

# 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



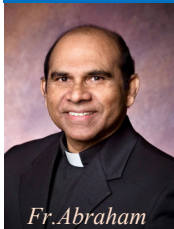
Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org)

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@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 Hanson .....952-856-1051  
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-856-1052  
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## The Baptism of the Lord – January 11 & 12, 2025



Fr. Abraham

### The Baptism of the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The baptism of Jesus was certainly a most memorable event in the life of Jesus. All the three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, recorded the baptism of the Lord. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, highlighting the moment when God reveals Jesus as His beloved Son. This divine affirmation at His baptism strengthened and empowered Jesus for the journey that lay ahead - His mission of salvation through the Cross.

Luke's account (Lk 3:21-22) uniquely describes the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus in the form of a dove and the voice of God proclaiming His pleasure in Jesus. This moment was not just a personal reassurance for Jesus but also a powerful confirmation of His divine calling. Through these words, Jesus was not only affirmed as the Son of God but was also equipped with the power and the energy necessary for the immense mission He was about to undertake.

For us, baptism is a similar spiritual event. Through the sacrament, we are made children of God, receiving the Holy Spirit and being set on the path of living according to God's will. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord calls us to remember our own baptism and to renew the promises made on our behalf. Whether baptized as infants or adults, we are invited to reflect on the significance of our baptism — the cleansing from sin and the anointing with the Holy Spirit to empower us to live as disciples of Christ.

As St. John Paul II beautifully explains, baptism is not only a purification from sin but also a consecration in the image of Christ. It sets us apart for God's mission, just as Jesus was set apart for His mission. Our baptism is the beginning of a life of discipleship - living out God's love, mercy, and service. Like Jesus, we are called to proclaim the Good News through our actions and to recognize the divine presence in others.

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we are encouraged to renew our commitment to our baptismal promises. The celebration of this feast offers us a deep spiritual insight into the significance of our own baptism. We are reminded to live as faithful disciples of Jesus, loving and serving others, forgiving, and showing mercy, as Christ did. Let us thank God for the grace of our baptism and ask for the strength to be faithful to the mission He has entrusted to us.

I am deeply grateful to the visiting priests who are celebrating the Mass in my absence.

**Rosary Intention:** *For the hungry and homeless helped thru our generosity.*

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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan. 13</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Adoration:</b> 3pm-6pm <b>Mass:</b> 6:15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b> <b>ASC.</b>	<b>Communion Service:</b> 8:00am <b>Adoration:</b> 2:00-6:00pm <b>Faith Formation</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan. 16</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan. 17</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 18</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Confession:</b> 4:30-4:50pm <b>Mass:</b> 5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 8:00am <b>Mass:</b> 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes  
and in the Community

**The Ascension KC' will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26th, 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!**

### School of Charism Discovery Tuesdays, January 28-April 1, 7-9 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina

Father Michael Becker, vicar of charisms, is hosting the School of Charism Discovery, a 10-week course which includes lectures and practicum. The goal is to learn about the Holy Spirit's charisms gifted to the Body of Christ and for participants to discover which charism(s) God is gifting to them. Find more information and registration at [archspm.org/school-of-charism-discovery](http://archspm.org/school-of-charism-discovery).

### Prayer Service for Life Wednesday, January 22, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul

Please join the Annual Prayer Service for Life with Bishop Michael Izen, followed by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's March for Life at the State Capitol. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. The St. John Paul II Champions for Life Awards will be presented during this prayer service honoring those who work tirelessly for life. Find more information at [archspm.org/prayer-service-for-life](http://archspm.org/prayer-service-for-life)

### Faith Formation Update:

**Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Faith Formation Sponsorship Program! We have raised almost \$4,000! Thank you to the Cologne Fire Department for your generous donation!**

**We are still accepting donations through January!**

## Church of Ascension

### Ascension Weekly Collection Report

#### Christmas:

Envelopes/Plate:	7,139.00
Collections Budget YTD:	77,548.00
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 80,722.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	3,174.40
Capital Improvement Offering:	60.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,575.00

#### Totals as of 12/29/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,515.00
Weekly E-Giving:	775.00
Collections Budget YTD:	80,649.92
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 83,012.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	2,362.48
Capital Improvement Offering:	170.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	75.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,820.00



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!

## Church of St. Bernard

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,364.60
Contributions 12-24 through 12-31-2024	2,324.00
Christmas Budget	13,295.49
Christmas Contributions	11,905.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	109,431.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	10,267.74
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	300.00
Electronic Donations	00.00
Forward in Faith Total	300.00
Forward in Faith YTD	9,188.50



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!

**Urgently Needed**—A volunteer pianist/organist for St. Bernard is needed as a back up for our present pianist/organist. If you wish to volunteer for this position, please contact the Parish Office at 952-467-3351

**Help is needed:** Today the Christmas decorations will be taken down. Please stay after Mass to help with this project. Many hands make light the work.

**Word of Life**—“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “How to Build a Culture of Life” ([respectlife.org/culture-of-life](http://respectlife.org/culture-of-life))

## Mass Ministry Schedule—January 18 & 19

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Brooklyn Hoen & Luca Hoen	Greta Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Logan Pellegrino & Emma Panning
Reader	Joyce Schwartz	Cheryl Coyle	Julie Kleindl
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernie Shambour	Steve Coyle	Helen Nicklaus
Ushers	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Josh Gallus & Steve Schrupp	Andy Kleindl & Leonard Hoen Jr.
Greeters	Barbara Knorr	Sue Schultz	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Tim George & Steve Helget	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

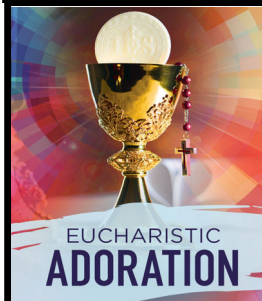
Day	Date	Time	Location	Intention
Monday	Jan. 13			No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 14	6:15 pm	Ascension	Living and Deceased Members of the Donna Meuleners Family
Wednesday	Jan. 15	8:00 am	St. Bernard	Communion Service
Thursday	Jan. 16			No Mass or Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 17			No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 18	5:00 pm	St. Bernard	Richard Paul † And All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan. 19	8:00 am	Ascension	Leo G. Braunwarth †
Sunday	Jan. 19	10:00 am	St. Bernard	Bob & LaVonne Amst ††

**Readings for the week of Jan. 12, 2025**  
**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 **Monday:** Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/Mk 1:14-20 **Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 **Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39 **Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45 **Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12 **Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17 **Next Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/ Jn 2:1-11

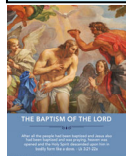
**Bulletin copy is due by Thursdays @ NOON for the bulletin two weekends out;**  
**St. Bernard** copy must be emailed to: [bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org) and [pquinn55322@hotmail.com](mailto:pquinn55322@hotmail.com)  
**Ascension** copy must be emailed to: [busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org).  
**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 12, 2025 The Baptism of the Lord Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words '**You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased**' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with *me*? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart. — *Father John Muir*