

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

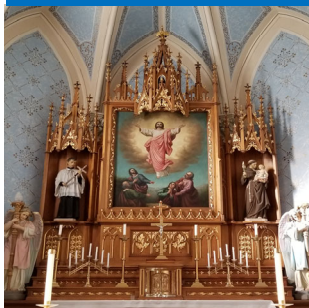
## PASTOR

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

### Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051

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

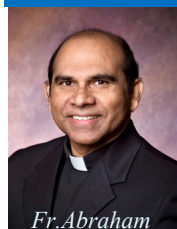
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

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



## Third Sunday Of Easter – April 18 & April 19, 2026



Fr. Abraham

### The Risen Lord Walks with Us

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Emmaus journey (Luke 24:13–35) is one of the most touching events in the Gospel. Two disciples were traveling to the village of Emmaus, weighed down by disappointment, hopelessness, and confusion after the crucifixion of Jesus. Their understanding of him had been incomplete.

As they walked, the risen Lord joined them, but they did not recognize him. To them, he appeared to be just another traveler visiting Jerusalem for the Passover. They shared their grief and confusion with him. Jesus then began to explain the Scriptures, helping them understand how everything pointed to him.

Later, at table, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, just as he had done at the Last Supper. In that moment, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Immediately afterward, he vanished from their sight. Why? Because now they could see. Faith had been awakened. They no longer needed his visible presence in the same way, for they now carried his presence within them. He remains present in the life of the Church.

Reflecting on their experience, they said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?” Strengthened and renewed, they returned at once to Jerusalem, the place they had earlier fled. The journey that began in sorrow became a mission of joy. They could not keep the good news to themselves: “We have seen the Lord!”

The Emmaus story is our story. Just as the disciples encountered him through the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread, we too encounter him in every Mass. In the Liturgy of the Word, the Holy Spirit works within us, allowing God’s Word to heal and renew us. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Jesus makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread. He speaks to our hearts through Scripture and opens our eyes in the Eucharist.

The Emmaus story reminds us that God does not abandon us in times of disappointment or pain. Just as the risen Lord walked with those disciples, he walks with us in our struggles. We all experience moments when our hopes—for health, financial security, or family relationships—are shaken or broken. Yet this Gospel assures us that Christ comes to us, often when we least expect it and in ways we may not immediately recognize, to strengthen and guide us.

Like the disciples, we are invited to speak openly with Jesus, sharing not only our joys but also our fears, doubts, and disappointments. The Church encourages us to encounter him daily through the reading of Scripture and through participation in the Eucharist. Every celebration of the Mass is an opportunity to recognize his presence among us and within us.

This is also a special time for our community. Fifteen young men and women will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral on Saturday, April 18. Let us keep them in our prayers, that they may grow strong in faith and bear witness to Christ through their lives.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** “For all the youth celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation.”

**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>	Apr. 20		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Apr. 21	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>	Apr. 22	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	<b>Confession:</b> 7:30am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Apr. 23	ST. B.	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Apr. 24	ASC.	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Apr. 25	ASC. ASC. ASC.	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30pm-4:50pm <b>Adoration:</b> 4:30pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Apr. 26	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	<b>Adoration:</b> 7:30am <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

The Blessing of the Quilts will be on May 6th at St. Bernard after the 8:00am Mass! They will remain up through Mother's Day Weekend.

Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of diocese in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet their faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal. Please be a generous as you are able. Find more information at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

### Capital Campaign Update:

Lord, Renew Your Church Ice Cream Social April 21st 7-8:30pm-All parishioners from St. Bernard and Ascension are invited to attend the Lord, Renew Your Church Ice Cream social in the Ascension Social Hall. Fr. Abraham will be discussing how the capital campaign will benefit both parishes and help build for the future. If you have not made a pledge this is a great opportunity to learn more. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP with our campaign director Kolbey Bormann at: [kbormann@ccsfundraising.com](mailto:kbormann@ccsfundraising.com).

### Faith Formation Update:

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Northside Faith Formation Fundraiser in March! We raised \$1,000 to go towards our program!

Congratulations to our Confirmation Students who were confirmed this Saturday at the Cathedral!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 04/05/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,109.50
Weekly E-Giving:	1,020.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 127,308.00
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 129,328.90
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 2,020.90</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	685.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>\$ 8,695.00</b>

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$255,700-116%**



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 pray for the Repose of the Soul of Dolores Schrupp whose funeral was April 1st. Please keep her family in your prayers during this time.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 04/05/2026

Easter Budget	3,200.00
Weekly Operating Budget:	3,169.58
<b>Easter collection</b>	<b>3,985.00</b>
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	3,023.00
Weekly E-Giving	765.00
Collection Budget YTD:	153,370.34
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>154,111.00</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD</b>	<b>740.66</b>
Capital Improvement Offering:	109.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	200.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>9,505.00</b>
Holy Land Collection	699.00

**Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$264,462 -102%**



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!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Audrey Haus, Who Passed away on Apr. 7. Audrey is the sister of Bernard Meuleners and Barb Knorr. Please also pray for peace and comfort for Audrey's family.

**Thank you to the Estate of Mildred Paul for the generous donation made to St. Bernard.**

### Catholic United Scholarships

Catholic United Financial Scholarship application period is open from March 1 — April 30 of each year. Any member (any age) studying for their first degree after high school can apply. Applicants must have been a member for at least 2 years by the application deadline and when the scholarship is awarded. **Awards of \$500 for attending a Catholic college or \$300 for an accredited non-Catholic school.** Applications are available at: [www.catholicunitedfinancial.org](http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org)

## Mass Ministry Schedule—April 25th & 26th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Hailey Stender & Payton Stender	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Elijah McInnis & Evelyn McInnis
Reader	Cheryl Coyle	Colleen Donnay	Judy Glander
EMHC	Curt Wilson	Irene Yaeck	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Steve Coyle & Tom Lano	Justin Buckentin & Steve Schrupp	Bob Symanitz & Tom Dahl
Greeters	Pat Johnson	Grace Cooke	Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Colleen Donnay Grp B: Tim George & Steve Lemmer	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Apr. 20		No Mass
Tuesday	Apr. 21	6:15 pm	ASC. Don and Dolores Bohlinger ††
Wednesday	Apr. 22	8:00 am	ST. B. Family of Merlyn & Margaret Eiden ††
Thursday	Apr. 23	8:00 am	ST. B. Family of Donna Meuleners ††
Friday	Apr. 24	8:00 am	ASC. Stephanie Hill
Saturday	Apr. 25	5:00 pm	ASC. Dolores Bohlinger †
Sunday	Apr. 26	8:00 am	ASC. Dolores Schrupp †
Sunday	Apr. 26	10:00 am	ST. B. Clarissa Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners

**Readings for the week of Apr. 19, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35  
**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29 **Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:1a/ Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35 **Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8/ Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40 **Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40/ Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51 **Friday:** Acts 9:1-20/ Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59 **Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14/ Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20  
**Next Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

**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@ascensionny.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

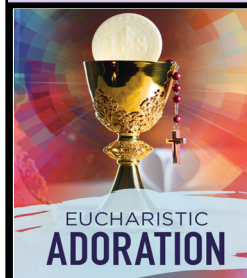
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



### April 19, 2026 3rd Sunday of Easter



When I first read Homer's *Odyssey* as a teenager, one scene captured my imagination: Odysseus finally returning home after 20 years, yet no one recognized him. Disguised as a beggar, he speaks with his wife, his son, and even his enemies. He is fully present, yet hidden. Only at the right moment does he reveal himself, and everyone realizes he has been with them all along. I was struck by the mystery that he could be so close to his loved ones, and yet they simply could not identify him.

A similar mystery is at the heart of today's Gospel. Two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but **"their eyes were prevented from recognizing him."** (Luke 24:16) He listens, teaches, and eats with them, yet they remain blind until he breaks the bread. Suddenly their eyes are opened — and at that very moment, he vanishes. His disappearance is not absence. Rather, it is revelation. The Risen Lord is now present in a new way, in the breaking of the bread and in the life of His Church.

Faith is this shift of vision. Instead of searching for a visible Jesus as if he were absent, we learn to recognize him unveiled in hidden ways — in Scripture proclaimed, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the very life of the Church.

And what is true of him is true of us. Just as he disappears into the mission of his Body, we too are meant to be hidden in him. When we live hidden in Christ, we are seen for who we really are.

— *Father John Muir*

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