

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE .....952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

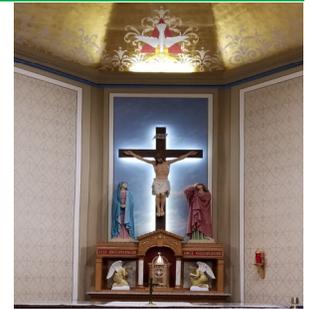
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

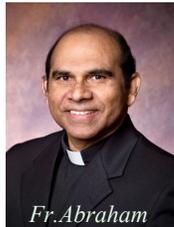


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**Website:** St-Bernard-Cologne.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-466-2031  
**Business Administrator:**  
Sherry Witte.....952-856-1051  
busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith....952-856-1052  
bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org



## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 11, 2022



Fr. Abraham

### The Mercy and Forgiveness of God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. These are the parables of the "Lost Sheep", of the "Lost Coin", and of the "Lost Son". These parables are given to declare the magnitude of the mercy of God. They tell us that we have a loving and merciful God who welcomes sinners and forgives their sins whenever they return to Him with genuine repentance. Our God is always in search of His lost children.

In the first two parables we are shown a God seeking sinners, and in the third we see a God forgiving and receiving sinners. The parable of the prodigal son has been called the greatest short story in the world. This is a story of love, of repentance and of joy. The younger son squandered all his money and ended up feeding pigs, a job that was strictly forbidden to a Jew. It shows his terrible condition. The gospel says, "Coming to his senses he thought, "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat but here am I, dying from hunger." That is, he is aware of his poor human condition. He is conscious of his sinfulness.

The father was eagerly waiting and looking for the return of his son. "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." The father did not wait until his son arrived, instead he ran to him. It showed the excitement and joy on the return of his son. He ordered his servants, "Quickly bring the finest robe, a ring and sandals." The robe stands for honor; the ring for authority. Shoes are the sign of freedom. The slaves were not allowed to wear shoes. The feast was prepared that all might rejoice at the return of the lost son.

This parable should be called the parable of the Loving Father rather than the parable of the prodigal son. Because it tells us about a father's love rather than a son's sin. The love of God for us is absolutely unconditional. No matter what kind of person we may be, God's outreaching love for us is absolutely unchanging. God's forgiveness is something else. The father deeply loves the younger son and bears no ill will towards him. This is clearly indicated by his father seeing him "while he was still a long way off."

However, there can be no real forgiveness in the full sense until there is repentance. In the parable, the son expresses his deep sorrow and returns to his father. This is what needs to take place when we confess our sins. If we have been sinful, God's mercy is seeking us with a love that is beyond all imagining. God is ready to receive and welcome us back. Jesus says there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents and returns. Let us pray today that we will allow God's love and forgiveness into our lives.

**Rosary Intention:** 'For our Combined Parish Picnic'

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor



**CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

Thurs. Sept 15 7:00pm Joint Mission Team Mtg @StB  
 Sat. Sept 17 10:00am Care for Creation Retreat @ StB



**Mark your calendars: Blest Art** will be visiting in our parishes the week-end of **Sept. 17-18th** with hand carved religious olive wood art. Blest Art Inc. helps support Christian families from Bethlehem by marketing their artwork in the US. Please visit their display before or after Mass and consider purchasing a piece of art from the Holy Land. They make wonderful gifts!



The **Ascension KC's** will be hosting a **pancake breakfast** on October 9th in the newly remodeled Ascension social hall. Serving will be

from 8am-noon. Free will donation will be accepted with all proceeds going to the church basement improvement project.



Please pray for all those affected by this tragedy. May any who perished be in God's hands and may His peace be with anyone who was affected in any way.

**Parish Directory:** The Ascension and St. Bernard's Joint Mission Team selected "Unique Church Solutions" for the creation of a new church directory. This single, new directory will include sections for each parish along with our unified ministry groups. "Unique Church Solutions" provides a dedicated consultant to work with our coordinators throughout the process. To move forward, we are in need of one coordinator and one assistant coordinator from each parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to build fellowship with our faith families while serving the church. For more information, and if you are interested in helping coordinate and/or help with check-ins on portrait days, please contact the Parish Office.

**Candlelight Rosary Procession Friday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Minnesota State Capitol, Saint Paul**

Join in praying the rosary as we process from the State Capitol to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Gather at the Minnesota State Capitol approach at 6:30 p.m. Bishop Williams will lead the procession which will begin at 7 p.m. We will conclude with Marian prayers, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction at the Cathedral. See more information at [minnesotarosaryprocessions.org](http://minnesotarosaryprocessions.org).

**West Carver County Food Shelf.** Is in need of donations of the following items, Peanut Butter, Juice, Tuna, Canned meats, Toilet Paper, and Paper towels. Donations can be brought to the box in the entrance at Ascension and the box in the Narthex at St. Bernard. Also They will take your extra garden produce. Garden produce must be brought to the Food Shelf on Tuesday.

A simple soul is one who seeks only God and does not fear being laughed at or despised. —*St. Julie Billiart*

The first degree of humility is prompt obedience.

—*St. Benedict of Nursia*



**Maintenance /"handy-person" needed.**

St. Bernard is looking to hire a part-time maintenance/handy-person to perform routine maintenance in all buildings, as well as cleaning in the school building and to be backup to our lawn mowing volunteers. We anticipate approximately 40 hrs per month with starting wage of \$15.00/hr. Please contact the parish office (952-466-2031) if you are interested.

**Volunteer Needed:** Do you have a boiler's license or know of anyone who does? If so, we are seeking a volunteer to monitor the school boiler at St. Bernard during the months it is in operation. Please contact the parish office (952-466-2031) if you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping with this ministry.

"How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason "each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary". "

-Pope Francis, Laudato Si: On care for our common home

**Come to our "Care of our Common Home" Retreat,** to be held at St. Bernard on September 17th 10:00am—6:00 pm., 5:00 pm. Mass included in the retreat. Registration ends today !

**St. Bernard's Chili Feed and Cash Raffle** is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 1st from 3 - 7pm. Dine-in or take out available. Raffle tickets for cash prizes and quilt chances can be picked up after the weekend Masses or from committee members. Mass on the 1st will be at 5:00pm.

**DOES YOUR FAITH NEED A JUMP START?** Join us and say a resounding "YES!" to a weekend of renewal and time dedicated just to you. You won't regret this opportunity to grow closer to your family, your parish, and Christ. We are now accepting registrations for our fall Welcome retreats. Men's Retreat: September 24-25 & Women's Retreat: October 8-9. (Formerly called Christ Renews His Parish Retreats.) Learn more and register online by going to [stjosephwaconia.org/crhp-registration/](http://stjosephwaconia.org/crhp-registration/).



**Create in me a Clean Heart, Oh Lord!**

It is easy to worship things other than God. Our perception of reality gets distorted as well as our understanding of truth. Ideologies and theories that find a popular reception are extolled when they are simply lies. Human beings easily get lost. One of the greatest obstacles to God's power and love is a stubborn, closed heart of stone.

When we are fiercely determined to set our sights elsewhere for happiness or simply ride the popular currents of the day, we will never satisfy the deep ache and longing within. God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ to rescue us from our sins and keep us where we need to be. But we have to realize that we are living in darkness before we can ask for light. We have to recognize that we are lost so that we can desire to be found. And, we have to know that we have sinned so that we can repent. God always patiently waits. God is delighted when one of His children chooses life over death and runs toward His unconditional Mercy. Let's not be so stubborn and stiff-necked that we fail to recognize that we may have wandered into the wrong pasture. One day, people may wake up and realize that they are grazing in the wrong pasture and putting themselves in harm's way. When this awakening occurs, it will be a most joyous day as we will see God's wide-open arms waiting to receive us. "Lead me, Lord, in your path, and I will enter in your truth. Let my heart rejoice that it may fear your name (St. Bonaventure)." ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule - September 17—18

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Doris Mielke	Cheryl Coyle	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Lexy Allison & Luke Allison	Don Whitaker, Caleb Michels & Jayden Michels	Logan Pellegrino & Colin Starkey
<b>Reader</b>	Jake Kooiman	Ann Schwichtenberg	Ally Kunkel
<b>EMHC</b>	Margaret Wickenhauser	Steve Coyle	Helen Nicklaus
<b>Ushers</b>	Kieran Allison & Volunteer	Paul Lano & Eugene Dvorak	Bob Symanitz & Leo Willems
<b>Greeters</b>	Roger Storms	Justin & Amy Buckentin	Casey Jones & Andy Kleindl
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	Grp A Steve Helget & Tim George Grp B Tim & Rita Fahey	N/A

Mass Times/Intentions			
<b>Monday</b>	Sept. 12	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sept. 13 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	Patricia Prchal †
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sept. 14 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Dennis & Bernice Wickenhauser ††
<b>Thursday</b>	Sept. 15 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Helen Hilgers †
<b>Friday</b>	Sept. 16 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Debby Rose Levander†
<b>Saturday</b>	Sept. 17 <b>5:00pm</b>	St. Bernard	All Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	Sept. 18 <b>8:00am</b>	Ascension	Living and Deceased Members of the Brown-Braunwarth Family
<b>Sunday</b>	Sept. 18 <b>10:00am</b>	St. Bernard	Living & Deceased members of the Albert & Clara Wickenhauser Family

**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Ascension**

Every Tuesday  
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

**St. Bernard**

Every Wednesday  
2:00 until 7:00 pm

**READINGS**  
for the week of September 11, 2022

**Sunday:** Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10  
**Monday:** 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 7:1-10 **Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 7:11-17 **Wednesday:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17 **Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35 **Friday:** 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3 **Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15 **Next Sunday:** Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

**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  
a paper copy brought to the Parish  
office at St. Bernard or Ascension.

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.

St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure	
Budget for week	3,323.73
<b>Contributions 08-24 through 08-30-2022</b>	<b>1,359.00</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	25,580.15
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>(2,793.52)</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b> Envelope Income	125.00
Electronic Donations	0.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>125.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>5,989.35</b>
<p><b>Did you know</b> you can have your contributions automatically deducted from your checking or savings account? For more information call the parish office 952-466-2031, or visit <a href="http://www.st-bernard-cologne.org">www.st-bernard-cologne.org</a></p>	

Ascension Weekly Collection Report	
Totals as of 8/28/2022	
<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,942.31
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	1,474.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	985.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	26,480.79
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	22,200.50
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>(4,280.29)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	110.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	100.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	4,835.00
<p>Sign up for electronic giving at <a href="http://ascensionny.org">ascensionny.org</a> Under Links -&gt; E-giving. Or call the parish office for more information: 952-467-3351.</p>	