

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

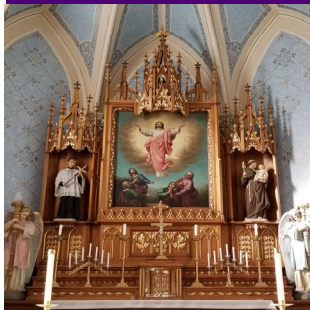
PASTOR

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

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

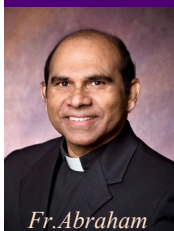
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

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The First Sunday Of Lent – March 8 & 9, 2025



Fr. Abraham

Overcoming Temptations

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The First Sunday of Lent offers us an opportunity to reflect on the temptations Jesus faced in the desert. In the first temptation, when the devil urges Jesus to turn stones into bread, we see an attempt to distract Jesus from his true calling as the Servant-Messiah. The devil tempts him to focus on self-gratification and physical desires. This mirrors the times in our own lives when we are tempted to prioritize immediate comforts and pleasures over the deeper calling of self-sacrifice and service to others.

In the second temptation, the devil asks Jesus to worship him in exchange for the kingdoms of the world. Jesus responds, “You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone shall you serve.” This temptation invites Jesus to abandon his mission of love and service, seeking material gain and worldly authority instead.

Finally, in the third temptation, when the devil asks Jesus to jump from the top of the Temple, he attempts to lure Jesus into becoming an eye-catching, self-serving superstar, seeking fame and recognition rather than remaining humble in his mission. This temptation urges Jesus to misuse his gifts for personal gain rather than for the glory of the Father.

In response to these temptations, Jesus remains faithful and trusting in God, never wavering from his mission. He resists the devil with unwavering devotion and shows us how to navigate the challenges we encounter. His example reveals how we, too, can conquer the temptations in our lives. Just as Jesus faced temptation in the desert, we are called to meet our struggles with prayer, fasting, penance, and the Word of God. Through these spiritual practices, we can build resilience and strengthen our hearts and minds against the temptation to stray from the path of righteousness.

Lent provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on our relationship with God, assess the ways in which we may have been tempted to compromise our values, and recommit ourselves to living out the Gospel. It is a time to examine the areas of our lives where we may have been swayed by selfish desires or worldly ambitions and to ask for God’s grace to renew our hearts.

The practices of Lent—prayer, fasting, penance, and charity—serve as tools that help us strengthen our spiritual resolve. They help us build a foundation of discipline and devotion that equips us to resist the temptations we face throughout the year. Attending Mass regularly, participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, setting aside time for prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, making time for the Stations of the Cross, and committing to voluntary fasting are all ways to deepen our spiritual lives and draw closer to God during this holy season. Additionally, Lent calls us to engage in acts of charity and service to the poor and needy. In doing so, we not only serve others but also allow God to purify our hearts from selfishness and pride.

The invitation of Lent is not simply about giving up certain comforts. It is about refocusing our lives on what truly matters—loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. In this way, we can imitate Jesus, who lived his mission with perfect fidelity to the Father and calls us to do the same. May this Lenten season be a time for each of us to renew our commitment to Christ, embrace the challenges of the spiritual life, and grow ever closer to God’s love.

‘13 Hour Eucharistic Adoration’: Wednesday, March 26 at St. Bernard begins with Mass at 8:00 am and ends with Benediction at 9:00 pm. Please consider Eucharistic Adoration as the part of your Lenten spiritual journey; and sign up for this great spiritual opportunity.

Rosary Intention: “For the grace to grow in deeper love for Jesus and greater service to others.”

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

<i>Monday</i>	Mar. 10		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Mar. 11	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Combined Lenten Reconcili- ation Service	Mar. 12	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation– PreK-2 Only Lent Reconciliation: 6:30pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Mar. 13	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Mar. 14	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Stations of the Cross 6:00pm
<i>Saturday</i>	Mar. 15	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm Volunteer Appreciation
<i>Sunday</i>	Mar. 16	ASC. ST. B. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer:

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Our Combined Lent Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday March 12th at Ascension starting at 6:30pm.

Stations of the Cross will be at 6:00pm at St. Bernard the March 14, & 21 and at Ascension the last 3 Fridays of Lent March 28, April 4 & 11.

The combined **Stewardship Committee**, along with each parish's **Catholic United Financial group**, is hosting a **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION** at each parish to thank all of our wonderful community of volunteers who keep our parishes running smoothly. The gathering for **St. Bernard** will be held **Sat. March 15** after the 5:00 pm Mass. The gathering at **Ascension** will be on **Sat. March 22** after the 5:00 pm Mass. Spouse and family of the volunteer welcome.

We are in desperate need of someone from both St. Bernard and Church of the Ascension to serve on the Stiftungsfest Family Faith Night committee. Contact Doris Mielke 612-910-2365 if you are interested or have any questions!

Faith Formation Update:

UPDATE for the CUF Clothing Drive - The Ascension's CUF Council will be collecting clothing/cloth items from Tuesday, April 22 - Tuesday, May 6. There will be a trailer in the church parking lot for donations. This is a matching grant for CUF with proceeds coming back to the parish. Pick up a bag to fill in the back of the Ascension Church and the Narthex of St. Bernard!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 02/23/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,409.45
Weekly E-Giving:	2,095.00
Collections Budget YTD:	105,465.28
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 114,412.85
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	8,947.57
Capital Improvement Offering:	100.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	75.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 8,780.00



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! Next Sunday is KC Bingo starting at 1pm! Cost for one card is \$6 or Two cards for \$10.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,987.52
Contributions 02-19 through 2-25-2025	3,495.50
Total Actual Collection YTD	131,601.05
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	8,886.52
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9.00
Electronic Donations	71.50
Forward in Faith Total	80.50
Forward in Faith YTD	14,739.96



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!

At this moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life-threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. If you'd like to do something to help those in need, please pick up a **Rice Bowl** from the table in the narthex. For more information about CRS Rice Bowls, go to: crsricebowl.org

We will be having 13 hours of Adoration during Lent on Wednesday March 26th at St. Bernard. It will start with Mass at 8am and end with Benediction at 9pm. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the Narthex

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

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 15 & 16

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Emma Panning & Marshall Panning	Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh	Luca Hoen & Brooklynn Hoen
Reader	Judy Glander	Jean Schmitz	Julie Kleindl
Eucharistic Ministers	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Eugene Dvorak & Tom Lano	Dick Amst & Andy Kleindl
Greeters	Barbara Knorr	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Dave & Ann Dettmann	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Mar. 10		No Mass
Tuesday	March 11 6:15 pm	Ascension	Pope Francis
Wednesday	Mar. 12 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Theresa Feist †
Thursday	Mar. 13 8:00 am	St. Bernard	Luke Meuleners †
Friday	Mar. 14 8:00 am	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Mar. 15 5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Janette Buesgens † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Mar. 16 8:00 am	Ascension	Matt F. and Dorothy M. Halley ††
Sunday	Mar. 16 10:00 am	St. Bernard	Marcy Wickenhauser †

Readings for the week of Mar. 9, 2025
Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13 **Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46 **Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15 **Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32 **Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12 **Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26 **Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 **Next Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

**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.

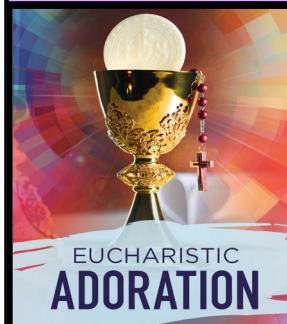
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



March 9, 2025 First Sunday of Lent



One of the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was "the greatest man in the world." Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says "no" in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity — body, soul and spirit — is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

Lenten challenge: This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying "no" to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you'll discover true greatness. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi