking down the Christmas Decorations and put them away till next year. We appreciate all of you taking the time and effort it takes to decorate the Church for Christmas and to take the decorations down. The Church looked beautiful this year ! Thank you again ! !

Word of Life -“Even with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, a decision that returns the abortion issue to the electorate, many states continue not to recognize children in their mothers’ wombs as persons warranting protection under the law. Federal laws in our country fail to protect the lives of unborn children, and many political leaders at the state and federal level, work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Priorities at the Polls”

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 24th & 25th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Jonah Gesinger & Ales Urness	Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh	Emma Panning & Marshall Panning
Reader	Jean Schmitz	Brian Willems	Mary Sue Thaemert
EMHC	Pat Johnson	Irene Yaeck	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Eugene Dvorak & Curt Wilson	Andy Kleindl & Leo Willems
Greeters	Cathleen Williams	Sue Schultz	Julie Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B: Tim George & Curt Wilson	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 19		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 20 6:15 pm	ASC.	Ann Nielson †
Wednesday	Jan. 21 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion service
Thursday	Jan. 22 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 23		No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 24 5:00 pm	ASC..	Dolores Bohlinger †
Sunday	Jan. 25 8:00 am	ASC.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Sunday	Jan. 25 10:00 am	ST. B.	Mildred Paul † And All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Jan. 18, 2026
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34 **Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22 **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28 **Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6 **Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12 **Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19 **Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21 **Next Sunday:** Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

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.

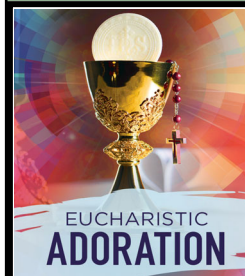
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



January 18, 2026 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34).** That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi