

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

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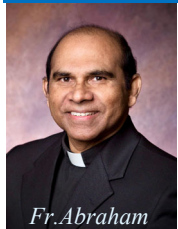
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Second Sunday Of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy) – April 11 & April 12, 2026



Fr. Abraham

A Heart Open to Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**, a powerful reminder that God's mercy is greater than any sin, any failure, and any burden we carry. Flowing from the joy of Easter, this feast invites us to turn with confidence to the Risen Christ, whose heart overflows with love and forgiveness.

In the Gospel, we encounter the familiar story of Thomas, who struggled to believe. How often do we find ourselves in his place—doubting, questioning, or feeling distant from God? Yet Jesus does not reject Thomas. Instead, he meets him with patience and mercy, inviting him to touch his wounds and believe. This is the same invitation extended to each of us.

Divine Mercy Sunday calls us to three simple but profound responses: **trust, receive, and share**. **First**, we are asked to **trust in Jesus**, especially when life is uncertain or difficult. The image of Divine Mercy bears the words, *"Jesus, I trust in You,"* a prayer we are encouraged to carry in our hearts daily.

Second, we are invited to **receive God's mercy**, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. These are not just rituals, but real encounters with Christ's healing love. The Risen Lord instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of divine mercy and gave his apostles the power to forgive sins by these words, *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."* (John 20: 19-23). This is a special weekend for our parish, as **eight children celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time**. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Finally, we are sent to **share mercy** with others. Through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we live out this call in our daily lives. Living faith enables us to recognize the Risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to serve others, especially the sick, the weak, the oppressed, and the poor. In a world often marked by division and hurt, acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion become powerful signs of God's presence among us.

As we celebrate this beautiful feast, may we open our hearts more fully to the mercy of Christ. No matter where we have been or what we have done, his mercy is always waiting for us.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: *'For all children celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.'*

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>	Apr. 13		No Mass:
<i>Tuesday</i>	Apr. 14	ST. B. ASC. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9:00am Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	Apr. 15	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 7:30am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2pm-6pm
<i>Thursday</i>	Apr. 16	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Friday</i>	Apr. 17	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
<i>Saturday</i>	Apr. 18	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm Adoration: 4:30pm Mass: 5:00pm Linger Longer
<i>Sunday</i>	Apr. 19	ASC. ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 9:30am Mass: 10:00am Linger Longer KC Bingo: 1:00pm

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Life is Good Speaker Series Forgiving the Sins Against Life

Tuesday, April 21, 6-7:30 p.m., and Wednesday, April 22, 8:30-10 a.m., St. John the Baptist, Excelsior: His life was not respected, and he faced a month of torture. Imagine trying to recover from surgery when you're forced into a forest and held for ransom. This is the story of Fr. CJ from Cameroon. Fr. CJ will share the miraculous story of survival from his vicious captors and the heavenly visitors who encouraged them through the worst. The story of authentic forgiveness is even more inspiring! Find more information at stjohns-excelsior.org/life-is-good-speaker-series.

Capital Campaign Update:

Lord, Renew Your Church Ice Cream Social April 21st 7-8:30pm-All parishioners from St. Bernard and Ascension are invited to attend the Lord, Renew Your Church Ice Cream social in the Ascension Social Hall. Fr. Abraham will be discussing how the capital campaign will benefit both parishes and help build for the future. If you have not made a pledge this is a great opportunity to learn more. **If you'd like to attend, please RSVP with our campaign director Kolbey Bormann at: kbormann@ccsfundraising.com.**

Faith Formation Update:

Please keep our 10th graders in your prayers as they prepare to make their Confirmation at the Cathedral this Saturday.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 03/29/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	4,672.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,030.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 124,125.30
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 126,199.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 2,074.10
Capital Improvement Offering:	290.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	45.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 7,960.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far:\$242,700-110%



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!

Our Final Ascension KC Bingo will be Sunday April 19th at 1pm in the Social Hall! Come out for some fun, family time, and fellowship!

The trailer for the Ascension CUF Faith Formation Fundraiser will be in the Ascension Parking lot starting April 16th through May 5th! Drop off times will be between 7am and 6pm.

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure Totals as of 03/29/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	3,074.18
Weekly Envelopes/Plate	4,775.00
Weekly E-Giving	411.50
Collection Budget YTD:	147,000.76
Actual Collection YTD:	146,338.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD	(662.76)
Capital Improvement Offering:	10.00
Capital Improvement E-Giving	135.50
Capital Improvement YTD:	9,196.00

Capital Campaign Total Raised So Far: \$237,712 -91%



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

Mass Ministry Schedule—April 18th & 19th

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Pam Kunkel
Servers	Marshall Panning & Chloe Storms	Jessica Duenow & Nathan Duenow	Buckley Jones & Emma Panning
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Janet Fahey	Mary Sue Thaemert
EMHC	Meghan Stusynski (H); Andy Kleindl (C); Monica Kooiman (C)	Irene Yaeck	Sarah Foley (H); Julie Clemensen (C); Helen Nicklaus (C)
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Eugene Dvorak & Tim George	Bob Symanitz & Brian Vos
Greeters	Judy Glander	Colleen Donnay	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Rich & Sue Tellers Grp B: Dave & Colleen Donnay	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Apr. 13		No Mass
Tuesday	Apr. 14	6:15 pm	ASC. Stephanie Hill
Wednesday	Apr. 15	8:00 am	ST. B. Roy Middendorf †
Thursday	Apr. 16	8:00 am	ST. B. Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
Friday	Apr. 17	8:00 am	ASC. Paul Simons †, Leon & Doris Huckley ††
Saturday	Apr. 18	5:00 pm	ST. B. Richard Paul † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Apr. 19	8:00 am	ASC. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Vanderlinde ††
Sunday	Apr. 19	10:00 am	ST. B. Mildred Paul † & All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Apr. 12, 2026
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31 **Monday:** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8 **Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15 **Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 **Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36 **Friday:** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15 **Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21 **Next Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

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.

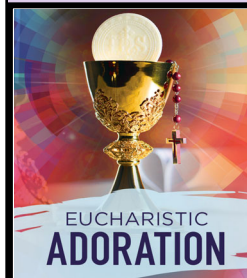
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



April 12, 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)



“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’” (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, “Well, good for you.” I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: “I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?” My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

Divine Mercy Challenge: This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— Father John Muir

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