

**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**
323 Reform St. N.
NYA, MN. 55368

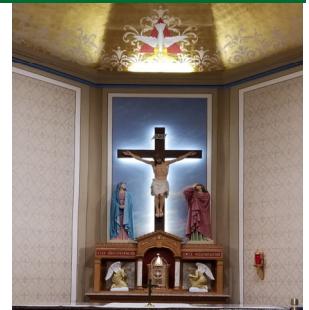
PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI
OFFICE 952-856-1050
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org



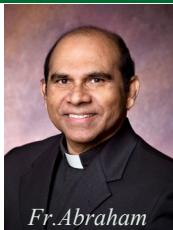
Website: AscensionNYA.org
Parish Office Hours:
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm
Office Phone: 952-467-3351
Business Administrator:
Virginia Hanson952-777-0110
busadmin@ascensionnya.org
Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sarah Smith....952-777-0111
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

**ST. BERNARD
CHURCH**
212 Church Street E.
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: St-Bernard-Cologne.org
Parish Office Hours:
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm
Office Phone: 952-466-2031
Business Administrator:
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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 16 & 17, 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The scripture readings for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday is about forgiving our offenders and being reconciled with them. These readings challenge us to lead a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. The reading from the Book of Sirach reminds us to release to the Lord our anger and desire for vengeance, for it is God's role, not ours, to punish those who have done evil. We are not to be vengeful; we are to forgive. "The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance." But as for us, we must forgive: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." (Sirach 28: 1-2)

Through the parable of the two debtors and the master, Jesus teaches us that God forgives us not because we deserve it, but because God is merciful. The servant who received forgiveness from his master did not extend the same forgiveness and mercy to his debtor. We may represent the greater debtor in the parable because we commit sins every day and, hence, need God's forgiveness every day. God treats us with forgiveness, love and compassion, and we must do the same. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We are called to forgive others with out limit. This message is made clear by Peter's question to Jesus, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven times but seventy-seven times" (Mt. 18:21-22).

This may be a hard message to hear, but Jesus' words today are challenging us in a big way. How will we respond to the close friend who says something hurtful behind our back or to the terrorists who kill the innocent people? Our inclination may be simply to say that some things are too terrible to forgive. Certainly, it is human that we must often go through a period of anger, bitterness, and mourning. Perhaps, we will never forget some wrongs. But there is great wisdom in Jesus' words about forgiveness. Our human experience tells us that when we hold on to anger and hatred, it eats away at us. It can begin to change us and make us into persons we never wanted to be. In some ways, forgiveness frees the one who forgives from carrying that burden. Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is about being like God who is merciful. It is about recognizing something of ourselves in those who commit the greatest evils, for no one is free of sin.

Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is about being able to live with love instead of hate. The love and forgiveness may be achieved through the acts of prayer, living out our faith and values, and engage in dialogue. The Eucharist is the best medicine for forgiveness. It recalls the forgiving and liberating message of Jesus on the cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34).

Rosary Intention: "For our college students that they remain strong in their faith."

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.

Church of Ascension Norwood Young America, MN

CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES

Sat Sept. 16 after 5pm Mass "Linger Longer" at St. Bernard
Sun Sept. 17 after 10am Mass "Linger Longer" at St. Bernard

All are welcome to participate in a 6 week Bible Study at Ascension. The first meeting will be Sunday October 15th and the last session will be Sunday November 19th. Each meeting will follow the 8:00am Mass and be located in the church social hall. This years Bible Study is "*The Eucharist in Scripture*". Call or Text Chris George at 763-898-9854 by September 27th if you wish to participate or would like additional information.

Ascension KCs are celebrating 25 years of their council with a Pancake breakfast on Sunday October 1st in the Ascension social hall. serving from 8-11 am. They will be serving pancakes, French toast, sausages and drinks. Please join them in a celebration of this great accomplishment. This will be a free will donation. Congratulations KC's on your 25 years!

LAST CALL for Ascension's CUF Clothing Drive Fundraiser
Bagged clothing items should now be dropped off at the enclosed trailer in the church parking lot from **7 a.m. - 7 p.m. through Sunday, Sept. 24**. See the flyer in last week's bulletin for acceptable clothing and accessory items. No household items. ***

Be watching for details about a COFFEE fundraiser in conjunction with Elephant Joe's coffee truck. Orders for whole beans or ground coffee will be taken from Oct. 4 - Oct. 18. Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be on site Sunday, Oct. 29 from 8 a.m. - 11a.m. Thanks for your help in raising money for Ascension parish and our Faith Formation program. Ascension's CUF Council.

All are welcome to join St. Joseph Catholic Community at 8:15am on Tuesday, September 19th for a celebration of Mass along with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

1st Annual Sporting Clay Tournament Wednesday, September 20, 1:30-7 p.m., Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club, Prior Lake. Represent your parish and enjoy a good competition, at a premier facility, all for a great cause: Raising funds for the St. Joseph Business Guild! Register as a parish team of four or sign up individually (and be assigned to a team): \$700 per team, \$175 per individual! Sign-up includes 12-gauge shells, beer, and a catered supper! Multiple teams from a parish may sign up and to the victors will go a traveling trophy! **Register by September 14** at sjbusinessguild.com.

Call Me: A Catholic Young Adult's Guide to Dating, Discernment, and I Do. Monday, September 18 and 25, October 2, 9, and 16, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina, \$30. Hosted by Ashley Cermak and Kory LaCroix, Call Me will feature Ryan O'Hara and Pat and Kenna Millea of the Martin Center. Discover practical tips and advice on navigating the dating scene while staying true to your Catholic values. We'll explore topics like building healthy relationships, discerning God's call for your life, and preparing for the sacrament of marriage. Go to olgparish.org for more information and registration.

"We must know that we have been created for greater things, not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for diplomas and degrees, this work and that work. We have been created in order to love and be loved."

-St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Church of St. Bernard

Cologne, MN

Word of Life "Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance' (Lk 15:7)*."

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion"

Prayer for a Synodal Church

Prayer: Father, we want to walk together and with You, Father, we want to walk together and with You, is the "way" of being the Church of Jesus Christ, opening up horizons of hope and fulfilling the mission that He entrusts to us. We want to renew in the Church her evangelizing mission, today, to keep on offering women and men a way of being and living, in which everybody may feel included and protagonist. We specially ask You for the ecclesial groups and movements, may they rediscover their role in this Synod committing themselves to live in a listening attitude as a mission and proclamation. Amen.



September 17, 2023
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid owed me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn't forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren't we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus' parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: "Pay back what you owe!" He can't forget or let go of how he was wronged. He remembers — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It's natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus' mercy toward us and them, we're free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.— Father John Muir ©LPI

Mass Ministry Schedule—September 23-24

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Ann Dettmann	Tamara Lemmer	Doris Mielke
Servers	Hailey Stender & Payton Stender	Jayden Michels & Caleb Michels	Lily Starkey & Cohen Starkey
Reader	Colleen Donnay	Jean Schmitz	Rob Wickenhauser
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathleen Williams	Irene Yaeck	Victoria Arnst
Ushers	Eugene Dvorak Josh Gallus	Jeremy Friendshuh & Don Whitaker	Brian Vos & Bob Symantz
Greeters	Jeremy & Julie Gesinger	Grace Cook	Sarah Foley
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Theresa Hartmann & Pat Johnson	N/A

Mass Times Intentions

Monday	Sept. 18		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 19	6:15 pm	Ascension Pope Francis
Wednesday	Sept. 20	8:00 am	St. Bernard Elizabeth (Betty) Paul †
Thursday	Sept. 21	8:00 am	St. Bernard Janet Revering †
Friday	Sept. 22	8:00 am	Ascension All Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	Sept. 23	5:00 pm	Ascension Alice Enright †
Sunday	Sept. 24	8:00 am	Ascension Living and deceased members of the Brown-Braunwarth family
Sunday	Sept. 24	10:00am	St. Bernard Gilbert Rademacher †

Readings for the week of September 17, 2023

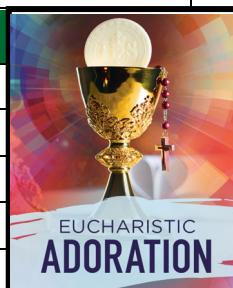
Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35 **Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk 7:1-10 **Tuesday:** 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17 **Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35 **Thursday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13 **Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3 **Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15 **Next Sunday:** Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Feast Days

Sept. 19—St. Januarius
Sept. 20—Sts. Andres Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions
Sept. 21—St. Matthew, Apostle
Sept. 23—St. Pius of Pietrecina (Padre Pio)

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



Eucharistic Adoration

Ascension

Every Tuesday
3:00 pm until 6:00 pm

St. Bernard

Every Wednesday
2:00 until 7:00 pm

Prayers For Our Children Prayer Group

Every Thursday 5:30pm-6:30pm – Ascension
All are welcome from neighboring Parishes

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	3,393.37
Contributions 08-30-2023 through 9-05-2023	2,483.75
Total Actual Collection YTD	29,023.25
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	(1,450.39)
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	260.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
Forward in Faith Total	528.00
Forward in Faith YTD	4,195.84

Did you know you can have your contributions automatically deducted from your checking or savings account?
For more information call the parish office 952-466-2031,

Ascension Weekly Collection Report

Totals as of 9/03/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,432.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	29,867.90
Actual Collection YTD:	26,294.65
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(3,573.25)

Capital Improvement Offering:	160.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	55.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	2,623.00
Sign up for electronic giving at ascensionnya.org Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.	