

# 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

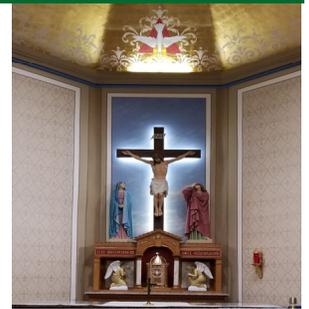
# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322

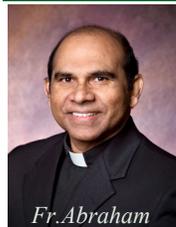


**Website:** AscensionNYA.org  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
busadmin@ascensionnya.org  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Sarah Smith...952-777-0111  
bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org

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



## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 23 & 24, 2023



Fr. Abraham

### Justice and Generosity of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the major themes running through the whole of the Old Testament and New Testament is that of justice. What is the justice of God? This is what the First Reading of this Sunday, from Isaiah reminds us of God's word: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways." (Isaiah 55: 8) And Jesus illustrates that principle in the parable of the hiring of workers for a vineyard. (Matthew 20:1-16)

This parable describes a vineyard owner going out several times during a day to get workers. He makes an agreement with each one of them for a just wage. At the end of the day, the steward is instructed to pay out the wages, "starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first". Those who had come in at the last hour and those who had been working since morning were paid with the same wage, as promised. So those who had been working since morning complained: "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us." Probably we also think that it is injustice.

This story of the landlord's love and generosity represents God's love and generosity to us. Jesus is not teaching a lesson in social justice through this parable. He is not proposing a new kind of a wage scale or labor relations. What Jesus is teaching is the infinite mercy and love of God for all people. The question in God's mind is not, "How much do these people deserve?" but, "How can I save them?" It is all about grace. It is mercy and grace that cannot be earned or merited even by a lifetime of hard work. Actually, the daily wage Jesus speaks about is salvation, God's own gift. Our work is to accept it gratefully and respond to it by fidelity to our own Christian life in whatever vocation God has called us to.

Before we side with the grumbling workers, it might help to remember our own situation. If God treated us justly, none of us would be rewarded. We have all been unfaithful to God in many ways. What we have earned from God is punishment. However, because God is generous rather than just, we all receive a full day's pay, even though we have not earned it. Hence, our challenge is to recognize and accept with gratitude God's amazing grace. We ought to be very grateful that we have a God whose justice is so different from ours.

God loves us as we are now. He does not keep an account book with accumulated credits and debts. The lifetime sinner can be converted on his deathbed. For the really sinful person, there is always the hope that he will come face to face with the love of God and, after a lifetime of wrongdoing, say a big yes to Jesus. This means that no matter how many times I fail, no matter how late in life I come to find Jesus, I am assured of the same welcome that the saints get. This is the justice of the shepherd who leaves the ninety nine sheep and looking for the lost one. This is the justice of the father who organizes a huge feast for the son that has squandered all his money, when nothing of that kind had ever been done by the dutiful son who stayed at home. If this is God's way of justice, it is clearly meant to be our way of justice also. We need to learn how, as God does, to see people as they are now and not constantly drag in their past behaviors. With the help of God, we can learn to understand and to follow his justice. Our ways can become his ways and our thoughts become his thoughts.

**Rosary Intention:** "For our Faith Formation students, their families and teachers."

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

Sun. Oct. 1st. 8-11AM Pancake Breakfast Ascension
Sat. Oct. 7th 3:00—8:00 PM "Soup Social" St. Bernard

THANK YOU to all who helped plan, coordinate, and volunteered at our annual joint church picnic on September 9th. The rain held off and it was a nice evening of food, fellowship, and faith!

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 THIS WEDNESDAY (the 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!

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.

Cor Jesu | National Eucharistic Revival -Friday, October 6, 8 p.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul. Join Catholics from around the Twin Cities and Christ Himself for an evening of adoration, worship, music and confession. Venerate first-class relics of St. Therèse and her parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin. St. Therèse is referred to as "the greatest saint of modern times," as her autobiography, Story of a Soul and her "little way" of trust and love has inspired millions. Her parents were canonized just in 2015, making them the first non-martyred spouses in the history of the Church. Go to archspm.org/cor-jesu for more information.



You Are Invited! Registration Is Now Open for the Magic & Miracles Gala!

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023 / 5:30pm Annual Gala at Golden Valley Country Club benefitting SouthWest Options for Women REGISTERING ONLINE IS EASY! GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: SWOPTIONSFORWOMEN.ORG BE AN EVENT SPONSOR: Sponsorship Includes: Table of 12, advertising, and two bottles of wine. RSVP by September 29, 2023 (After this date, or if you have questions, please call 952-395-6248)

"The happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist" -Pope Benedict XVI Beautiful Eucharist

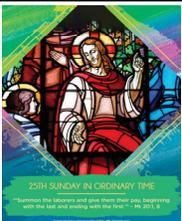
St. Bernard's "Soup Social" (formerly Chili Feed) and Cash Raffle is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 7th from 3 - 8pm. Dine-in or take out available. Extra Raffle tickets for cash prizes and quilt chances can be picked up at the table in the narthex. There is a box on the table to return your sold Raffle tickets, Quilt chances and money. Sign up sheets to help at the "Soup Social" are also on a table in the narthex. Come one and all and let's make the "SOUP SOCIAL" a huge success. Mass on the 7th will be at 5:00pm.

IS THE HONEYMOON OVER? It doesn't have to be! A Marriage Encounter weekend can rekindle the excitement and romance in your relationship. This is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Oct 6-8, 2023 in Buffalo, MN and Feb 9-11, 2024 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 <mailto:wmandbethnickles@hotmail.com> or 612-234-7440.

Word of Life "Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?' USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Every Suicide is Tragic"

Young Adult Evening Prayer—Young adults ages 18+ are invited to pray online together with other young adults and School Sisters of Notre Dame from across the U.S. and Canada on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. CT. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/9-26-23/.

From Lord's Supper to Adoration: The History of the Earliest Christian Eucharist Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate a ritual meal that marked the dawn of the Messianic Age. The earliest Christians continued this ritual meal, the Lord's Supper, in their house churches, now with the bread enacting the continuing presence of the resurrected Christ in their midst. How did the earliest Christians understand this "real presence" of Jesus Christ 1300 years before the doctrine of transubstantiation? Our journey will take us from Lord's Supper to present day Eucharistic Adoration. Sept. 28, presentation from 6:30pm-9pm, Pax Christi Catholic Community, Eden Prairie, MN. Free event. Registration is required: www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday, 320-363-3560 or theologyday@csbsju.edu.



September 24, 2023 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Once I gave my three-year-old niece a certain toy for Christmas. When she opened it, she was happy. Shortly thereafter her five-year old sister opened another present from me: the same toy, along with some play jewelry. The three-year-old cried out: "That's not fair! Why'd she get the jewelry, too?!"

Let's face it: there's something about God's grace in our religion which bugs us. We love to look at others' blessings and cry out: "That's not fair!" Catholicism is not fair in the sense that it is a religion founded on God's grace which is unmerited favor. God pours his mercy, love, and divine life upon us not because we're good but because He is infinitely good.

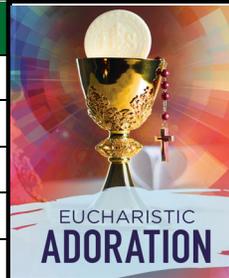
If you think the "not fair" quality of grace is easy to accept, consider how typically angry we get when we hear the parable of the workers who get paid way more than they deserve. The hyper-generous landowner says to the indignant hard workers, "Are you envious because I am generous?" Well, yes, they are, and so are we! Therefore, we have to reckon with this painful truth in order to move into the divine sphere of gifts, which is the world of Christ and his Church. Then we are able to move beyond a tit-for-tat world and into one where gifts are poured forth on those who don't deserve it — namely, upon us. — Father John Muir ©LPi

# Mass Ministry Schedule—September 30-October 1

Mass Ministry	Ascension Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Sherry Witte	Tamara Lemmer	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Caleb Michels & Gabriel Michels	Dan Worm & Lily Starkey
Reader	Brian Willems	Cheryl Coyle	Brenda Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathleen Williams	Kathy Kloempken	Meghan Stusynski
Ushers	Justin Buckentin & Tom Lano	Paul Lano & Steve Schrupp	Brian Vos & Leo Willems
Greeters	Sue Schultz	Steve Coyle	Casey Jones
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Steve Helget & Curt Wilson	N/A

## Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	Sept. 25		No Mass
Tuesday	Sept. 26 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	Respect for All Life
Wednesday	Sept. 27 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Gerald & Delora Meuleners ††
Thursday	Sept. 28 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Hilbert & Euella Knauer ††
Friday	Sept. 29 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Paul Simons †
Saturday	Sept. 30 <b>5:00 pm</b>	Ascension	All Parishioners
Sunday	Oct. 1 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	LeRoy E. Brown †
Sunday	Oct. 1 <b>10:00am</b>	St. Bernard	Gerald Mohrbacher †



### 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.

**Readings for the week of September 24, 2023**  
**Sunday:** Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a **Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18 **Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21 **Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6 **Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9 **Friday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51 **Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45 **Next Sunday:** Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

#### Feast Days

Sept. 26 — Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Sept. 27—St. Vincent de Paul

Sept. 28—Sts. Wenceslaus and Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

Sept. 29—Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and, Raphael

Sept. 30-St. Jerome

**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.**

### St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure

Budget for week	3,393.37
<b>Contributions 09-06-2023 through 9-12-2023</b>	<b>6,973.43</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	35,996.68
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>2,129.67</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>4,320.84</b>

**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 9/10/2023

<b>Weekly Operating Budget:</b>	\$ 2,986.79
<b>Weekly Envelopes/Plate:</b>	2,848.00
<b>Weekly E-Giving:</b>	650.00
<b>Collections Budget YTD:</b>	32,854.69
<b>Actual Collection YTD:</b>	<b>29,792.65</b>
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>(3,062.04)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Offering:</b>	120.00
<b>Capital Improvement-E-Giving:</b>	185.00
<b>Capital Improvement YTD:</b>	<b>2,928.00</b>

**Sign up** for electronic giving at [ascensionnya.org](http://ascensionnya.org) Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more information: 952-467-3351.