

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

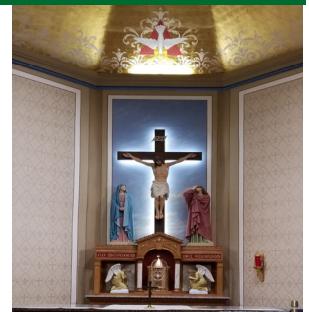
**PASTOR**

**Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI**  
OFFICE ..... 952-856-1050  
[frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org)



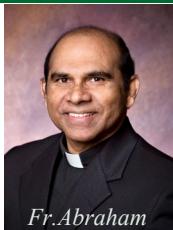
**Website:** [AscensionNYA.org](http://AscensionNYA.org)  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon.—Wed & Fri. 9am—2pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-467-3351  
**Business Administrator:**  
Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110  
[busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:**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

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



**Website:** [St-Bernard-Cologne.org](http://St-Bernard-Cologne.org)  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Tues 9am-2pm & Fri. 9am—12pm  
**Office Phone:** 952-466-2031  
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**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 14 & 15, 2023**



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During the month of October, we are reflecting on the subject of stewardship in a special way. Stewardship is a loving and faithful response to God's gifts to us. God alone is the owner. We are stewards of God. Everything we have is the gift of God. The Psalmist tells us beautifully about the reality of life and eternity. "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1). What a powerful word to remind us that everything in our world - nations, rulers, every one of us, our relationships, our wealth, our future -belong to the Lord. Everything that God has given to us is intended to serve the divine plan. "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10) Therefore, our life is to be lived in gratitude toward God. Stewardship is certainly more than a reflection on financial giving. It is our entire relationship with God. Stewardship is the way to live our lives by answering the call received in our baptism and realizing that all we have is gift from God. Stewards are asked to accept these gifts with grateful hearts, develop these gifts, and with a spirit of generosity, share them with others.

The Scriptures tell us that the person who is faithful in his stewardship has the assurance of God that all his needs will be provided in full. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus assures us that as long as we seek God's kingdom first he will take care of all our material needs. "But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." In Philippians 4:19 when the apostle Paul was praising the Philippian Christians for their good stewardship, he assures, "God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (second reading). This certainly is a wonderful assurance.

God promises to reward us for good stewardship. In the Parable of the Talents, we see the glorious rewards that were given to the faithful servants. The master said him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant..... Come, share your master's joy." (Matthew 25:21)

In addition to that, our heavenly rewards are described in today's first reading and in the gospel. In the first reading, Isaiah describes the Messianic banquet the Lord is preparing for his people and he will wipe away the tears from every face." (Isaiah 25: 6-10). In the Gospel, Jesus describes the banquet of heaven in the parable. This is obviously more than a story about a king and a banquet. It is the story of salvation history in which God sent prophets and finally his only son Jesus with Good News. Ever since we received baptism, we have been invited to the heavenly banquet, and provided with the wedding garment of sanctifying grace. These great privileges and blessings are freely given to us by a loving God. Hence, we must be prepared to offer ourselves in love and service to God and to his people. Receiving these gifts of God also demands that, we bear visible witness to our beliefs.

Stewardship offers us a way to put first things first. And while it includes our money, it goes way beyond that. God is not asking for our money; He is asking for our hearts.

During our Stewardship Renewal, we as a parish family are called to make God the first priority in our lives. We are called to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength, and show this love through the active participation in the Mass and other sacraments, and sharing our time, talent and treasure. Please prayerfully consider sharing generously your blessings for our parish family through the financial giving and through the various ministries. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to share the blessings with our parish family. May God bless you all.

**Rosary Intention:** "For all those who have asked us to pray for them."

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**

Sat Oct. 14th After 5:00pm Mass Anointing of the Sick @ Asc.  
 Sun Oct. 15th After 10am Mass-Anointing of the Sick @ St. Ber.  
 Sat. Oct. 21st 5:00 pm "Linger Longer after Mass @ St. Bernard  
 Sun Oct. 22nd 10:00am "Linger Longer after Mass @ St/ Bernard  
 Thurs., Oct.26th 6:30pm Set Leadership training @ St. Bernard

**Reminder that Ascension Cemetery plot pricing will be increasing \$100, November 1st. If you would like to purchase a plot at the current price, stop in to the parish office Monday-Thursday.**

**World Mission Sunday. Second collection next weekend.** The Society of the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and witness of the Mission Church, as It provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. Please be as generous as you are able.

The Faith Formation and Ascension COFFEE fundraiser, in conjunction with Elephant Joe's coffee truck, is currently going on! Last day to order is this Wednesday, October 18th. You can place an order with any Faith Formation student or call Pam Stoks at 952-240-5004. Each 12oz bag costs \$15 and \$5 of each bag goes back to Ascension CUF and Faith Formation. In addition to the coffee sale, Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be in the Ascension parking lot on Sunday, Oct. 29, 8:00 - 11 a.m. \* Stop by for one of their many delicious drink choices. \$1.00 from each drink will go back to Ascension CUF/Faith Formation. \* The CUF Council will also provide one free holiday cookie with each purchase from Elephant Joe's on Sunday, Oct. 29

**Spend the Day with the Women Doctors of the Church Retreat. Saturday, October 14th, at Church of St. Patrick, Edina.** Join with women from around the Archdiocese for a Women's Day Retreat to discuss the spirituality of the Four Women Doctors of the Church. Learn about these saintly Women and how we can relate to them as women in today's world. October is Pro-Life month and they are collecting needed items for SouthWest Options. See the Arschspm.org Events page for more information and to register.

**Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Morning of Reflection Saturday, November 4, 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Mound.** Join other Catholic women from across our Archdiocese with our Morning of Reflection. Speakers include Father Daniel Haugan: How to be a worker BEE in a busy BEE world and Bishop Michael Izen: Welcoming Jesus into our house and life as we prepare for Advent. Morning refreshments, vendors to shop from and Mass. Learn more and register at accwarchspm.org/morning-of-reflection.

"My Child, remember that the soul that loves Jesus speaks little and suffers much. I order you, in the name of Jesus, never to give your opinion unless asked, and never to hold onto your opinion, but to yield."

-Robert Cardinal Sarah –from his book *The Power of Silence*

**It's Respect Life Month!**

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Visit [respectlife.org/celebrate](http://respectlife.org/celebrate).

**PRAYERS** are requested for the repose of the soul of Roman Meuwissen who passed away on September 29th, his funeral was on Friday, October 6th at St. Bernard. May he rest in peace and may his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Pray also for Roman's family.

**THANK YOU-The "Soup Social" was a big success!**

We THANK all who donated soup, ingredients for the soup and Chili, items for the Bake sale/farmers market, Silent Auction Baskets and those who gave of their time to organize the "Soup Social" and who worked at the Social. And last but surely not least those who came to have a bowl of soup or chili, bought raffle tickets, purchased baked goods or garden produce and visited with family and friends. Thank you so much for your support. Raffle winners and financials will be in next weeks bulletin.

**Word of Life-** "O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations."

**USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**  
**"Prayer for Radical Solidarity"** ([respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity](http://respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity))



**October 15, 2023**

**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

I confess that I have a soft spot for the scary things Jesus says because they are usually ignored. But there's gold in them thar hills, if we have courage to look. This week Jesus gives us a terrifying warning in his parable about the king who gives a marriage feast for his son and promptly goes berserk when people don't respond. The point: those who do not properly respond to God's generous invitation will face totally devastating consequences. The invitees who don't show up get their city burned to the ground. The poor homeless man is tortured for not wearing the correct clothes. Scary indeed.

Is Jesus trying to intimidate or bully us into following him? No, because that is certainly not how he treats anyone in the Gospels. A better view is this: to Jesus, your life *matters*. The universe is not an empty wasteland where anything goes. It is a theater of love offered and either accepted or rejected. How easy it can be to glide through life thinking my life doesn't make a difference. But it does. It really does.

This should not only be sobering but exhilarating. The positive side of the negative in Jesus' scary parables is the thrill and joy that he is inviting us, therefore our lives matter a great deal. There *is* a reason to get up in the morning. God's generous love is relentlessly calling us. True, obstinately saying no through our indifference is a catastrophe for us and those around us. But how wonderful must the consequences of our 'yes' be? —Father John Muir ©LPi

## Mass Ministry Schedule—October 21 & 22

Mass Ministry	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00 pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00 am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00 am
Sacristan	Doris Mielke	Tamara Lemmer	Patricia Quinn
Servers	Marshall Panning & Logan :Pellegrino	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Kieran Allison & Buckley Jones
Reader	Judy Glander	Brian Willems	Helen Nicklaus
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernie Shambour (H) Carol Hoen (C) Volunteer C)	Steve Helget (H)	Julie Clemensen (H) Andy Kleindl (C) Meghan Stusynski (C)
Ushers	Ralph Laumann & Leo Willems	Eugene Dvorak & Josh Gallus	Tom Dahl & Bob Symantz
Greeters	Volunteer	Leo Pouliot	Victoria Amst
Homebound Ministers	N/A	Grp A: Volunteers	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

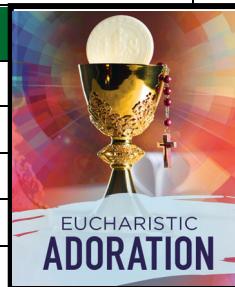
Monday	Oct. 16		No Mass
Tuesday	Oct. 17	6:15 pm	Ascension Charlie O Jean †
Wednesday	Oct. 18	8:00 am	St. Bernard Annette Revering †
Thursday	Oct. 19	8:00 am	St. Bernard Elizabeth (Betty) Paul †
Friday	Oct. 20	8:00 am	Ascension For the Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	Oct. 21	5:00 pm	St. Bernard Elizabeth (Betty) Paul † & All Parishioners
Sunday	Oct. 22	8:00 am	Ascension Alice Enright †
Sunday	Oct. 22	10:00am	St. Bernard Amalia (Bovy) Flipp †

**Readings for the week of October 15, 2023**  
**Sunday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (6cd)/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/ Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10  
**Monday:** Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 11:29-32  
**Tuesday:** Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41  
**Wednesday:** 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9  
**Thursday:** Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Lk 11:47-54  
**Friday:** Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7  
**Saturday:** Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-43/Lk 12:8-12  
**Next Sunday:** Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 (7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

#### Feast Days

Oct. 16 — St. Hedig, Stg. Margaret Mary Alacoque  
 Oct. 17—St. Ignatius of Antioch  
 Oct. 18—St. Luke  
 Oct. 19—Sts John de Brerbeuf & Isaac Jogues  
 Oct. 20—St. Paul of the Cross  
 Oct. 21—BVM

**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	2,903.68
<b>Contributions 09-27-2023 through 10-03-2023</b>	<b>4,047.30</b>
Total Actual Collection YTD	49,695.98
<b>Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget</b>	<b>6,138.55</b>
<b>Forward in Faith</b>	
Envelope Income	285.00
Electronic Donations	268.00
<b>Forward in Faith Total</b>	<b>553.00</b>
<b>Forward in Faith YTD</b>	<b>6,044.76</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 10/01/2023

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 2,986.79
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,165.00
Weekly E-Giving:	280.00
Collections Budget YTD:	41,815.06
Actual Collection YTD:	37,336.65
<b>Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:</b>	<b>(4,478.41)</b>

Capital Improvement Offering:	1,060.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	,35.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	4,468.00
<b>Sign up</b> for electronic giving at <a href="http://ascensionnya.org">ascensionnya.org</a>	
Under Links -> E-giving. Or call the parish office for more Information: 952-467-3351.	