

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@ascensionnya.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.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

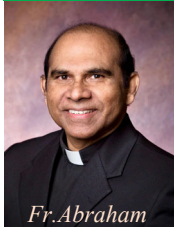
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Presentation of the Lord – February 1 & 2, 2025



Fr. Abraham

The Presentation of the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we reflect on a key moment in Jesus' early life, occurring forty days after his birth. This event, while rooted in Jewish tradition, carries deep theological meaning for Christians. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple fulfills Old Testament prophecy, signifying that the long-awaited Messiah has arrived. Through the words of Simeon and Anna, two elderly figures who awaited God's promise with patient hope, we are assured that this child is indeed the promised One, the Savior of Israel and of the world.

In the gospel account, Mary and Joseph, as devout Jews, faithfully follow the Law of the Lord by presenting Jesus in the Temple. This act of devotion is more than a ritual; it is an act of obedience and trust in God's plan. "They took the child to the Temple to be presented to God" (Luke 2:22). For Christians, this event connects deeply with the Sacrament of Baptism, where parents present their children before God, much like Mary and Joseph did with Jesus. In doing so, parents commit to raising their children in the faith, guiding them along the path to becoming true children of God, just as Mary and Joseph nurtured Jesus in wisdom and grace.

The account of Jesus' presentation also reminds us of the importance of growing in faith under the guidance of faithful parents and a supportive community. After this moment, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth, where they continued to raise Jesus in wisdom. "The boy Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40). This passage reminds us that God's favor rests on all those who, like Mary and Joseph, trust and obey his word, fostering an environment where children can grow in wisdom and grace.

This feast invites us to reflect on our own faith journeys and the role of family in nurturing that faith. It encourages us to follow the example of Mary and Joseph in faithfully obeying God's commands and presenting ourselves to God in trust and humility, knowing that he will guide us and our families in wisdom and love.

I am deeply grateful to the visiting priests who celebrate the Mass in my absence.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
Pastor

Rosary Intention: *Safety for all travelers, especially Father Abraham, as he returns home to us!*

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	Feb. 3		No Mass:
Tuesday	Feb. 4	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Feb. 5	ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
Thursday	Feb. 6		No Mass:
Friday	Feb. 7		No Mass:
Saturday	Feb. 8	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Feb. 9	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

The Parish Office at St. Bernard will be open on Thursday, February 6th and closed on Friday, February 7th. The Office at Ascension will not be open on Thursday, February 6th.

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!

The Ascension and St. Bernard Quilting Group has started back up! They meet at St. Bernard in the downstairs gathering space from 9am-12pm every Tuesday. They welcome anyone and no experience is required to join!

Beef and Sausage Dinner—Guardian Angels, Chaska ; Sunday, February 9, 2025; School Gym: 11am-1:00pm; Serving since 1949 by the Guardian Angels Men's Club
Sit –Down and Take- Outs

The *Welcome* retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia is coming up! The Men's retreat will take place February 22nd-23rd and the Women's Retreat will take place March 1st-2nd. If you have any questions you can reach out to Matt Turek at mattewturek59@gmail.com for the Men's Retreat or Janice Matlon jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org for the Women's retreat, or Pam Kunkle at St. Bernard and Kathy Kloempken at Ascension.

Faith Formation Update:

The Ascension's CUF Council will again be sponsoring a Spring Clothing Drive in conjunction with the Epilepsy Foundation of MN. The exact dates are still to be determined, but please keep this in mind as you clean out your closet in the next couple of months!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 01/12/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,608.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,120.00
Collections Budget YTD:	86,853.76
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 91,058.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	4,204.64
Capital Improvement Offering:	195.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 7,385.00



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 came out to the KC Pancake Breakfast to support our Catholic School Scholarship fund! A Special THANK YOU to the KC's for putting this on and their support!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,900.15
Contributions 01-15 through 1-21-2025	1,814.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	115,067.05
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	7,202.75
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	189.00
Electronic Donations	251.00
Forward in Faith Total	440.00
Forward in Faith YTD	10,076.50



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!

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of *Connie Medenwaldt* who passed away on January 21st. Her funeral will be Monday, February 3rd at 2:00pm. May she rest in peace. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Pray also for Connie's family.

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!

Buckley Jones (7th grader at SJB) will be selling raffle tickets after Mass on February 1st and 2nd for St. John the Baptist Catholic School as a part of the 35th Annual Cadillac Dinner fundraiser. 1st prize is a 2025 Ford Maverick Supercrew XLT from Wolf Motors or **\$25,000 cash**, 2nd prize \$5000, 3rd and 4th \$2,500. Tickets are \$100. If you would like to order a ticket prior to the 1st and 2nd, Contact Brenda Buckley Jones 952-239-9436 for tickets.

Mass Ministry Schedule—February 8 & 9

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	Noah Kerber & Volunteer	Jayden Michels & Kendra Michels	Buckley Jones & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Julie Gesinger	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Eucharistic Ministers	Jean Schmitz	Lisa Whitaker	Monica Kooiman
Ushers	Jim Mulville & Rick Ulrich	Steve Schrupp & Don Whitaker	Vern Elke & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Steve Coyle	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Dave & Ann Dettmann	N/A

Mass Times Intentions			
Monday	Feb. 3		No Mass
Tuesday	Feb. 4 6:15 pm	Ascension	Living and Deceased Members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Wednesday	Feb. 5 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	Feb. 6		No Mass or Communion Service
Friday	Feb. 7		No Mass
Saturday	Feb. 8 5:00 pm	Ascension	Dick Lano †
Sunday	Feb. 9 8:00 am	Ascension	Father Abraham
Sunday	Feb. 9 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Living and Deceased Members of the Donna Meuleners Family

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.

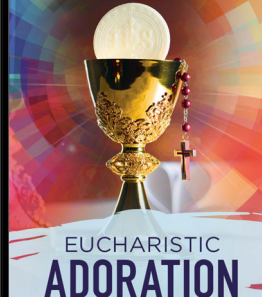
Readings for the week of Feb. 2, 2025
Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32 **Monday:** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20 **Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43 **Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6 **Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13 **Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29 **Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34 **Next Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

**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@ascensionya.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.**

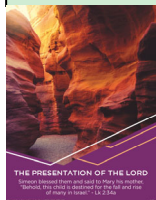


**Eucharistic Adora-
tion**

Ascension
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard
Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm

February 2, 2025 Presentation of the Lord



What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophecies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which **“the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”** (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir ©LPi