

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

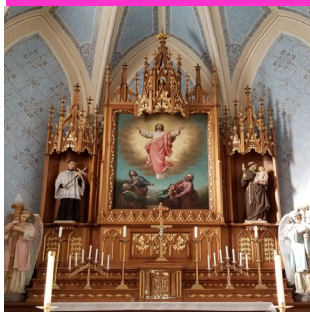
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

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@ascensionny.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionny.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

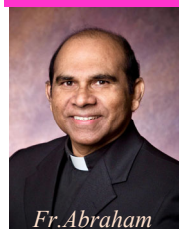
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Fourth Sunday Of Lent – March 29, & 30, 2025



Fr. Abraham

The Parable of the Lost and Found

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The 15th chapter of Luke's Gospel is often called "the Gospel within the Gospel" because it summarizes the essence of the good news of God's love and forgiveness. This chapter presents a single, profound parable, the "Parable of the Lost and Found". It comprises three stories: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Together, they emphasize that God, our Heavenly Father, welcomes sinners back with open arms when they repent and return to him. These parables remind us that God is constantly seeking out his lost children, ready to forgive and restore them.

The main characters in the parable of the prodigal son include: the prodigal son, the self-justifying elder son, and the forgiving father. The younger son demands his share of the inheritance. He squanders it recklessly, and ends up in the humiliating position of feeding pigs, an unclean job for a Jew. Finally, "coming to his senses," he realizes his sin and decides to return to his father, hoping for forgiveness. He resolves to become a servant in his father's house.

When the father sees his son returning, he is filled with compassion. Instead of waiting for his son's full confession, he runs to him, embraces him, and kisses him. The son says, "I have sinned against heaven and you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." Yet, the father immediately forgives him, provides a robe, a ring, and sandals, and throws a lavish feast in his honor.

In contrast, the older son, who has remained faithful and worked diligently, is angered by the father's forgiveness of his wayward brother. His jealousy and self-righteousness prevent him from celebrating his brother's return. The father in the story represents God the Father, whose love is boundless. While the parable is often used to illustrate repentance, its deeper message is about God's willingness to forgive and heal those who return to him.

This parable also challenges us to extend that same forgiveness to others. The father forgave both of his sons, one who had sinned and one who was self-righteous. But the elder son refused to forgive or reconcile. If we want to receive God's forgiveness, we must also offer it to others. Forgiveness is impossible through human strength alone, but with Jesus, we can forgive even those who have hurt us.

This parable invites us to reflect on some important questions: Are you ready to return to the Father's love and forgiveness? Will you accept his invitation to the banquet, or will you remain outside? Lent offers us a special opportunity to return home with a confession of sins, knowing that we will find a warm welcome, love, and forgiveness. Such a confession helps us move toward Easter with faith, love, and joy. And as we reflect on the words of Jesus, "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need repentance" (Luke 15:7). Let us rejoice in the grace of reconciliation.

Rosary Intention: *For all those who are battling cancer and other illnesses.*

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**

Monday	Mar. 31		No Mass:
Tuesday	Apr. 1	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Apr. 2	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	Apr. 3	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Apr. 4	ASC. ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross 6:00pm
Saturday	Apr. 5	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Apr. 6	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday Mass: 10:00am

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

Surrounding Area Reconciliation Services:

- April 1 : St. Victoria's in Victoria- 6:30 pm
- April 10: St. Hubert's in Chanhassen-6:00-8:00 pm
- April 13: St. Joseph in Waconia- 4:00-6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross Schedule:

- 4/4– Ascension at 6pm
- 4/11– Ascension at 6pm
- 4/18– Living Stations at Ascension at 3pm

Holy Week Scheduled:

- Holy Thursday– St. Bernard at 7pm
- Good Friday—St. Bernard at 7pm
- Easter Vigil– Ascension at 8pm

**GUARDIAN ANGELS PRESCHOOL
ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT**

With joy and gratitude to God, we announce that **Guardian Angels Catholic Preschool, opening in Fall 2025, is now accepting enrollment!** We invite you to learn more and secure a place for your child by registering at gachaska.org/preschool and may our children grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Volunteers are needed to help with the St. Bernard night at the St. Joseph Fish Fry on Thursday April 10th from 3-6pm and Friday April 11th 3-8pm! See the link on the St. Bernard Web Page on our joint Website to sign up for a slot! If you are not able to volunteer, stop by for a delicious dinner and support our Parish! We receive a portion of the funds raised back to St. Bernard Parish!

Faith Formation Update:

Please keep our 2nd Graders and 10th Graders in your prayers as they begin their final preparations to receive their sacraments in April.

Church of Ascension

**Ascension Weekly Collection Report
Totals as of 03/16/2025**

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,528.00
Weekly E-Giving:	995.00
Collections Budget YTD:	114,771.04
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 123,039.85
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	8,268.81
Capital Improvement Offering:	0.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	225.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 9,445.00



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!

March is MN Food Shelf month The SW Carver County Food Shelf in NYA is always accepting donations. Non-perishable food items can be left in the church entry or dropped off at the SW Carver County Food Shelf (10 First Avenue NE, NYA) Tuesdays noon-5:00. * * **Monetary donations are also appreciated** * *

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,790.10
Contributions 03-12 through 3-18-2025	7,697.75
Total Actual Collection YTD	147,456.80
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	16,371.97
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	109.00
Electronic Donations	251.00
Forward in Faith Total	360.00
Forward in Faith YTD	35,717.96



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!

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/scholarships

Word of Life—“With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth” (*The Gospel of Life* 95).

Mass Ministry Schedule—April 5 & 6

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Brooklyn Hoen & Luca Hoen	Jayden Michels & Caleb Michels	Daniel Worm & Isaac Schrupp
Reader	Roger Storms	Colleen Donnay	Brenda Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Andy Kleindl
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Dave Donnay & Paul Lano	Leonard Hoen Jr. & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Monica Kooiman	Grace Cook	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Dave & Ann Dettmann	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Mar. 31		No Mass
Tuesday	April 1 6:15 pm	Ascension	For those making their 1st reconciliation
Wednesday	April 2 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Rebecca Shamla †
Thursday	April 3 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Souls in Purgatory
Friday	April 4 8:00 am	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	April 5 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Janette Buesgens † And All Parishioners
Sunday	April 6 8:00 am	Ascension	Frank F. and Joyce K. Hally ††
Sunday	April 6 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Richard Paul † &

Readings for the week of Mar. 30, 2025
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 **Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54 **Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16 **Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30 **Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47 **Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 **Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53 **Next Sunday:** Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

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@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.

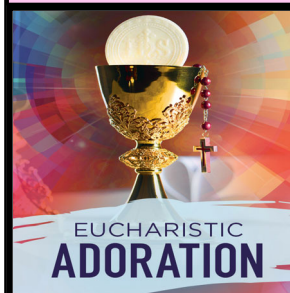
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



March 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Lent



A man looking a bit downtrodden approached me as I filled my car's gas tank. He asked, "May I share with you my testimony about how good God is?" "OK," I skeptically answered. He went on to tell me that he had been an alcoholic and drug addict, and that God had healed him; now he was four years sober. He said, "I didn't deserve it, but now I'm a different person. God is so good! Have a terrific Tuesday!" A few minutes later, as I drove away, I saw him smiling and handing a homeless person some money. I was confronted with a choice: either he was a total fraud or God had changed him. *Something* had happened to him, and it didn't seem fake. Maybe it was God.

When Jesus heals the man born blind, the man becomes a challenge to everyone who meets him. They must decide. Is he the same blind person who they knew before? Who healed him and how? And what is the status of the one who can heal such infirmities? We shouldn't be surprised at the storm of doubt, hatred and animosity that swirls around the healed man — so it often goes when Jesus heals someone even to this day.

Like we often do, the religious leaders confronting the healed man declare that God is not at work. They ask with mocking superiority and dismissive disdain, "**You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?**" (John 9:34). And they cast him out. When Jesus clearly works in our lives, in us or around us, we should accept it, and give praise and thanks for this wonderful manifestation of his goodness.

Lenten challenge: Think of one way the Lord has healed you. Perhaps he healed a form of selfishness, a physical ailment, or something else. This week, find a person to whom you can share that testimony, and share it. Don't worry if they don't accept it was God who did it. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi