

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



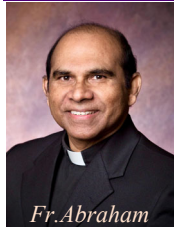
Website: www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org

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

Parish Office Hours:
Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-856-1051
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Safe Environment Coordinator:
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The Second Sunday Of Lent – March 15, & 16, 2025



Fr. Abraham

BEING WITH JESUS 13-HOUR ADORATION

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel account of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 7:28-36), we are given a glimpse of the heavenly glory awaiting those who listen to God's Word and follow his will with trusting faith. The purpose of Lent is to bring Jesus into our awareness more deeply, so that our daily lives, like his, may be transformed and transfigured.

In every Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or transformed into the living body and blood of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus' Transfiguration strengthened the apostles during their time of trial, each Mass should serve as our spiritual strength in facing temptations, trials, and sufferings in our own lives.

There is something deeply significant about the Transfiguration event: "While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance." Jesus was transfigured in the midst of prayer. It is in prayer that Jesus is present to us, and it is through prayer that we become aware of his presence. In prayer, he reveals himself to us and speaks to our hearts. The Transfiguration was a privileged spiritual experience for the apostles, strengthening their faith for the challenges they would later endure. They would never forget that moment of divine glory.

Where can we encounter Jesus in the same way today? The answer is in the **Holy Eucharist**. Like Peter, James, and John, we are invited to witness the glory of Jesus with our own eyes in the Eucharist. When the Eucharist is elevated above the altar, we hear the words: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world."

In **Eucharistic Adoration**, we encounter Jesus in his transfigured presence, present to us in the Consecrated Bread. Adoration is often seen as a way to experience a personal "Transfiguration moment," where we may not visually perceive his glory, but still have a profound and intimate encounter with his divine presence.

Both the Transfiguration and Eucharistic Adoration involve a direct encounter with Jesus Christ in his glorified state, allowing us to experience his divine nature. Just as the apostles were profoundly affected by seeing Jesus transfigured, time spent in Adoration can lead to a personal transformation, inspiring us and bringing us closer to God.

While the Transfiguration was a visible manifestation of Jesus' glory, its essence lies in the spiritual communion we can experience in Eucharistic Adoration. The Transfiguration is often seen as a preview of the heavenly realm, and Eucharistic Adoration offers us a foretaste of eternal life. It humbles us before God and inspires ongoing conversion in love for him. In the Most Blessed Sacrament, Jesus is truly present, waiting for us now and drawing us to himself as he did with the disciples on Mount Tabor. Let us continually gaze upon him in the Blessed Sacrament, until his divinity touches us and we can exclaim, "Master, it is good that we are here!"—both now and forever in the life to come.

We invite you to join us for a special **13-Hour Eucharistic Adoration** on Wednesday, **March 26th, at St. Bernard, beginning after 8:00 am Mass and continuing through 9:00 PM**. Additionally, we have started a special Lenten project this Ash Wednesday: **Reading six chapters of the New Testament daily**, beginning with the Gospel of Matthew and continuing through Revelation. This will allow us to complete the entire New Testament by Good Friday.

*Please consider making Eucharistic Adoration a part of your Lenten journey. **Sign up** for this wonderful spiritual opportunity!*

Rosary Intention: For the Grace to make the best use of the Gifts God has given us.

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

Monday	Mar. 17		No Mass:
Tuesday	Mar. 18	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Adoration: 3pm-6pm Confession: 5:45-6:05pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Mar. 19	ST. B. ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Confession: 7:30-7:50am Mass: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
Thursday	Mar. 20	ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am
Friday	Mar. 21	ASC.	Mass: 8:00am
Saturday	Mar. 22	ASC. ASC. ASC.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm Volunteer Appreciation
Sunday	Mar. 23	ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

Surrounding Area Reconciliation Services:

- April 1 : St. Victoria's in Victoria- 6:30 pm
- April 10: St. Hubert's in Chanhassen-6:00-8:00 pm
- April 13: St. Joseph in Waconia- 4:00-6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross Schedule:

- 3/21– St. Bernard at 6pm
 3/28– Ascension at 6pm
 4/4– Ascension at 6pm
 4/11– Ascension at 6pm
 4/18– Living Stations at Ascension at 3pm

Holy Week Scheduled:

Holy Thursday– St. Bernard at 7pm
 Good Friday—St. Bernard at 7pm
 Easter Vigil– Ascension at 8pm

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

On the weekend of March 29th and 30th we observe Global Solidarity Sunday. Global Solidarity Sunday gives us a way to participate in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and through Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and share God's light for your brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you.

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!

Church of Ascension

Ascension Weekly Collection Report Totals as of 03/02/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	688.00
Weekly E-Giving:	745.00
Collections Budget YTD:	108,567.20
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 115,845.85
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	7,278.65
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 8,890.00



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!

Today is KC Bingo, starting at 1pm! Cost for one card is \$6 or Two cards for \$10. Come out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,790.10
Contributions 02-26 through 3-04-2025	4,813.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	136,414.05
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	10,909.42
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	20,308.00
Electronic Donations	251.00
Forward in Faith Total	20,559.00
Forward in Faith YTD	35,298.96



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!

Your Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of *Laura Schroeder*, who passed away on March 1st. Her funeral will be on Monday, March 17th at 11:00am at St. Bernard with visitation one hour prior to the Mass. Please pray for Laura and her family.

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. Applications are available at: www.catholicunitedfinancial.org/scholarships

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!

Mass Ministry Schedule—March 22 & 23

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Kathy Kloempken	Doris Mielke
Servers	Payton Stender & Hailey Stender	Callie Buckentin & Greta Buckentin	Elijah McInnis & Evelyn McInnis
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Jean Schmitz	Rob Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Johnson	Lisa Whitaker	Pam Kunkel
Ushers	Steve Schrupp & Rick Ulrich	Justin Buckentin & Volunteer	Tom Dahl & Vern Elke
Greeters	Sue Schultz	Grace Cook	Victoria Arnst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim George & Steve Helget	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Mar. 17		No Mass
Tuesday	March 18	6:15 pm	Ascension Myrtle Buesgens †
Wednesday	Mar. 19	8:00 am	St. Bernard Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Thursday	Mar. 20	8:00 am	St. Bernard Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Friday	Mar. 21	8:00 am	Ascension Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Saturday	Mar. 22	5:00 pm	Ascension Pope Francis
Sunday	Mar. 23	8:00 am	Ascension Living & Deceased of the Donna Meuleners Family
Sunday	Mar. 23	10:00 am	St. Bernard Living & Deceased members of the Donna Meuleners Family

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.

Readings for the week of Mar. 16, 2025

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

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38 **Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12 **Wednesday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a **Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31 **Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 **Next Sunday:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/I Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 **Scrutiny:** Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Bulletin copy is due by

Thursdays @ NOON

for the bulletin

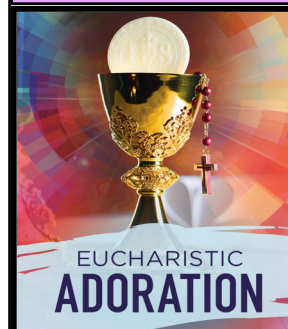
two weekends out;

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.**



Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 6:00 pm

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

St. Thomas Aquinas said that friends share three things: time, possessions and secrets. For example, how do I know if you're my friend? Well, let's say we've been to Mexico together, you've tried my shaky attempts at pasta carbonara, and you know what ridiculous costume I wore in a music video I filmed in my early twenties. We, dear reader, are definitely friends. We've shared time, possessions and secrets.

How does friendship with Jesus develop? The same way. Jesus lives and eats with his disciples. Then he takes Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor and there reveals to them his deepest secret: his glorious, divine Sonship. The majesty of God shines from within his humanity in a way that goes beyond description. God the Father confirms this "secret," saying, "**This is my chosen Son, listen to him**" (Luke 9:35). It's all so precious that "**they fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone.**" Do we take time to be alone with Christ, to allow him to mystically share this "secret" with us as his dear friends?

Lenten challenge: This week, identify one time when you experienced an awareness of some specific aspect of Jesus — perhaps on a retreat, at Mass, in prayer or in an act of service. Spend ten minutes consciously re-living that experience in your heart. If you can't recall one, set aside at least two hours this Lent as a mini retreat, either alone in nature or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Focus on him and ask him to share the secrets of his heart with you. He will. Then, as his friend, share the secrets in your heart. — *Father John Muir*

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