

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI  
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# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



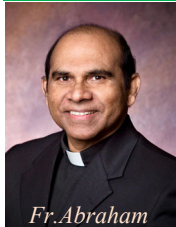
Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org)

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionny.com  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionny.com

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-466-2031  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051  
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052  
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 25 & 26, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### The Mission of the Church

Brothers and Sisters,

On this Sunday Gospel reading, Jesus presents his mission as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." This prophecy was given when the Israelites were living in exile, suffering from slavery and misery. By using these same words, Jesus announces the reign of peace, justice, freedom, and love to all who are oppressed by various forms of injustice.

Christ brings the good news of a new era to us all. It is important to note that this good news is not only for the materially poor, but for all: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Mt 5:3).

The Good News liberates us from two types of slavery. The first is self-imposed slavery, resulting from personal sins and mistakes. This slavery makes us spiritually blind and weak, cripples our spiritual life, and hardens our hearts against God and all that is good. It is the worst kind of slavery because it affects us both spiritually and physically. Only Christ can free us from this bondage. We can experience this liberation by accepting the Good News and seeking reconciliation with Christ and with ourselves.

The second type of slavery is imposed on us by others or society. This includes political, economic, and social injustices that prevent us from living fulfilled lives, despite our efforts. Both forms of slavery are significant sources of suffering. However, we must remember that Jesus strengthens us to overcome them all.

Jesus does not only announce God's salvation; he brings it about through his person. Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand, made present through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to continue the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church, enabling it to carry on his mission. When we, as the Church, bring good news to the poor, freedom to captives, healing to the sick, and liberty to the oppressed, we serve the Kingdom of God.

We rejoice in the Good News of salvation that Christ brings to us. This Good News binds us together as the people of God and empowers us to work together for God's Kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI  
Pastor

**Rosary Intention:** For blessings upon all the volunteers at our parishes

**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>	Jan. 27		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Jan. 28	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Jan. 29	ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
<i>Thursday</i>	Jan. 30		No Mass:
<i>Friday</i>	Jan. 31		No Mass:
<i>Saturday</i>	Feb. 1	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
<i>Sunday</i>	Feb. 2	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Donut Sunday Mass: 10:00am

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

The Ascension and St. Bernard Quilting Group has started back up! They meet at St. Bernard in the downstairs gathering space from 9am-12pm every Tuesday. They welcome anyone and no experience is required to join!

The Ascension KC' will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26th, (Today) from 8:00am-12:00pm in the Social Hall! This is a Free-Will donation with all proceeds will be going towards the Ascension Catholic School Tuition Grant Fund. Stop by for some fellowship and delicious food!

The *Welcome* retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia is coming up! The Men's retreat will take place February 22nd-23rd and the Women's Retreat will take place March 1st-2nd. If you have any questions you can reach out to Matt Turek at mattewturek59@gmail.com for the Men's Retreat or Janice Matlon jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org for the Women's retreat, or Pam Kunkle at St. Bernard and Kathy Kloempken at Ascension.

**Word of Life**—Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion": <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion>

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

### Faith Formation Update:

The Ascension's CUF Council will again be sponsoring a Spring Clothing Drive in conjunction with the Epilepsy Foundation of MN. The exact dates are still to be determined, but please keep this in mind as you clean out your closet in the next couple of months!

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 01/12/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,608.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,120.00
Collections Budget YTD:	86,853.76
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 91,058.40
Total Collected Over ( <b>Under</b> ) YTD:	4,204.64
Capital Improvement Offering:	195.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	100.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 7,385.00



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!



Christmas Flowers were donated In Memory Of Michelle and Michael Coyle and Darlene Mondor.  
Loved Ones of Steve and Cheryl Coyle.

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,900.15
Contributions 01-08 through 1-14-2025	979.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	113,253.05
Total Actual Collection Over ( <b>Under</b> ) Budget	8,288.00
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	9 00
Electronic Donations	00.00
Forward in Faith Total	9.00
Forward in Faith YTD	9,636.50



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!

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Vernon Walter a long time Parishioner of St. Bernard, who passed away on Tuesday January 14th. His Funeral was on Friday, January 24th. Please keep Vernon and his family in your prayers.

**We are still in need of a Pianist or Organist who can help with some of the weekend Masses. We have an incredible opportunity for someone to learn to play the Organ, and so if you have always wanted to learn to play and share your new talent at weekend Masses, please contact the Parish Office!**

Buckley Jones (7th grader at SJB) will be selling raffle tickets after Mass on February 1st and 2nd for St. John the Baptist Catholic School as a part of the 35th 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. If you would like to order a ticket prior to the 1st and 2nd, Contact Brenda Buckley Jones 952-239-9436 for tickets.

## Mass Ministry Schedule—February 1 & 2

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Elijah McInnis & Evelyn McInnis	Allison Duenow & Jessica Duenow	Daniel Worm & Buckley Jones
<b>Reader</b>	Sarah Foley	Cheryl Coyle	Mary Sue Thaemert
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Bernie Shambour	Kathy Kloempken	Pam Kunkel
<b>Ushers</b>	Ralph Laumann & Tom Dahl	Richard Tellers & Volunteer	Bob Symanitz & Leonard Hoen Jr.
<b>Greeters</b>	Roger Storms	Grace Cook	Andy Kleindl
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	Steve Helget & Tim George	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 27		No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jan. 28 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	For All Souls in Purgatory
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jan. 29 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b>	Jan. 30		<b>No Mass or Communion Service</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Jan. 31		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Feb. 1 <b>5:00 pm</b>	St. Bernard	Richard Paul † And All Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 2 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Living and Deceased Members of the Donna Meuleners Family
<b>Sunday</b>	Feb. 2 <b>10:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††

**Readings for the week of Jan.26, 2025**  
**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21 **Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30 **Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35 **Wednesday:** Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 4:1-20 **Thursday:** Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Mk 4:21-25 **Friday:** Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34 **Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41 **Next Sunday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**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

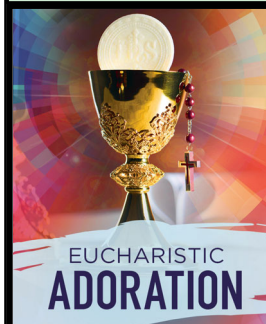
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

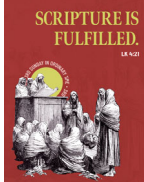
#### St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



### January 26, 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, “Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news.” “Actually,” they said, “she burst into tears. She wanted a baby *sister!*” How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don’t approve of the way he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is “**fulfilled in your hearing**” (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize *this man* is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God’s word announces the fulfillment of God’s promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What’s required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God’s gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?  
 — *Father John Muir*                      ©LPi