

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:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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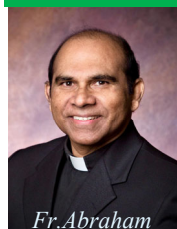
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Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 15 & 16, 2026



Fr. Abraham

Faith That Never Gives Up

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 15:21–28), we encounter the deep faith of a Canaanite woman. At first, Jesus seems to ignore her persistent plea for help. In doing so, he draws out and reveals the depth of her faith. Despite what appeared to be rejection, she did not give up. She remained steadfast and trusted in the mercy of the Lord. Jesus praises her perseverance, saying, *“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”* Because of her great faith, Jesus heals her daughter. The Canaanite woman made her daughter's suffering her own and was willing to endure rejection and humiliation in order to obtain healing for her child. Her faith grew through her encounter with Jesus.

By granting the persistent request of this pagan woman, Jesus demonstrates that his mission is to break down barriers and remove the walls of division and prejudice between Jews and Gentiles. God's love and mercy are extended to all who call upon him with faith and trust, regardless of who they are. God's care reaches beyond the boundaries of race and nation. Like the Canaanite woman, we are invited to bring our needs, struggles, and hopes before Jesus with confidence and perseverance. May her example inspire us to remain faithful in prayer, trusting that God's love and mercy are greater than any obstacle we may face.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: On this day, we honor Mary, the Mother of God, who was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life. The Assumption reminds us of the hope and promise of our own resurrection. Mary's life of faith, humility, and loving obedience points us to her Son, Jesus Christ, and encourages us to trust in God's plan for each of us.

This year, the Feast of the Assumption is **not a Holy Day of Obligation** because it falls on a Saturday, adjacent to the Sunday celebration. Even so, we are invited to celebrate Mary's faithful example and ask for her intercession as we continue our journey of faith. May Mary, our loving Mother, draw us ever closer to Christ and inspire us to live with greater faith, hope, and charity.

Mission Appeal – Weekend of August 22–23: We will host our Annual Mission Appeal for the **Franciscan Brothers of Peace** during the weekend of August 22–23. Through prayer, penance, and works of mercy, the Brothers offer free, whole-hearted service to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of poor individuals and families in our community. Brother John Mary and Brother Pio will speak at the Masses at St. Bernard and Ascension Parishes to share their mission and ministry. **Please give them a warm welcome, keep them in your prayers, and consider supporting their mission with your generous financial contribution.**

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: For the grace to develop a deeper devotion to our Mother Mary, who leads us to Jesus

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	Aug. 17		No Mass:
Tuesday	Aug. 18	ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm
		ASC.	Confession: 5:45-6:05pm
		ASC.	Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Aug. 19	ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am
		ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
		ST. B.	Adoration: 2pm-6pm
Thursday	Aug. 20	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Aug. 21	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Aug. 22	ASC.	Adoration 4:30pm-5:00pm
		ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm
		ASC.	Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Aug. 23	ASC.	Adoration: 7:30am-8:00am
		ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
		ST. B.	Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Next weekend the Franciscan Brothers of Peace are very honored to present their mission to the Parishes of Saint Bernard and Ascension. Based in St. Paul, MN, the Franciscan Brothers of Peace are daily called by God to defend the Gospel of Life in all its states and stages. Their mission is, through prayer, penance and works of mercy, to offer free, whole-hearted service to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of poor individuals and families within our midst. The Brothers look forward to sharing with you practical examples of how they live out our mission, and to appeal to your generosity in fulfilling it. Please be as generous as you are able.

WINE in the Vineyard – Sunday, Aug. 30, 4-8 p.m., Sovereign Estate Winery, Waconia

Join WINE for the 5th Annual WINE in the Vineyard—an enchanting evening of elegance, faith, music, and joy for men and women at beautiful Sovereign Estate Winery in Waconia. The evening begins with Mass in the vineyard at 4 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Hebda, followed by fabulous food expertly paired with Sovereign Estate wines. Enjoy an inspiring concert by acclaimed Catholic singer-songwriter Marie Miller. Find more information and registration at catholicvineyard.com/event/wine-in-the-vineyard-aug-30-2026.

Faith Formation Update:



Scan the QR Code to register today for the 2026-27 Faith Formation year! Mark your calendars for our opening Mass on Wednesday, September 9th at St. Bernard. We are pleased to share that all registered Parishioners from St. Bernard and Ascension receive free tuition this year!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 08/02/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,211.54
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	776.00
Weekly E-Giving:	895.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 16,057.70
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 10,592.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (5,465.70)
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	51.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 1,532.00



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 will be hosting the Stiftungsfest Sunday Service this year on August 30th at 9am in the Big Musik Tent. Please note that there will be no 8am Mass at Ascension. Mass will still be held at 10am at St. Bernard and Saturday evening at Ascension.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 08/02/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,500.00
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	1,755.00
Weekly E-Giving	855.00
Collection Budget YTD:	17,500.00
Actual Collection YTD:	15,558.75
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	(1,941.25)
Capital Improvement Offering:	124.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	254.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	1,871.50



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!

Our Joint Parish Picnic will be hosted by St. Bernard on September 19th after the 5:00pm Mass. As always we are looking for volunteers. If you are able to assist, please reach out to Doris Mielke.

Trust in God

May nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass; God does not leave. Patient endurance attains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone is enough. St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Word of Life—“No sin, failure, humiliation or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being. The fundamental dignity of each person, therefore, is neither acquired nor earned, nor does it need to be justified.”

Pope Leo XIV, *Magnificat Humanitas* © 2026, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

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Mass Ministry Schedule—August 22nd, & 23rd

Mass ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Johan Gesinger & Jeremy Gesinger	Jayden Michels & Kendra Michels	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen
Reader	Colleen Donnay	Amber Michels	Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Colleen Donnay	Irene Yaeck	Monica Kooiman
Ushers	Steve Coyle & Dave Donnay	Tom Lano & Curt Wilson	Dick Arnst & Tom Dahl
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Grace Cook	Victoria Arnst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson Grp B: Dave & Ann Dettmann	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Aug. 17		No Mass
Tuesday	Aug. 18 6:15 pm	ASC.	Bryce Enright †
Wednesday	Aug. 19 8:00 am	ST. B.	Rebecca Shamla †
Thursday	Aug. 20 8:00 am	ST. B.	Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Friday	Aug. 21 8:00 am	ASC.	Rita & Leo Gestach ††
Saturday	Aug. 22 5:00 pm	ASC.	Allen Schmitt †
Sunday	Aug. 23 8:00 am	ASC.	Family of Donna Meuleners
Sunday	Aug. 23 10:00 am	ST. B.	Richard Paul † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Aug. 16, 2026
Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22 **Tuesday:** Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30 **Wednesday:** Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16 **Thursday:** Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14 **Friday:** Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40 **Saturday:** Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12 **Next Sunday:** Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

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.

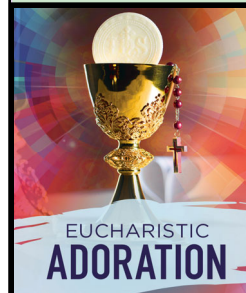
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

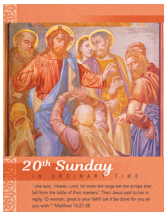
St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, **“Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.”** At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. **“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”** But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. **“Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.”** Jesus’ silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, **“O woman, great is your faith,”** it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that? — *Father John Muir* ©LPi