

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

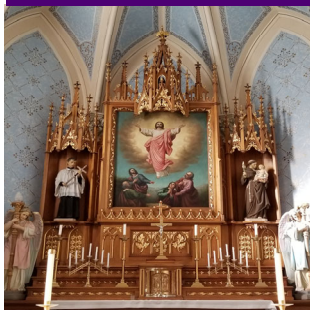
## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://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](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

[bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org)

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

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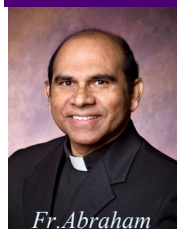
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

[bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org)



## Fifth Sunday Of Lent – March 21 & March 22, 2026



Fr. Abraham

### Hope in the Face of Death

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel, for the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45), we encounter one of the most moving moments in all of Scripture. Jesus stands before the tomb of his friend and weeps. Even though he knows he will raise Lazarus, he still enters into the sorrow of those who mourn. This small but profound verse, “*Jesus wept*”, reveals the heart of Jesus. Our Lord is not distant from human suffering. He stands beside us in our grief, our fear, and our loss. He shares in it.

Jesus cries out with authority: “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man walks out of the grave. It is a moment filled with astonishment and overwhelming hope. Through these actions he revealed his humanity and divinity. Jesus is first and foremost the one who gives life. In fact, the whole purpose of the Gospel is that we may ‘believe that Jesus is the Messiah and have life in his name.’ (John 20:31).

The raising of Lazarus is not only about one man returning to life. It is a sign pointing toward something even greater. Jesus declares to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,....Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes Lord.” (John 11:25-27). In this moment, Jesus reveals that he does not merely *bring* resurrection, he *is* resurrection itself.

Jesus asks the same question to us also, “Do you believe this? Do you believe that Jesus can mend all the brokenness and wounds of your life? Do you believe that Jesus calls you to enjoy the fullness of his life now? Jesus wants to liberate us from sin and death. Sometimes we are in the tomb of selfishness, filled with negative feelings such as worry, fear, and hopelessness. When Lazarus came out of the tomb, Jesus said, “Untie him and let him go.” Jesus calls us out of whatever binds us. He calls us from despair to hope, from sin to mercy, from death to life. The miracle of Lazarus reminds us that no situation is beyond the reach of God’s power and love. Jesus says to us today be free from wounds and hurts and from the dark moments of life.

The gospel account of the raising of Lazarus prepares us for the Easter celebration. May the miracle of Lazarus remind us that Christ is always at work bringing life where there seems to be death, hope where there is despair, and joy where there is sorrow. If we truly believe in him and follow his word, we will share not only in his resurrection at the end of time but also in the new life he offers us each day.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** *For Peace in the world, especially in the Middle East.*

**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>	Mar. 23		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Mar. 24	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	<b>Quilting Group</b> 9:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm <b>Confession:</b> 5:45-6:05pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Mar. 25	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	<b>Confession:</b> 7:30am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Mar. 26	ST. B.	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Mar. 27	ASC. ASC.	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Stations of the Cross:</b> 6:00pm
<i>Saturday</i>	Mar. 28	ASC. ASC. ASC.	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30pm-4:50pm <b>Adoration:</b> 4:30pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Mar. 29	ASC. ASC. ASC. ST. B.	<b>Adoration:</b> 7:30am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Donut Sunday</b> 9:00am <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

### Holy Week Schedule:

Holy Thursday– Ascension 7pm  
 Good Friday Living Stations– Ascension 3pm  
 Good Friday– St. Bernard 7pm  
 Easter Vigil– St. Bernard 8pm

### The Parish Office Hours for next week will be:

Monday– Ascension 9:30am-1:30pm  
 Tuesday– St. Bernard 10am-2pm  
 Wednesday- Ascension 10am-2pm  
 Thursday– Closed  
 Friday– Ascension 10am-2pm

Please reach out to Sarah during those times or email Father if you should need assistance. Thank you!

### Lent 2026 Reconciliation Services in the Area

March 27th 10am-12pm at Holy Name of Jesus  
 March 29th 4:00pm-6:00pm St. Joseph

### Capital Campaign Update:

**Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to the campaign. As we move forward with this exciting campaign we ask for:**

- † **Your continued prayers**
- † **Your response:** In the coming weeks you may hear from a parish leader inviting you to an event or personal visit-please welcome their outreach with an open heart.
- † **Your patience:** Before making a gift, we kindly ask that you wait until you've received your personalized packet or spoken with a volunteer. If you would like to connect sooner, our campaign team would love to hear from you! Just contact the parish office!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 03/08/2026

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 3,182.70
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	3,352.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	625.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	\$ 114,577.20
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	\$ 114,209.40
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	\$ (367.80)
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	30.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	25.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	\$ 6,920.00

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far: \$180,100-82%**



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!

**Please note that the KC Donut Sunday will be on  
March 29th instead of April 5th.**

This month is the MN Food Share March Campaign. Please support our local food shelf with food items or monetary donations.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Totals as of 03/08/2026

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	3,074.18
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate</b>	<b>6,245.00</b>
<b>Weekly E-Giving</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Collection Budget YTD:</b>	137,778.22
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>136,979.50</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD</b>	<b>(798.72)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	110.00
<b>Capital Improvement E-Giving</b>	0.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>8,596.50</b>

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far: \$156,000 -67%**



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!

The Waconia KC's Fish Fry night to benefit St. Bernard will be on March 27th! Please consider signing up for a shift to help! Sign up can be found under the St. Bernard page of our website or in the back of the Narthex. If you are not able to sign up to help, please consider coming out for a delicious meal or bring home the takeout option! Thank you for your support!

### Faith Formation Update:

Please keep our 2nd and 10th Graders in your prayers this next month as they prepare to make their sacraments.

**Our 10th Graders are hard at work preparing for  
Living Stations on Good Friday at 3pm!**

## Mass Ministry Schedule—March 28th & 29th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Kathy Kloempken	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Hailey Stender Payton Stender	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen
Reader	Colleen Donnay & Julie Gesinger	Cheryl Coyle & Brian Willems	Julie Kleindl & Mary Sue Thaumert
EMHC	Pat Johnson	Steve Coyle	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Dave Donnay & Steve Schrupp	Justin Buckentin & Volunteer	Tom Dahl & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Grace Cook	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Tim George & Dave Donnay Grp B: Colleen Donnay	

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Mass	Intention
Monday	Mar. 23		No Mass
Tuesday	Mar. 24 6:15 pm	ASC.	The Donna Meuleners Family
Wednesday	Mar. 25 8:00 am	ST. B.	Jenny Dahl †
Thursday	Mar. 26 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Family of Merlyn & Margaret Eiden
Friday	Mar. 27 8:00am	ASC.	Dan Conser †
Saturday	Mar. 28 5:00 pm	ASC.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Sunday	Mar. 29 8:00 am	ASC.	Dar Mondor †
Sunday	Mar. 29 10:00 am	ST. B.	Vernon Walter † And All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of Mar. 22, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 **Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15 17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11 **Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30 **Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 **Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59 **Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42 **Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56 **Next Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66

**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.

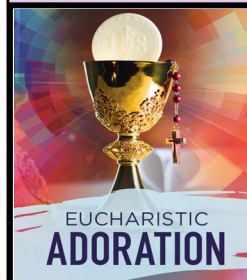
### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 6:00 pm



**March 22, 2026**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**



A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: **"Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)** The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, **"Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).**

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

**Lenten challenge:** Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi