

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@ascensionny.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionny.org

Parish Office Hours:

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

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

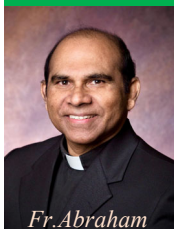
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 22 & 23, 2025



Fr. Abraham

Pray for those who mistreat us

Sisters and Brothers,

This Sunday's Gospel presents one of the most radical teachings of Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Lk 6:27-38). It challenges our natural instincts and society's norms, calling us to replace retaliation with mercy and kindness.

The Greek word for love used here, *agape*, is not the natural affection we feel for family or close friends, but a deliberate, selfless choice to seek the highest good for others, even when they don't deserve it. It reflects the love Jesus showed by dying for us, despite our shortcomings.

This kind of love is not about waiting for the other person to change or to earn our affection. It is about choosing to love because Jesus loves them. It is about choosing to forgive, not because they have repented or because we feel it is fair, but because Jesus forgave us first, and he calls us to extend that same mercy. Jesus is the model of this love: He loved those who mocked, beat, and crucified him, praying for them even as he hung on the cross. He forgave our sins, despite our unworthiness, and he asks us to extend that same forgiveness to others.

Jesus calls us to rise above the natural impulse for revenge and instead choose the difficult path of loving those who hurt us. He demands that we let go of grudges, resentments, and anger, replacing them with kindness, mercy, and prayer. This does not mean that we ignore injustice or allow ourselves to be mistreated without consequence, but it does mean that we break the cycle of hatred and retaliation by responding with love and generosity.

When Jesus tells us to pray for those who mistreat us, **he** is asking us to see beyond the immediate hurt and to recognize the humanity in others—even in those who wrong us. He invites us to pray for their transformation, for their healing, and for their well-being. This is not an easy command, but it is a powerful one. It changes not only the person we pray for but also transforms our own hearts. It frees us from the burden of anger and bitterness, and it opens the door to healing and reconciliation.

This teaching from Jesus is so countercultural, so contrary to the world's way of thinking. It is a stark contrast to the cycles of division, anger, and hatred that dominate much of society. But imagine what our world could look like if we truly lived by this command. What if we responded to hatred with love, to injustice with mercy, to division with prayer and kindness? How might our families, communities, and even nations be transformed if we embraced Jesus' radical message of love?

May God give us the grace to live this commandment fully, knowing that the measure with which we measure will be measured back to us (Lk 6:38). Let us walk this path with Christ, knowing that as we love and forgive, we are becoming more and more like him.

Rosary Intention: *That our families stay connected in love and, together, grow closer to Jesus.*

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>	Feb. 24		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Feb. 25	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Feb. 26	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
<i>Thursday</i>	Feb. 27	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Feb. 28	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Mar. 1	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Mar. 2	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday: Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Mark your Calendars! The Ascension K-C Fish Fry will be on Friday March 7th from 11:00am-7:00pm (or until the fish is gone). Crispy Alaskan Pollock, Potato, Coleslaw, Baked beans, beverages, & dessert! \$16.50 for Adults; \$6 Kids 6-12; 5 and under free!

Ash Wednesday Services will be at 5:00pm at St. Bernard and 6:45pm at Ascension. There will be no 8:00am Mass at St. Bernard that day. Adoration at St. Bernard on March 5th will be from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Our Combined Lent Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday March 12th at Ascension starting at 6:30pm.

Ascension Bible study will be starting the Spring session on Sunday March 9th after the 8am Mass and concluding on Sunday May 4th. We will be studying the Seven deadly sins-Seven Lively Virtues- Word on Fire by Archbishop Barron. Join us for this 8 week engaging presentation concerning the seven deadly sins, those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our flourishing in relationship with God and one another. Cost will be around \$10. There is a sign up sheet in the back of church if you are interested in joining!

Faith Formation Update:

There will be no Faith Formation on Wednesday March 5th. We ask instead that families attend Ash Wednesday Mass at either St. Bernard at 5pm or Ascension at 6:45pm or a Mass at another Parish. There will also be no class for Grades 3-10 the following week. Please attend our combined Reconciliation Service at Ascension starting at 6:30pm.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/09/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,886.00
Weekly E-Giving:	610.00
Collections Budget YTD:	101,550.86
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 109,979.15
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	8,428.29
Capital Improvement Offering:	195.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	290.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 12,513.00



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 KC Winter Bingo has returned! Join us on March 16th and April 27th in the downstairs Social Hall starting at 1pm for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Cost is \$6 for one card and \$10 for two cards.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,987.52
Contributions 02-05 through 2-11-2025	638.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	125,988.55
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	9,249.06

Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	3,337.46
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	3,337.46
Forward in Faith YTD	14,589.46



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!

We are still in need of a Pianist or Organist who can help with some of the weekend Masses. We have an incredible opportunity for someone to learn to play the Organ, and so if you have always wanted to learn to play and share your new talent at weekend Masses, please contact the Parish Office!

Recently Aluminum cans were taken to the recycling center. St. Bernard received \$980.00 for the cans. **Thank you to Bob Symanitz** who crushes the cans and takes them to the recycling center. The aluminum can trailer is on the east side of the school. Protect the environment and recycle your aluminum cans and bring them to the can trailer.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Dennis Benfield, who passed away on Jan. 30th. His funeral was on Feb. 14th. Dennis is the grandfather of Zach Hanson.

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 1, 2 & 5

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am	St. Bernard Wed. 5:00 pm	Ascension Wed. 6:45 pm
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn	Doris Mielke	Sherry Witte
Servers	Lily Hanson & Ava Hanson	Kendra Michels & Caleb Michels	Daniel Worm & Isaac Schrupp	Daniel Worm	Brianna Duenow & Nathan Duenow
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Colleen Donnay	Rob Wickenhauser	Roger Storms	Cathleen Williams
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Irene Yaeck	Volunteer	Bernie Shambour	Steve Helget
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Paul Lano & Don Whitaker	Dick Amst & Leonard Hoen Jr.	Tom Dahl & Andy Kleindl	Steve Coyle & Tim George
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Sue Schultz	Julie Kleindl	Casey Jones	Grace Cook
HB Ministers	N/A	Dave & Colleen Donnay	N/A	N/A	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Feb. 24		No Mass
Tuesday	Feb. 25 6:15 pm	Ascension	Pope Francis
Wednesday	Feb. 26 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Merlyn & Margaret Eiden †† & Living & Deceased Members of the Eiden Family
Thursday	Feb. 27 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Larry Zimmer †
Friday	Feb. 28 8:00 am	Ascension	Fr. Abraham's Intention
Saturday	Mar. 1 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Mar. 2 8:00 am	Ascension	For all Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 2 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Richard Paul † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Feb. 23, 2025
Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38 **Monday:** Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29 **Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37 **Wednesday:** Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40 **Thursday:** Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50 **Friday:** Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12 **Saturday:** Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16 **Next Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

**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

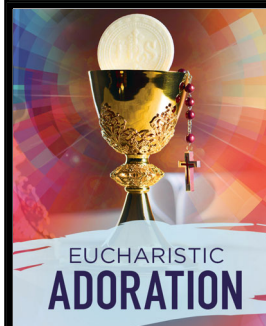
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



February 23, 2025 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darkness's.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "**Be merciful just as your Father is merciful**" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect *that* perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of *God's* life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi