

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

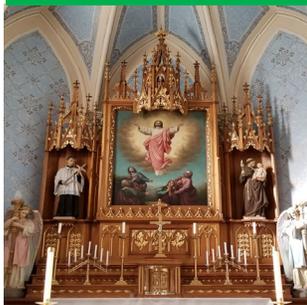
PASTOR

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

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—2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson952-856-1051

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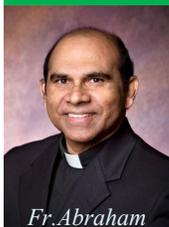
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Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time – February 14 & 15, 2026



Fr. Abraham

A Righteousness that Comes from Love

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Bible scholars tell us that St. Matthew presents Jesus as the *new Moses*. In today's Gospel, Jesus declares, *"I came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them."* He then invites his disciples to a righteousness that surpasses that of the Scribes and Pharisees, a righteousness rooted not merely in external obedience, but in a transformed heart.

In this Sunday gospel (Mt 5:17–37), Jesus offers a deeper interpretation of three Commandments: those concerning **murder, adultery, and false oaths**. By doing so, he reveals the true spirit of the Law: to honor the dignity of every human person in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

Jesus begins by expanding the Fifth Commandment, *"You shall not kill."* He teaches, *"Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment."* Anger has stages: first in the heart, then in speech, and finally in action. While there is such a thing as righteous anger (Jesus Himself showed it when He cleansed the Temple), uncontrolled or lingering anger destroys relationships and harms our spiritual and physical well-being. St. Paul wisely counsels us: *"Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger."* (Eph 4:26). Holding on to anger can lead to both emotional suffering and physical illness; learning to manage anger is essential for a healthy Christian life.

Christian morality is built upon right relationships. Jesus tells us that reconciliation with one another even takes precedence over worship: *"If you bring your gift to the altar..."* and remember a grievance, *"go first and be reconciled."* We cannot be rightly related to God unless we seek right relationship with our neighbor. As the Lord says elsewhere, *"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."* (Mt 9:13).

Jesus also deepens our understanding of the Sixth Commandment. In doing so, he reminds us that human sexuality is a sacred gift, given by God with clear purposes: to love, to give life, and to serve. Thoughts, desires, words, or actions that fail to respect the dignity of the human person are contrary to God's plan. Jesus calls us not only to avoid sinful actions, but to cultivate purity of heart.

All God's Commandments rest on two great principles: reverence and respect. The first three Commandments direct us to reverence God; the remaining seven teach us to respect human life and dignity. Our obedience to God's Law must therefore be motivated not by fear, but by love of God and love of neighbor.

In the eyes of Jesus, simply "keeping the rules" is not enough. Today's scriptures invite us to reflect: How much love is there in our observance of the Commandments? God calls us to choose freely, lovingly, and wholeheartedly to follow his ways. True righteousness is shaped not merely by our actions, but by the love with which we carry them out.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: "For the grace to fall more deeply in love with Jesus."

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

<i>Monday</i>	Feb. 16		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Feb. 17	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Feb. 18	ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Adoration: 2:00pm-4:30pm Mass: 5:00pm Mass: 6:45pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Feb. 19	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Feb. 20	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross: 6:00pm
<i>Saturday</i>	Feb. 21	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Adoration: 4:30pm Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Feb. 22	ASC. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 9:30am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

BINGO IS BACK!! Save the dates of February 15, March 15, and April 19th for a joyful afternoon of bingo, fellowship, and laughter brought to you by the Knights of Columbus at the Ascension Social Hall. 1:00 pm start. All ages are welcome—bring a friend and your best “Bingo!” voice. Prizes will be won, including a \$100 coverall game. 3 meat raffles and concessions also available.

Is this the year you are being called to attend the WELCOME Retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia? The Women's retreat will be February 28th –March 1st and the Men's Retreat will be April 11th-12th. You can register by scanning the QR Code going online to www.stjosephwaconia.org/ministries/welcome-retreat

Go into the Deep with Undivided Love, Women's Lenten Retreat: Saturday, February 28, 9am - 6pm | Saint John's in Jordan- Gina will help us reflect on how our identity and true worth can only be realized in our personal “yes” to believing and belonging to God. Come for the whole day or part of it. Wonderful food, Adoration, Confession, and Mass! Please RSVP through the Saint John's website: sibjordan.org or call the Parish Office: 952-492-2640.

Faith Formation Update:

Ascension's CUF will be sponsoring their annual matching grant FF-CUF CLOTHING DRIVE again this Spring. Start your closet clean out during Lent and we will collect the items after Easter. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/01/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	543.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,000.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 98,663.70
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 99,543.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 875.70
Capital Improvement Offering:	150.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,035.00



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!

Mark your calendar! The KC Fish Fry will be Friday March 6th from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,259.83
Contributions 01-28 through 02-03-2026	2,724.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	114,403.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(7,447.37)

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	254.00
Forward in Faith Total	263.00
Forward in Faith YTD	7,918.00



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!

The Waconia KC's Fish Fry night to benefit St. Bernard will be on March 27th! Watch for more details to come!

Buckley Jones will be selling raffle tickets after Mass on February 21st and 22nd for St. John the Baptist Catholic School as a part of the 37th Annual Cadillac Dinner fundraiser. 1st prize is a 2025 Ford Maverick Supercrew XLT from Wolf Motors or \$25,000 cash, 2nd prize \$5000, 3rd and 4th \$2,500. Tickets are \$100. Contact Brenda Buckley Jones 952-239-9436 for tickets. Dinner tickets at The Ridges in Jordan are also available for \$60 per person. Dinner and the Event starts at 6pm.

Word of Life—“We often assume parenthood happens easily after ‘I do,’ but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; “Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility” respect-life.org/navigating-infertility

Mass Ministry Schedule—February 18th & February 22nd

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Ash Wed. 5:00pm	Ascension Ash Wed. 6:45pm	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Patricia Quinn	Ann Dettmann	Doris Mielke	Brian Willems	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Daniel Worm	Jonah Gesinger & Jayden Michels	Luca Hoen & Emma Panning	Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh	Marshall Panning & Buckley Jones
Reader	Mary Sue Thaemert	Julie Gesinger	Judy Glander	Jena Schmitz	Brenda Jones
EMHC	Mary Meuwissen	Curt Wilson	Bernie Shambour	Kathy Kloempken	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Andy Kleindl & Volunteer	Tim George & Paul Lano	Ralph Laumann & Volunteer	Tom Lano & Steve Schrupp	Tom Dahl & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Julie Kleindl	Grace Cook	Barbara Knorr	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grp. A: Steve & Cheryl Coyle Grp. B. Steve Lemmer & Curt Wilson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Feb. 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Feb. 17 6:15 pm	ASC.	Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday	Feb. 18 5:00 pm	ST. B.	The Family of Donna Meuleners †
Wednesday	Feb. 18 6:45 pm	ASC.	For All Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	Feb. 19 8:00 am	ST. B.	The Family of Merlyn & Margaret Eiden ††
Friday	Feb. 20 8:00am	ASC.	Respect for all Life
Saturday	Feb. 21 5:00 pm	ST.B.	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Sunday	Feb. 22 8:00 am	ASC.	Allen Schmitt †
Sunday	Feb. 22 10:00 am	ST. B.	Andrew Schwartz †

Readings for the week of Feb. 15, 2026
Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37 **Monday:** Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13 **Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21 **Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 **Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25 **Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15 **Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32 **Next Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

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@ascensionmya.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

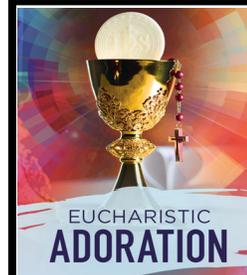
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



ASH WEDNESDAY



REMEMBER
THAT YOU
ARE DUST

Ash Wednesday

Good stewards realize they really don't own anything. It all belongs to God. It is not so much that God owns them, but they are not ours because we are called to offer them to him.

The reality is that you and I were born naked and with nothing. We will die naked and with nothing. If we really could possess something material, there would be a way to take it with us. But alas, it all slips through our grasp and passes away. And even though all of us came from dust and to dust we will return, through Jesus Christ we will live forever in a perfect state. The only thing we can take with us? Our hearts and whether or not we loved.