

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

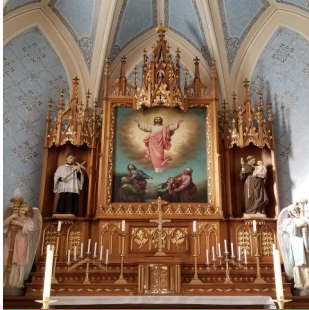
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322

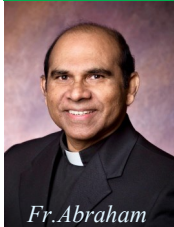


Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Paris Office Hours:
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-856-1051
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052
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Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time – August 17 & 18, 2024



Fr. Abraham

Deepen the Relationship with Jesus, the Bread of Life

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For the four Sundays in succession, we have been reflecting on the theme of Jesus as the Bread of Life. Today Jesus says, “The bread that I will give is my flesh..., whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” Normally, when we eat, we assimilate the food. But that is not what happens when we receive the Eucharist. When we receive the Eucharist, we don’t assimilate the food, the Food assimilates us. When we receive the Eucharist, Jesus transforms us. We will have a new relationship with him. We are in Jesus and Jesus is in us.

To eat the flesh of Jesus and to drink his blood is to be totally united with him and filled with his spirit and mission. It is to be able to say with St Paul, “I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). It means totally sharing Jesus’ visions and his values. It is to be totally identified with his mission to establish his Kingdom in this world. Further, because his flesh and blood are so closely related with his suffering and death, we are to identify ourselves too with that total self-giving, to carry our own cross after him and to accept the sufferings which come into our lives.

On this Sunday gospel reading, Jesus is inviting us to be with him, to share totally and unconditionally in his mission. The special way in which we strengthen ourselves of this calling is through our celebration of the Eucharist, where we eat the Body and the drink the Blood. But we need to remember that this is a sacrament that points to the deeper reality, our ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ.

In celebrating the Eucharist, we are saying that we want to deepen that relationship with Jesus, with his Gospel, and with the community. This life in Christ is the nourishment of our life. Without this Food and Drink, we will die of starvation; our bodies will keep going but in a very real sense, spiritually, we will die.

When we do participate in the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion, let us not do so passively but to receive actively. When we receive the consecrated host, the priest or Eucharistic minister says, “Body of Christ”. And we answer: “Amen” which means “Yes”. In saying so, we are accepting Christ, his love, his sufferings, his victories and his whole Gospel. We are saying we want to be with him all the way, to serve him with all our heart and soul, and work with him for the making of a better world, to establish his Kingdom on earth.

Rosary Intention: “That the commitment of married couples to each other be strengthened daily.”

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. BRARDS' PARISHES

Monday	Aug. 19		No Mass:
Tuesday	Aug. 20	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Aug. 21	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm
Thursday	Aug. 22	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Aug. 23	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Aug. 24	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Prayers for Our Children: 11:00:-1200pm Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Aug. 25	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Mark your calendars, this year's joint **Parish Picnic** will be hosted by St. Bernard on **Saturday September 7th**. More details to come!

The Next Chapter Program Saturday, September 7-Saturday, February 1, 2025, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

This program is for those reaching retirement age. It is a six-month, guided journey using principles of Ignatian spirituality to assist participants in discerning what God might be calling them to in this exciting "Next Chapter" of their lives. Applications are still being accepted. Learn more here or by contacting Karin Trail-Johnson at USTNextChapter@stthomas.edu.

REVIVE Women's Night ~ Monday September 16th at Holy Trinity Church in Winsted

Featuring Guest Speaker: Mother Mary Clare

We are honored to have Mother Mary Clare share her faith journey and a great message for all women to hear! This is a free event with our free-will donation being 100% donated to The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus! ALL women (16+) are invited to join us for this women's faith night! No need to RSVP- just show up! The night consists of fellowship with wine/mocktails/refreshments, chocolates, speaker, praise and worship lead by Alex Schindler, Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, prayer teams and personal prayer time. This is a night for women to be revived and renewed in spirit! Invite a friend!

Social time 6:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Speaker Event 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Prayer Hour 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer teams, personal prayer time, and live praise & worship music- stay as little or as long as you like during prayer hour!) This will be our FIRST Revive BACK at our newly renovated church!!!

Faith Formation Update:



Registration is open for 2024-25 Faith Formation! You can scan the QR code to register. Mark your calendars, the Faith Formation opening Mass will be September 11th at 6:30pm.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 08/04/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,043.00
Weekly E-Giving:	420.00
Collections Budget YTD:	15,509.60
Actual Collection YTD:	10,948.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(4,561.60)
Capital Improvement Offering:	170.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	55.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$1,235.00



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!

Stiftungsfest starts this Thursday, August 22nd, at 5pm in Willkommen Park, with Family Night, sponsored by the NYA local churches including Ascension and St. Bernard. Events include games, dunk tank, kids pedal pull, outdoor movie, and entertainment by Curtis Grimes! Come out for an evening of fun and fellowship! Gate admission is FREE!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,339.13
Contributions 07-31 through 08-06-2024	3,127.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	16,667.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	956.87
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	456.00
Electronic Donations	271.00
Forward in Faith Total	727.00
Forward in Faith YTD	2,685.00



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!

St. Bernard is forming a committee to study potential options for the use of the St. Bernard School Building. If you are interested in being on this committee and are able to meet weekly, please contact the Parish Office at 952-467-3351 or busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org by August 20th. We are looking for approximately 7 people to serve on this committee. Thank you for considering this ministry.



We welcomed Brayden Joshua Ruff, son of Michael and Sarah Ruff, into the Catholic Church on August 4th. May God's light shine upon you each day of your life!

"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God"

-St. Dominic

Mass Ministry Schedule—August 24 & 25

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Cheryl Coyle	Doris Mielke
Servers	Volunteers	Steve Lemmer	Marshall Panning & Logan Pellegrino
Reader	Brian Willems	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathleen Williams	Irene Yaeck	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Richard Tellers & Don Whitaker	Tom Dahl & Leo Willems
Greeters	Jim Mulville	Steve Coyle	Victoria Arnst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Aug. 19		No Mass
Tuesday	Aug. 20 6:15 pm	Ascension	Charlotte Preiss & Barbara Ahlers ††
Wednesday	Aug. 21 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Adrian Wickenhauser †
Thursday	Aug. 22 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Friday	Aug. 23 8:00 am	Ascension	For All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	Aug. 24 5:00 pm	Ascension	Chuck and Mary Jean † †
Sunday	Aug. 25 8:00 am	Ascension	Respect of Human Life
Sunday	Aug. 25 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Elizabeth (Betty) Paul † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Aug. 18, 2024
Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58
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 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

**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.

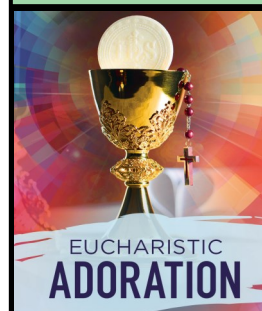
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

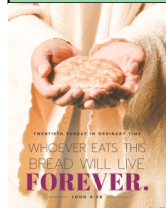
Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



**August 18, 2024
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



A priest I know was asked by a door-to-door evangelist, “Do you believe in Jesus?” He answered, “Yes, I do. But if I may ask you,” he continued, “Where do you experience Jesus’ body and blood?” His interlocutor responded somewhat confusedly, “I don’t. I just believe in him. That’s all that is needed.” Later my priest friend would relate to me, “The more I thought about it, that response struck me as totally inadequate. As human beings, we need to encounter Jesus’ body and blood, not just hear about him and mentally believe. Otherwise, Jesus is just a ghost.”

This week we see this central point as we arrive at the climactic moment of Jesus’ teaching on the Eucharist. Jesus has established the importance of believing in him as the “**bread of life come down from heaven.**” Belief deeply matters because it leads to a real, bodily encounter with Jesus through eating and drinking. That’s why Jesus emphasizes to an almost outrageous degree the non-metaphorical necessity to “**eat my flesh and drink my blood**” (John 6:54). The real presence of Jesus’ body and blood — he himself, truly, really, substantially — has been the Church’s treasure since Holy Thursday. Internal belief in the heart *and* the ritual act of eating and drinking the Eucharist, the Church has stubbornly insisted on *both*, not just one or the other.

This is not meant to criticize non-Catholic Christians who deeply trust and love Jesus, nor is it a triumphal elitist claim about the Catholic Mass. Rather it is a humble, trusting acknowledgement that God in Jesus comes to us in a way most proper to human beings: in our hearts *and* our bodies, faith *and* the Eucharist.

— Father John Muir

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