

# 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

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

busadmin@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

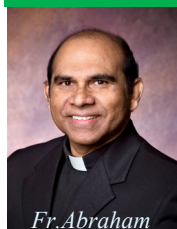
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

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

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org



## Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time – July 18 & 19, 2026



### God's Patience and Our Hope

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 13:24–43), Jesus tells us three parables: the **wheat and the weeds**, the **mustard seed**, and the **yeast**. He uses these images to explain the kingdom of heaven. At first glance, they seem different, but they all reveal one profound truth: God's kingdom grows through patience, mercy, and quiet transformation.

In the first parable, a farmer sows good seed in his field. But during the night, an enemy sows weeds among the wheat. When the servants notice the weeds, they want to pull them out immediately. We want problems solved quickly. We want evil eliminated immediately. The master, however, tells them to wait until the harvest. This is not because the master likes weeds. Rather, he knows that pulling them up too early might also uproot the wheat.

This is how God deals with us. If God judged us only by our worst moments, who among us could stand? Each of us carries both wheat and weeds in our hearts. We have moments of generosity and moments of selfishness, times of faith and times of doubt, acts of love and failures to love. Yet God does not give up on us. He patiently gives us time to repent, to grow, and to become the people He created us to be.

This parable also teaches us something about our relationships with others. We are often quick to label people as “good” or “bad.” We judge based on appearances or past mistakes. But God sees possibilities that we cannot see. The person who seems far from God today may become a saint tomorrow.

The next two parables point to two other characteristics of the Kingdom of God, namely, a small beginning and a remarkable element of growth. The **mustard seed** is the smallest of seeds that becomes a large plant. God's kingdom often begins in ways that seem insignificant: a quiet prayer, a word of forgiveness, a simple act of kindness, a child learning to make the Sign of the Cross. These little acts may seem unimportant, but in God's hands they become something great.

The third parable compares the kingdom to **yeast mixed into flour**. Yeast is almost invisible, yet it changes the entire dough from within. That is how faith works. Genuine discipleship does not always make headlines. It transforms hearts quietly and gradually. A Christian family that prays together, a teacher who inspires students, a healthcare worker who serves with compassion, these acts become the yeast that renews society.

This Gospel passage also gives us hope when we look at the state of the world. We see violence, injustice, corruption, and suffering. We may wonder, “Where is God?” Jesus assures us that God has not abandoned his field. The weeds do not have the final word. The harvest belongs to God. Justice will come, but in his time, not ours.

As disciples of Christ, we are called not to spend our energy identifying the “weeds” in others but to cultivate the “good wheat” within ourselves. We are invited to trust God's timing, to practice patience, and to become instruments of his mercy in our homes, workplaces, and community. May this week's Gospel encourage us to live with hope, confident that God is always at work, quietly bringing forth a harvest of goodness, even in the midst of life's challenges.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI,

Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** “For all families to embody the spirit of patience and love”

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

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

### We are looking for a Faith Formation Director:

Ascension/St. Bernard are currently looking for someone to take over the Faith Formation Program! If anyone is interested in learning more about the position please contact Virginia at 952-467-3351 or email [busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org).

Ascension will be hosting the Stiftungsfest Sunday Service this year on August 30th at 9am in the Big Musik Tent. Please note that there will be no 8am Mass at Ascension. Mass will still be held at 10am at St. Bernard and Saturday evening at Ascension.

### Holy Women of the Bible Retreat - flyer

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m. -4 p.m., St. Patrick, Edina- Four Catholic speakers will talk about Our Blessed Mother, St. Anne, St. Elizabeth, Sts. Martha & Mary, Deborah, Esther, Ruth & Naomi. Learn how we can derive strength from these Holy Women, especially our Blessed Mother & say YES to God's will for our lives! Retreat day includes breakfast & lunch, Mass, Adoration & Rosary, social hour w/shopping & door prizes! Each woman will receive a leather journal & pen. First 50 to register receive an amazonite rosary bracelet blessed with Lourdes water! Find more information and register at [stpatrick-edina.org/womensretreat](http://stpatrick-edina.org/womensretreat).

### Faith Formation Update:

Mark your Calendar! Registration for the 2026-27 Faith Formation Program will open on August 1st. Save \$25 by registering before September 1st. We will still have our weekly meal and are so thankful to the individuals who are stepped up to take it over! We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 07/05/2026

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Operating Budget:          | \$ 3,211.54   |
| Weekly Envelopes/Plate:           | 925.00        |
| Weekly E-Giving:                  | 985.00        |
| Collections Budget YTD:           | \$ 3,211.54   |
| Actual Collection YTD:            | \$ 1,910.00   |
| Total Collected Over (Under) YTD: | \$ (1,301.54) |
| Capital Improvement Offering:     | 60.00         |
| Capital Improvement-E-Giving:     | 51.00         |
| Capital Improvement YTD:          | \$ 111.00     |



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!

Homebound Ministry is looking for additional volunteers to take communion to our Ascension Community who are home bound. If you are interested in joining this special ministry please contact Sue Tellers or the Parish Office.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Totals as of 07/05/2026

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Weekly Operating Budget:         | 3,500.00 |
| Weekly Envelopes/Plate           | 3,278.00 |
| Weekly E-Giving                  | 885.00   |
| Collection Budget YTD:           | 3,500.00 |
| Actual Collection YTD:           | 4,163.00 |
| Total Collected Over (Under) YTD | 663.00   |
| Capital Improvement Offering:    | 99.00    |
| Capital Improvement E-Giving     | 254.00   |
| Capital Improvement YTD:         | 353.00   |



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!

**Glad Days:** We will have the St. Bernard Booth from Friday-Sunday, July 24,25, & 26. The Ice Cream Sundae and Bake Sale/Garden Produce will be back! We have 3 ways to offer your support-donate our tastiest baked goods, work a two hour shift, or come and support our booth. Our location will be on the west side of the building (asphalt in from of the mural) that has the bathrooms. This event is sponsored by the St. Bernard Catholic United group. The booth benefits our faith formation program. Contact: Julie Kleindl 952-807-3522 or [julie.kleindl@gmail.com](mailto:julie.kleindl@gmail.com)

### Psalm 65—Thanksgiving for God's Blessings—

A hymn of thanksgiving sung by the community for a bountiful harvest. Humbly acknowledging that they are unworthy of "God's favors (2-5) the people praise him for his power over all the earth (6-9) and thank him for the rains which produced such abundant crops (10-14).

## Mass Ministry Schedule—July 25th, & 26th

| Mass ministry       | Ascension<br>Sat. 5:00 pm        | Ascension<br>Sun. 8:00 am                                      | St. Bernard<br>Sun. 10:00 am |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sacristan           | Sherry Witte                     | Cheryl Coyle                                                   | Pm Kunkel                    |
| Servers             | Jeremy Gesinger & Jonah Gesinger | Jessica Duenow & Nathan Duenow                                 | Volunteers                   |
| Reader              | Brian Willems                    | Sue Tellers                                                    | Rob Wickenhauser             |
| EMHC                | Pat Johnson                      | Steve Coyle                                                    | Andy Kleindl                 |
| Ushers              | Dave Donnay & Steve Schrupp      | Richard Tellers & Volunteer                                    | Bob Symanitz & Volunteer     |
| Greeters            | Grace Cook                       | Sue Schultz                                                    | Julie Kleindl                |
| Homebound Ministers | N/A                              | Grp A: Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson<br>Grp B: Rich & Sue Tellers |                              |

### Mass Times Intentions

|           |                  |        |                                                              |
|-----------|------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | July 20          |        | No Mass                                                      |
| Tuesday   | July 21 6:15 pm  | ASC.   | Donald Bartholomew †                                         |
| Wednesday | July 22 8:00 am  | ST. B. | Harriet Tellers †                                            |
| Thursday  | July 23 8:00 am  | ST. B. | The living & deceased members of the Daonna Meuleners Family |
| Friday    | July 24 8:00am   | ASC.   | Norman Willems †                                             |
| Saturday  | July 25 5:00 pm  | ASC..  | Dolores Bohlinger †                                          |
| Sunday    | July 26 8:00 am  | ASC.   | Terrance J. Fahey †                                          |
| Sunday    | July 26 10:00 am | ST. B. | Duane Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners                      |

**Readings for the week of July 19, 2026**  
**Sunday:** Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 **Monday:** Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 12:38-42 **Tuesday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 12:46-50 **Wednesday:** Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 **Thursday:** Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 13:10-17 **Friday:** Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 13:18-23 **Saturday:** 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28 **Next Sunday:** 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52

**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

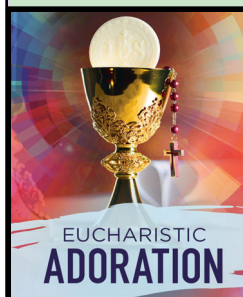
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



### July 19, 2026 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. **“It’s supposed to be God’s Kingdom on earth,”** he said, **“but it’s full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can’t the Church just be better?”** That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, **“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,”** yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God’s reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God’s quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church’s flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

*Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds.*  
 Amen. — Father John Muir ©LPi