

# 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](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—3pm

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### Business Administrator:

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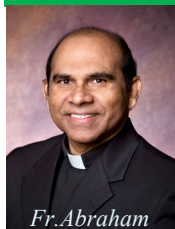
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

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## Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 18 & 19, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### Stewardship: A Way of Life Rooted in Prayer.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Stewardship and prayer are the two essential elements that sustain and help a parish community grow in faith and mission. They are a way of life that calls us to deeper discipleship, community, and love for God and neighbor. Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God. It is through prayer that we hear God's voice and discern how we are called to serve. Without prayer, stewardship becomes merely transactional. But with prayer, our acts of giving become expressions of love and obedience to God's will. The first step to live the life of stewardship is staying rooted in prayer. We are called to do our duties as stewards by nurturing the gift of faith through our prayer.

This Sunday's Scripture readings focus on the importance of persevering in prayer. In the first reading (Exodus 17:8–13), Moses sends Joshua into battle against the Amalekites while he stands on the hilltop, lifting his hands in prayer. As long as Moses' hands are raised, Israel prevails.

When he grows tired, Aaron and Hur support him. This is a powerful image of tireless, communal intercession, a model for us in our own lives of prayer. In the Gospel (Luke 18:1–8), Jesus tells the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow. The judge is reluctant to act, but because the widow continues to return again and again, he eventually grants her justice. Jesus uses this story to emphasize the need to pray always and not lose heart.

At first glance, it may seem that we are being told to “bother” God until we get our way. But Jesus makes it clear that God is not like the unjust judge. God is merciful, just, and attentive to our prayers. He hears the cries of his people, and he responds in love. When we grow tired, when our prayers seem unanswered, Jesus encourages us: *Do not give up*. God is present, even in our suffering, doubts, and trials. Like the widow, we are invited to pray persistently and faithfully, trusting that God is listening. The good news is that prayer assures us of God's presence. Without it, we are like fish out of water. Prayer nourishes our faith, strengthens our spirit, and keeps us close to God. whether we are in a time of joy or hardship. We pray in good times and in bad times, when life is rough and when life is great.

As faithful stewards, we are called to set aside time for personal and family prayer. The family is the first place where we learn to pray and to persevere. Family prayer naturally leads to the perfect prayer of the Church which is the Holy Mass. There is no rest or vacation from prayer. Just as our need for God never ends, our life of prayer must continue daily. Stewardship and prayer are not two separate paths. They are deeply connected: A prayerful person becomes a generous steward, and a committed steward must stay rooted in prayer to avoid burnout and discouragement.

When a parish is rooted in both stewardship and prayer, it transforms from simply being a community into a vibrant mission. It becomes a community where faith comes alive. Parishioners begin to see their ministries not as obligations but as callings. Prayer becomes a way of life. Stewardship becomes love in action. As St. Paul reminds us: “*Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*” (Colossians 3:17). May we each be faithful stewards, rooted in prayer, so that our parish may truly reflect the heart of Christ in all we do.

This weekend, we celebrate **World Mission Sunday**, an opportunity to show love and solidarity with our global family of faith. Through our prayers, we support missionaries who bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Through our donations, we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and care for the forgotten. Let us support World Mission Sunday generously and joyfully—with both prayer and action.

**Rosary Intention:** For the Missionaries who sharing the Good News worldwide.

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

|                  |                |                                                 |                                                                                          |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Oct. 20</b> |                                                 | <b>No Mass:</b>                                                                          |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Oct. 21</b> | <b>ASC.</b><br><b>ASC.</b><br><b>ASC.</b>       | <b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm<br><b>Confession:</b> 5:45-6:05pm<br><b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm       |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Oct. 22</b> | <b>ST. B.</b><br><b>ST. B.</b><br><b>ST. B.</b> | <b>Confession:</b> 7:30-7:50am<br><b>Mass:</b> 8:00am<br><b>Adoration:</b> 2:00pm-6:00pm |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Oct. 23</b> | <b>ST. B.</b>                                   | <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am                                                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Oct. 24</b> | <b>ASC.</b>                                     | <b>Mass:</b> 8:00am                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>Oct. 25</b> | <b>ASC.</b><br><b>ASC.</b><br><b>ASC.</b>       | <b>Adoration:</b> 4:30pm<br><b>Confession:</b> 4:30pm-4:50pm<br><b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm      |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Oct. 26</b> | <b>ASC.</b><br><b>ASC.</b><br><b>ST. B.</b>     | <b>Adoration:</b> 7:30am<br><b>Mass:</b> 8:00am<br><b>Mass:</b> 10:00am                  |

### What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

#### Stewardship Renewal Update:

This year the Ministry Catalog/Directory will not be mailed, but will be available in the back of church or kiosk. A Ministry Form, previously a Commitment card, will be in the pews October 25/26, to be filled out at Mass, with more info at that time.

**This Sunday is World Mission Sunday**, a day when Catholics around the globe unite in prayer and generosity for the Church's missionary work. This week, we invite you to pray the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Each decade represents a region of the world, reminding us that we are one family in mission. We will be taking a second collection this weekend to assist the Church's missionary work in 1,124 mission territories. Please be as generous as you are able through your prayer and support.

**Combined All Souls Memorial Mass**—this year the Memorial Mass will be at St. Bernard on Saturday, November 1st in conjunction with the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass.

### Faith Formation Update:

Ascension and St. Bernard are looking for new Alter Servers! We will be offering a refresher training on Wednesday, October 22nd, for current Alter Servers at 6:30pm in the Ascension Sanctuary, and **New Alter Server training on Wednesday, October 29th**, at 6:30pm in the Ascension Sanctuary. If you are interested in signing up to serve, please fill out the packet in your family folder or contact Kara Wickenhauser to receive one. We also offer a flexible training if you do not attend Faith Formation or are not able to make it that evening. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to schedule training at a different time.

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 10/05/2025

|                                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>          | \$ 3,182.70   |
| <b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>           | 1,889.00      |
| <b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>                  | 925.00        |
| <b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>           | 44,557.80     |
| <b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>            | \$ 42,254.00  |
| <b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b> | \$ (2,303.80) |
| <b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>     | 250.00        |
| <b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>     | 25.00         |
| <b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>          | \$ 2,765.00   |



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!

We would like to thank the West Carver Lions and the VFW 1783 for their incredibly generous donations to help us purchase a second AED Machine for the Social Hall! Our Parish is so appreciative of their support.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

|                                                    |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Budget for week</b>                             | 3,476.33        |
| <b>Contributions 09-24 through 09-30-2025</b>      | <b>2,409.00</b> |
| <b>Total Actual Collection YTD</b>                 | 47,548.50       |
| <b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b> | <b>2,933.30</b> |
| <b>Forward in Faith</b>                            |                 |
| Envelope Income                                    | 58.00           |
| Electronic Donations                               | 200.00          |
| <b>Forward in Faith Total</b>                      | <b>258.00</b>   |
| <b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>                        | <b>2,964.00</b> |



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!

**THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL "SOUP SOCIAL" RAFFLES, FARMERS MARKET & BAKE SALE**—to all who assisted, planned and lead the Soup Social, Farmers Market, Bake Sale, Meat Raffle, Silent Auction, Cash Raffle and Quilt Raffle. Thank you to Vern Elke and his brother and brother-in-law for providing the music for the Mass. **Also Thank you to all** who attended the Soup Social. To all, your help and attendance was greatly appreciated. With a few outstanding bills yet to be paid. The "Soup Social" brought in a little over \$9,000.00. **WHOW!**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS:

**Quilt**—Dallas and Faye Schneider

**Cash Raffle Winners: \$500.00 - Susie Cebulla**

**\$100.00 - Bob Symanitz Luke Kleindl, Bob Symanitz.**

**\$50.00:** Anna Wickenhauser, Keith Kooiman, Brian Vos, Vern Elke, Emma Panning, Barb Rademacher, Dan Worm, Holly Gieseke, McKenzie Lobitz, Kelsey Knapp, Tracy Elke Leon Wickenhauser, Roger Hoen Patsy Quinn, Roger Storms, Mary Lou Wildung, Connie Zurn, Linda Rannow, Linda Rannow, Judy Glander, Jared Wickenhauser, Vanessa Nicholas, Linda Monson, Caleb Wickenhauser, Sandy Bengston, Irene Drees, Judy Jenkins, Sue Neubarth, Cheryl Birkholz, Jake Kooiman, Audrey and Matt Paul, Joe Cebulla, Monica Kooiman, Leon Trout, Patsy Quinn, Megan Wickenhauser, Bernie Meuleners, Jamie Schrupp, Kevin Konerza, Greg Wickenhauser. Meat Raffle #1 Joanne Wickenhauser, #2 Tom Dahl, #3 Josh Rodfiguez, #4 Tom Schmitz

## Mass Ministry Schedule October 25 & 26

| Mass Ministry              | Ascension<br>Sat. 5:00 pm  | Ascension<br>Sun. 8:00 am                                             | St. Bernard<br>Sun. 10:00 am |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sacristan</b>           | Sherry Witte               | Cheryl Coyle                                                          | Pam Kunkel                   |
| <b>Servers</b>             | Jonah Gesinger & Volunteer | Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh                                 | Lexy Allison & Luke Allison  |
| <b>Reader</b>              | Jean Schmitz               | Brian Willems                                                         | Judy Glander                 |
| <b>EMHC</b>                | Pat Johnson                | Steve Coyle                                                           | Monica Kooiman               |
| <b>Ushers</b>              | Rick Ulrich Curt Wilson    | Justin Buckentin & Don Whitaker                                       | Dick Amst & Tom Dahl         |
| <b>Greeters</b>            | Jeremy & Julie Gesinger    | Janet Fahey                                                           | Brian Vos                    |
| <b>Homebound Ministers</b> | N/A                        | Grp A: Colleen Donnay & Rita Fahey<br>Grp B: Steve Lemmer & Volunteer | N/A                          |

### Mass Times Intentions

|                  |                  |        |                                                                   |
|------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Oct. 20          |        | No Mass                                                           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Oct. 21 6:15 pm  | ASC.   | Pope Leo XIV                                                      |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Oct. 22 8:00 am  | ST. B. | Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family           |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Oct. 23 8:00 am  | ST. B. | Francis Zimmer Family                                             |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Oct. 24 8:00am   | ASC.   | Paul Simons †                                                     |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Oct. 25 5:00 pm  | ASC    | Living and Deceased of the Dennis and Bernice Wickenhauser Family |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Oct. 26 8:00 am  | ASC.   | Robert Schrupp †                                                  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Oct. 26 10:00 am | ST. B  | Marcy Wickenhauser † & All Paishioners                            |

#### Readings for the week of Oct. 19, 2025

**Sunday:** Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8 **Monday:** Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 12:13-21 **Tuesday:** Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38 **Wednesday:** Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk 12:39-48 **Thursday:** Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53 **Friday:** Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59 **Saturday:** Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9 **Next Sunday:** Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

**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@ascensionnyny.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.

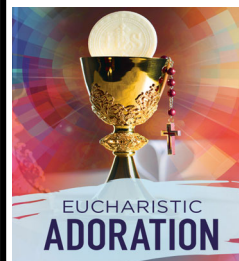
### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Ascension

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

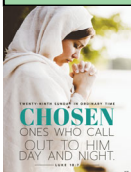
#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday  
2:00pm until 6:00 pm



**October 19, 2025**

**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus' strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked why. She responded, "God is *already* answering. I just can't see it yet." She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus' parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn't about wearing God down until He gives in. It's about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn't just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge's words — his fear of being "struck" — He hints at something deeper: God's justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world — suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike.

This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God's silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done. —

—Father John Muir ©LPi