

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

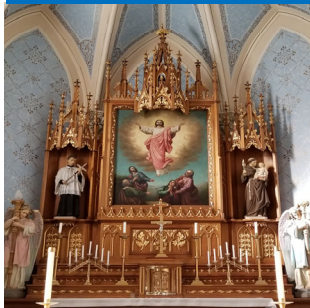
PASTOR

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@ascensionnya.org

Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org

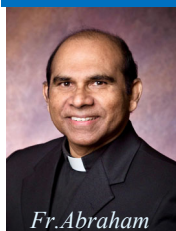
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



The Epiphany Of The Lord – January 3 & 4, 2026



Fr. Abraham

God's Plan of Salvation is for All People

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the **Epiphany**. The word '*epiphany*' means appearance or manifestation. Today's gospel focuses on the manifestation of the Lord to the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). According to the tradition, their names were Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior. They were guided by a star and arrived in Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. They offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were ordinary gifts given to a king, yet each carried a spiritual meaning: gold symbolizes the kingship of Jesus, frankincense his priesthood, and myrrh his salvation through suffering and death.

Why would these wise gentiles be drawn to the Jewish Messiah? For the Jews, the idea that Gentiles could be part of God's plan was beyond consideration. Yet the mystery, hidden for generations, was now revealed: The Gentiles were to be co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body, co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ, as St. Paul proclaims in today's second reading (Ephesians 3:2–6). The Magi represent different nationalities, cultures, and races, reminding us that God's plan is for all people.

The first reading, from Isaiah (60:1–6), also speaks of non-Jews bringing gifts in homage to the God of Israel. It celebrates the divine light emanating from Jerusalem and foresees all nations acknowledging and walking by this light. Epiphany, then, is more than a story of travelers from afar; it is a reminder that God's light seeks all people, drawing us from every place and circumstance toward hope. Jesus Christ came for everyone, and none are excluded from the grace he brings. On this Solemnity, we ask the Lord to free us from pride and prejudice and to help us live as what we call ourselves, Catholics, members of a universal Church.

The Magi come with questions, uncertainty, and gifts in hand. They do not know exactly where they are going, only that the light is worth following. Their journey mirrors our own: faith rarely offers a full map, but it always offers direction. When we choose to follow the light of Christ - through prayer, compassion, generosity, or courage - we step into God's purposes. Epiphany invites us to look for where God's light is breaking into our everyday lives. May we enter this season with open eyes and willing hearts, ready to follow wherever the light leads.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: That all our parishioners may respond generously to the Lord's call to serve.

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	Jan. 5		No Mass:
Tuesday	Jan. 6	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Jan. 7	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Jan. 8	ST. B.	Mass: 9:00am
Friday	Jan. 9	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Jan. 10	ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 11	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Bishop Izen will be celebrating Mass at Ascension and St. Bernard on Sunday, January 18th. Please extend a warm welcome to him after the Masses!

The Quilting group will be starting their weekly knotting on Tuesday, January 6th! Join us every Tuesday at 9am, at St. Bernard in the Narthex. All levels of experience are welcome! Contact Irene Yaeck with any questions.

Vatican Unveiled- Jan. 10-Feb. 1, Mall of America, Bloomington. In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting Vatican Unveiled, an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome. Father Richard Kunst, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, serves as curator of the exhibit. Father Kunst has a deep knowledge of the items and a passion for telling their stories. Find more information at archspm.org/vaticanunveiled.

WINE: Catholic Women's Conference-Saturday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., St. John Neumann, Egan. The day begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hebda and features inspirational talks by Barbara Heil, Dr. Kerry McMahon, and Leila Benoit, as well as the amazing music of Teresa Peterson. Opportunities for confession, adoration, shopping, prayer teams, and more! An optional Friday evening gathering includes a tremendous dinner, praise & worship, networking, and entertainment. Find more information and registration at catholicvineyard.com/event/wine-womens-conference.

Faith Formation Update:

On December 17th our 4th and 5th Graders brought Christmas Cheer to Peace Villa! They brought over Christmas Goodie Bags and homemade Cards and spent time visiting with the Residents!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/21/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,621.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,570.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 79,567.50
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 79,505.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (62.10)

Capital Improvement Offering:	0.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	250.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 4,860.00



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!

Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together.
Amen. ©LPi

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	5,300.00
Contributions 12-17 through 12-22-2025	10,612.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	87,937.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	951.82
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	159.00
Electronic Donations	194.00
Forward in Faith Total	353.00
Forward in Faith YTD	5,606.00



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!

Thank you - to all who donated items to the Mitten Tree. All Items were taken to the Southwest Carver County Food Shelf for their annual Christmas Giving Day. We sincerely **THANK YOU** for your continued support of this annual project. May God Bless you all for your generosity.

Word of Life—“Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary”

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 10th & 11th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Rita Fahey	Brian Willems	Monica Kooiman
Servers	Jonah Gesinger & Alex Urness	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Isaac Schrupp & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Cheryl Coyle	Janet Fahey	Judy Glander
EMHC	Steve Coyle	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Tom Lano & Rick Ulrich	Justin Buckentin & Eugene Dvorak	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Sue Schultz	Victoria Amst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Tim George & Steve Helget Grp B: Curt Wilson & Volunteer	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 5		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 6 6:15 pm	ASC.	For All Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	Jan. 7 8:00 am	ST. B.	Leonard Hoen Sr. †
Thursday	Jan. 8 8:00 am	ST. B.	Merlyn † & Margaret † Eiden & Living & Deceased members of the Eiden Family
Friday	Jan. 9 8:00am	ASC.	Josie Rezac
Saturday	Jan. 10 5:00 pm	ASC.	The Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser Family
Sunday	Jan. 11 8:00 am	ASC.	For All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan. 11 10:00 am	ST. B.	Marcy Wickenhauser † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Jan. 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

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

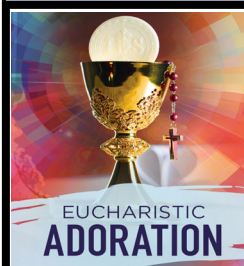
Call the parish office at any time.

Eucharistic Adoration Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



January 4, 2026 The Epiphany of the Lord

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi