

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

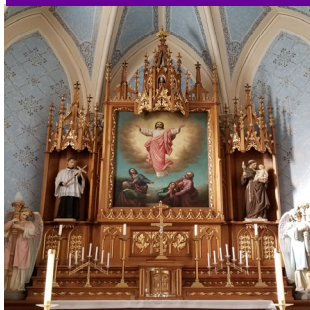
PASTOR

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

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 9am—3pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

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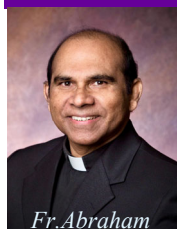
Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Feast of the Holy Family – December 27 & 28, 2025



The Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On the Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast invites us to give thanks for the gift of family life. In a world that often challenges the unity of families, the Holy Family stands before us not as an unreachable ideal, but as a real and lived example of love, obedience to God's will, perseverance, and mutual support.

The Gospels show us that the Holy Family experienced many of the same challenges our families face: uncertainty, hardship, misunderstanding, moments of fear, and times of joyful blessing. Through it all, they remained rooted in faith.

Mary faced an extraordinary challenge. Never before had a child been conceived without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. Joseph, her family and all her people could have rejected her. But she said, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Her yes required profound trust in God and in His promises.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to shame Mary, when he discovered that she was pregnant before the marriage. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Joseph is a model of faith for us. Mary and Joseph must have felt abandoned when their child was born in an uncomfortable stable in a foreign land. The Holy family found solutions of their struggles in prayer.

In the Holy Family **Jesus** spent the first part of his life subject to his parents, who protected and nurtured him. Jesus grew "in wisdom and stature" within the love of his home. When Jesus reached adulthood, Joseph had likely passed away, but Jesus remained faithful in honoring his mother, entrusting her to the disciple John from the cross. Christian children, likewise, are called to respect and cherish their parents throughout life.

The readings for this feast highlight the qualities of a Christian family. The first reading from **Sirach** outlines the responsibilities of each family member. It speaks first to **young children**, reminding them that parents receive their authority from God. Then it reminds the **adult children** that they should take care for their parents in their old age.

In the letter to the Colossians, St. Paul explains how a family becomes truly Christian. He begins by reminding us that we are "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved" (Col 3:12). He then goes to the heart of family life: "We must bear with one another and forgive one another." A Christian family is one in which love is lived, joy is shared, and sorrow is eased. May this celebration renew our commitment to building families where Christ's love is alive. Let us entrust our families and all the families of the world, to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

December 27th is the **34th anniversary** of my **Ordination to the Priesthood**. On this special day, I give thanks to God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon me throughout these years of ministry. I am also grateful to all of you who have supported and encouraged me in my priestly journey. I humbly ask for your continued prayers that I may serve faithfully and joyfully in the years to come.

Blessed and Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal, CMI; Pastor

Rosary Intention: In thanksgiving for the graces of the past year.

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	Dec. 29		No Mass:
Tuesday	Dec. 30	ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm
		ASC.	Confession: 5:45-6:05pm
		ASC.	Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Dec. 31	ASC.	Mass: 4:00pm
Thursday	Jan. 1	ST. B.	Mass: 9:00am
Friday	Jan. 2	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Jan. 3	ST. B.	Confession: 4:30pm-4:50pm
		ST. B.	Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 4	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
		ASC.	Donut Sunday:
		ST. B.	Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes
and in the Community

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God:

Ascension: Dec. 31st - 4:00pm
St. Bernard: Jan. 1st - 9:00am

Please note there will be no Wednesday Morning Mass, Confession, or Adoration on December 31st, at St. Bernard.

Ascension Parish Office will be open from 10-2 on December 31st and closed on January 1st for New Year's. We wish you a Blessed New Year's!

The Quilting group will be starting their weekly knotting on Tuesday, January 6th! Join us every Tuesday at 9am, at St. Bernard in the Narthex. All levels of experience are welcome! Contact Irene Yaeck with any questions.

WINE: Catholic Women's Conference-Saturday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., St. John Neumann, Eagan.

The day begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hebda and features inspirational talks by Barbara Heil, Dr. Kerry McMahon, and Leila Benoit, as well as the amazing music of Teresa Peterson. Opportunities for confession, adoration, shopping, prayer teams, and more! An optional Friday evening gathering includes a tremendous dinner, praise & worship, networking, and entertainment. Find more information and registration at catholicvineyard.com/event/wine-womens-conference.

Faith Formation Update:



On November 12th our Edge and Confirmation Students packed meals for Feed My Starving Children. A total of 40,608 meals were packed during the session!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 12/14/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,182.70
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	3,851.00
Weekly E-Giving:	925.00
Collections Budget YTD:	\$ 76,384.80
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 75,894.00
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	\$ (490.80)

Capital Improvement Offering:	280.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 4,860.00



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!

Please Welcome new parishioners to Ascension
James & Kristen Hammond

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	5,300.00
Contributions 12-10 through 12-16-2025	1,265.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	77,325.00
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(4,360.18)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	59.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
Forward in Faith Total	59.00
Forward in Faith YTD	5,253.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	838.00



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!

Please welcome new parishioners to St. Bernard
Thomas & Geraldine Sons

Thank you very much—

We would like to **THANK** all of the people who helped set up the Christmas decorations at church. It looks wonderful just as it does every year. All the effort makes it that much better! We will thin of all of you when we see it all lit up on Christmas Eve. Thanks again and God Bless.

Word of Life—"Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life
(www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

Mass Ministry Schedule—December 31st to January 4th

Mass Ministry	Ascension Solemnity 4pm	St. Bernard Solemnity 9:00am	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Pam Kunkel	Monica Kooiman	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Volunteers	Luke Allison & Buckley Jones	Evelyn McInnis & Elijah McInnis	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Daniel Worm & Chloe Storms
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Brenda Jones	Roger Storms	Colleen Donnay	Patricia Quinn
EMHC	Pat Johnson	Bernie Shambour	Mary Meuwissen	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Paul Lano & Steve Schrupp	Bob Symanitz & Volunteer	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Dick Amst & Bob Symanitz
Greeters	Grace Cook	Casey Jones	Volunteer	Sue Schultz	Andy Kleindl
Homebound Ministers	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grp. A: Sue & Rich Tellers Grp. B: Colleen & Dave Donnay	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Dec. 29 8:00 am		No Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 30 6:15 pm	ASC.	Dolores Bohlinger †
Wednesday	Dec. 31 4:00 pm	ASC.	Living & Deceased of the Donna Meuleners Family
Thursday	Jan. 1 9:00 am	ST. B.	Elvia Winkler † & Mildred Paul †
Friday	Jan. 2 8:00am	ASC.	Mass of Reparation
Saturday	Jan. 3 5:00 pm	ST. B.	Richard Paul †
Sunday	Jan. 4 8:00 am	ASC.	Ed Brown †
Sunday	Jan. 4 10:00 am	ST. B.	All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Dec. 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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@ascensionny.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

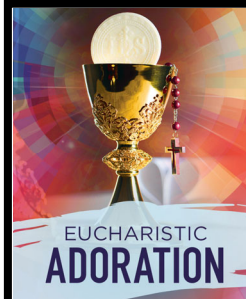
Every Tuesday

3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday

2:00 until 6:00 pm



December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: **"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20).**

First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi