

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

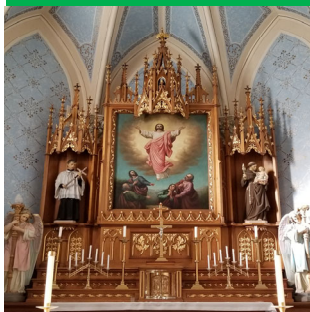
PASTOR

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

Parish Office Hours:

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

Business Administrator:

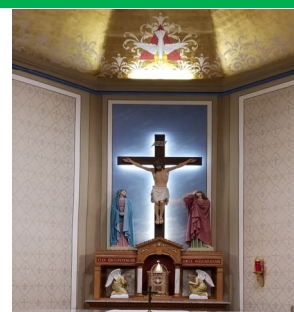
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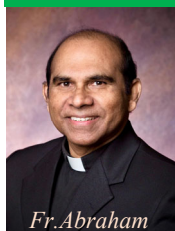
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 18 & 19, 2025



Fr. Abraham

The “Ordinary Time” is not ordinary at all

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from India. I have reached home safely. Thank you for your prayers. The temperature here is between 85 and 70 degrees. You are in my prayers.

The Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Calendar begins after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Since the term “ordinary” often means something that is not special or distinctive, we may think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the Church calendar that is unimportant. It is a time when we are called to live out the teachings and virtues of Christ, without the intensity of the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent or the festivity of Christmas and Easter. Instead, we are invited to focus on the continuous journey of faith, grounded in watchfulness and anticipation of Christ’s Second Coming. It offers us a season of reflection, and growth in our daily lives.

In the context of the Catholic Church’s liturgical year, Ordinary Time is a period that bridges the major liturgical seasons. The first phase runs from the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord until Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. After Pentecost, Ordinary Time resumes, lasting until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical cycle starts anew.

The color green, traditionally used in the Ordinary Time, symbolizes life and growth, especially as it relates to the work of the Church after Pentecost. This is when the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, begins to spread the Gospel and grow throughout the world. While not a season of heightened ritual or celebration, Ordinary Time is a time of ongoing formation in faith, where we are encouraged to cultivate a deeper connection with Christ’s teachings.

On the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which, due to liturgical shifts, is often the first Sunday after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord), the Gospel highlights either John the Baptist’s recognition of Christ or the account of Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11). In this story, we witness Jesus’ compassionate intervention at the request of His mother, Mary, who, while acting as a mother, plays an active role in helping to bring about Christ’s redemptive work. By turning water into wine, Jesus not only alleviates the potential embarrassment of the wedding hosts but also reveals the abundance and joy He brings to the world.

This miracle is symbolic of Jesus’ role in our lives. Just as He transformed the water into wine, He can transform our imperfections into perfections, our insufficiency into abundance, and our troubles into solutions. This passage calls us to reflect on how we too can experience transformation in our lives through the grace of Christ, particularly during this period of Ordinary Time.

Through this season, we are invited to live intentionally, striving to walk with Jesus and to allow His life and ministry, as narrated in the Gospels, to shape our thoughts, actions, and hearts. Far from being ordinary, this time is one of deep opportunity to grow in holiness and to allow God’s grace to lead us toward true joy and fulfillment.

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

Rosary Intention: *In thanksgiving for all our gifts and blessings*

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	Jan. 20		No Mass:
Tuesday	Jan. 21	ST. B. ASC. ASC.	Quilting Group 9am-12pm Adoration: 3pm-6pm Mass: 6:15pm
Wednesday	Jan. 22	ST. B. ST. B. ASC.	Communion Service: 8:00am Adoration: 2:00-6:00pm Faith Formation
Thursday	Jan. 23		No Mass:
Friday	Jan. 24		No Mass:
Saturday	Jan. 25	ST. B. ST. B.	Confession: 4:30-4:50pm Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday	Jan. 26	ASC. ASC. ST. B.	Mass: 8:00am KC Pancake Breakfast: 8:00am-12:00pm Mass: 10:00am

What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community

The Ascension and St. Bernard Quilting Group has started back up! They meet at St. Bernard in the downstairs gathering space from 9am-12pm every Tuesday. They welcome anyone and no experience is required to join!

The Waconia KC's along with St. Joseph Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia are hosting a **Respect Life breakfast on Sunday, January 19th** from 8:00am-12:30pm. Location is Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia. Free-Will offering is welcomed with proceeds going to Southwest Options and other Pro-life Causes.

The **Welcome** retreat at St. Joseph in Waconia is coming up! The Men's retreat will take place February 22nd-23rd and the Women's Retreat will take place March 1st-2nd. If you have any questions you can reach out to Matt Turek at mattewturek59@gmail.com for the Men's Retreat or Janice Matlon jmatlon@stjosephwaconia.org for the Women's retreat, or Pam Kunkle at St. Bernard and Kathy Kloempken at Ascension.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." - Colossians 3:12. Experience these at a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next available Weekends are Feb 14-16, 2025 in Buffalo, MN and May 16-18, 2025 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or wmandbethnickles@hotmail.com or 612-234-7440.

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

Totals as of 01/05/2025

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	1,528.00
Weekly E-Giving:	735.00
Collections Budget YTD:	83,751.84
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 87,215.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	3,463.56
Capital Improvement Offering:	
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 7,090.00



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!

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!

Church of St. Bernard

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	2,900.15
Contributions 12-24 through 12-31-2024	2,842.30
Total Actual Collection YTD	112,274.05
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	10,210.05
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	88.00
Electronic Donations	351.00
Forward in Faith Total	439.00
Forward in Faith YTD	9,627.50



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

Word of Life—“There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: *We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem.* In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is *always and radically incompatible* with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops “Living the Gospel of Life,” © 1998 USCCB

Mass Ministry Schedule—January 25 & 26

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Brian Willems	Doris Mielke
Servers	Jack Lano & Noah Kerber	Steve Lemmer, Charlie Friendshuh & Josie Friendshuh	Buckley Jones & Marshall Panning
Reader	Cathleen Williams	Jean Schmitz	Brenda Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Curt Wilson	Lisa Whitaker	Julie Clemensen
Ushers	Tom Lano Rick Ulrich	Eugene Dvorak & Don Whitaker	Tom Dahl & Leo Willems
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Rich & Sue Tellers	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Monday	Jan. 20		No Mass
Tuesday	Jan. 21	6:15 pm	Ascension Pope Francis
Wednesday	Jan. 22	8:00 am	St. Bernard Communion Service
Thursday	Jan. 23		No Mass or Communion Service
Friday	Jan. 24		No Mass
Saturday	Jan. 25	5:00 pm	Ascension For Respect for All Life
Sunday	Jan. 26	8:00 am	Ascension For All Parishioners
Sunday	Jan. 26	10:00 am	St. Bernard Marcy Wickenhauser † and All Parishioners

Readings for the week of Jan.19, 2025
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 **Monday:** Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22 **Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28 **Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6 **Thursday:** Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12 **Friday:** Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19 **Saturday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18 Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

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

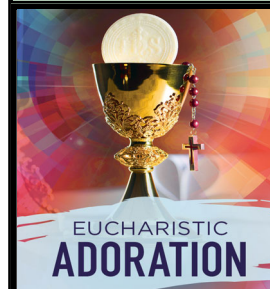
Ascension - Sue Tellers.....612-247-6881
 St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-484-9628

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 19, 2025
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
John 2:1-12



A friend invited me to an invitation-only wine-tasting event. There were over two hundred varieties of wine. Having no idea how to approach such a massive selection, I wandered aimlessly among the tables, sipping this and that. At the end of the evening my friend asked if I had tried some of the exceptionally expensive wines. I hadn't. "The really good stuff disappears first," he said. "My man, you missed out on some amazing vino." I was so disappointed. I wasted my chance for amazing once-in-a-lifetime wine. The wine I tasted was, well, *blah*.

Don't we often feel a similar disappointment in life? I missed this or that opportunity. If only I had known. Optimism sputters and fades. The glory days are gone. The chances, it seems, for the really great things in life come and go so quickly. Then they are gone forever. The good stuff goes first. Then life is just *blah*.

Not so with the Lord Jesus. In Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana, the steward of the feast says, "**Everyone serves good wine first, and then...an inferior one**" (John 2:10). That's the natural downward progression of life. The good stuff disappears quickly. But he says of the groom (who symbolizes Jesus), "**But you have kept the good wine until now.**" This is the ever-improving trajectory of the realm of God's grace. With Jesus, the "good wine" of divine love, hope and peace gets better as our journey of faith progresses. Where are your greatest disappointments? Don't give in to the lie that the really good stuff is gone. Tell Jesus you've run out. Then learn how to taste *that* amazingly good wine, because he saves the best until now. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi