

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

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:

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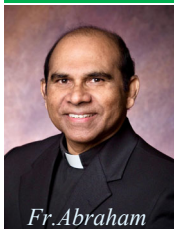
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

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Third Sunday In Ordinary Time – January 24 & 25, 2026



Called to Be Fishers of Men

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we journey through Ordinary Time, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time has been designated by Pope Francis as the “**Sunday of the Word of God**” in his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis* (30 September 2019). This day is devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of Sacred Scripture. The title, *Aperuit illis* (“He opened their minds”), comes from St. Luke’s Gospel, where the Risen Jesus opens his disciples’ minds to understand the Scriptures. Pope Francis highlights the profound connection between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist, reminding us that God’s Word is meant to guide, nourish, and transform our daily lives, helping us grow in faith and in our relationship with him and with others. He reminds us never to take God’s Word for granted, “but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters”.

Today’s Gospel (Mt 4:12-23) describes the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. After his baptism and forty days in the desert, Jesus returns to Galilee, where he begins preaching. Matthew shows that Jesus fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy that a great light would shine on those walking in darkness (Isaiah 8:23-9:3). By beginning his ministry in Galilee, a land of Gentiles, Jesus demonstrates that his mission is for the entire world, not just Israel. The light of Christ is breaking into the world, bringing hope, guidance, and salvation to all who are in spiritual darkness.

Jesus’ first words to his disciples, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men,” are both an invitation and a call to mission. To be a “fisher of men” means to share the light of Christ with others, to bring hope where there is despair, strength where there is weakness, comfort where there is sorrow, and encouragement where there is fear. It is a call to live as witnesses of God’s love in our families, workplaces, schools, and communities.

This mission is not reserved for apostles, bishops, or priests alone. Every baptized Christian is called to be a “fisher” for Christ. This includes those who serve in the Church as altar servers, lectors, catechists, teachers, parents, and parish leaders, but also extends to all who carry Christ’s light into the world through acts of kindness, service, and witness.

As we reflect on this Gospel, we are invited to ask ourselves: How am I responding to Christ’s call in my life? Where is he asking me to bring his light, hope, and love? How can I be a “fisher of men” in my own unique way today? Jesus calls us all, not just to follow him, but to participate in his mission, trusting that he will guide and empower us through the Holy Spirit. May we embrace this mission with courage and joy, sharing the light of Christ with everyone we meet, and bringing his love and mercy into a world that deeply needs it.

You are in my prayers and thoughts. May God bless you abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

Pastor

Rosary Intention: “For the hungry and homeless are helped thru our generosity”

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

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Woman Fully Alive! Drawing closer to Mary and our own call to holiness: A woman's morning of reflection. Start your 2026 off well with a Morning of Reflection with the Handmaids, right in Glencoe! In community with other women, join us on Sunday February 8th, at St. Pius X Parish in Glencoe: 10 am Mass, followed by brunch, a reflection by one of the Handmaids, fellowship and time with Jesus until 2 pm. No registration required, a donation based event. Looking forward to having you join us!

Holy Trinity School in Winsted: Family Fun Fest / Open House: Save the date and spread the word! **Sunday, January 25th** from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This is a free event at the school - a day of games, food, and exciting activities including an inflatable obstacle course for the whole family! You and your family are invited.

All Scouts (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Heritage Girls) are invited to the Archdiocesan Scout Mass on Saturday, February 28th at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina celebrated by Archbishop Hebda. The event will begin at 10am and includes recognition for accomplishments this past year. All are welcome!

A Special Mass in Honor of the Upcoming Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes-Saturday, February 7th at 10:00 am: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church-Edina All are invited to attend the World Day of the Sick Mass celebrated by the most reverend Archbishop Bernard Hebda. A special blessing of Lourdes water and a reception follow mass. Saint John Paul II established this annual day to honor and bless not only the sick but also chaplains, caregivers and healthcare workers. Attendees may receive individual blessings with holy water from Lourdes. This will be offered by several priests as well as deacons and from the bishop. Light refreshments will follow in the dining hall with an inspirational reflection by UST Professor of Philosophy, Stephen Heaney.

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 01/11/2026

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,812.00
Weekly E-Giving:	870.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 89,115.60
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 92,610.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ 3,494.50

Capital Improvement Offering:	105.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 5,410.00



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!

Thank you to everyone who brought in items to go to BIRTHRIGHT in Hutchinson. Your donation and support mean so much to the mothers and babies that benefit from your generosity. Thank you!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,251.34
Contributions 01-07 through 01-13-2026	1,578.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	105,539.50
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(6,548.36)

Forward in Faith

Envelope Income	60.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	60.00
Forward in Faith YTD	6,619.50



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!

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Leon Hoen** who passed away on Friday, January 9th. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date. Pray also for peace and comfort for Leon's family. Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. And may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

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
"How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion"

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 31st & February 1st

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Rita Fahey	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Jack Lano	Jayden Michels & Kendra Michels	Dan Worm & Chloe Storms
Reader	Janet Fahey	Colleen Donnay	Rob Wickenhauser
EMHC	Jean Schmitz	Irene Yaeck	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Curt Wilson	Eugene Dvorak & Dave Donnay	Dick Arnst & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Grace Cook	Pat Johnson	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Dave & Ann Dettmann Grp B: Steve Helget & Tim George	

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Jan. 26		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 27 6:15 pm	ASC.	Pope Leo XIV
Wednesday	Jan. 28 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion Service
Thursday	Jan. 29 8:00 am	ST. B.	Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 30		No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 31 5:00 pm	ASC..	For the Unborn
Sunday	Feb. 1 8:00 am	ASC.	The Family of Donna Meuleners
Sunday	Feb. 1 10:00 am	ST. B.	Vernon Walter † And All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Jan. 25, 2026
Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

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.

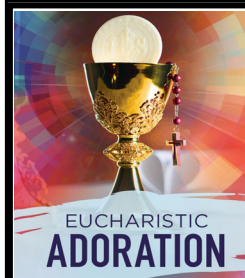
Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

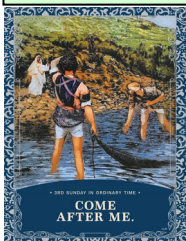
St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm



January 25, 2026

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: “Go to the seminary.” There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, “Lord, if that’s from you, let me find great joy in it.” Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today’s Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, “**Come after me**” (Matthew 4:19). And *immediately* they leave their nets and follow. There’s no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, “**In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us**” (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus’ call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him. —

Father John Muir ©LPi