



The Great Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes

Novena Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes.

This prayer should be said on each day of the Novena.

O most pure Virgin Mary, in the Grotto of Lourdes with life, sweetness and beauty, saying to the child, St. Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

And now, O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know our wants, our troubles, and our sufferings. Look upon us in your mercy.

Holy Mother of God, by appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors, and already many have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical.

Therefore, I come with strong confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain for me, O loving Mother, my prayer request.

(STATE YOUR REQUEST)

Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, so that we may one day share your glory.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon earth. You have the same influence now in Heaven. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God and obtain for us our special requests from your Divine Son, Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.



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When we are suffering with pain or illness, there is Jesus.
When we are feeling loneliness and self-pity, there is Jesus.
When we are surrounded by those who don't seem to care, there is Jesus.
Mary shows us that it is often in the experiences of life that we want to avoid, that Jesus is there to comfort us and help us through the experience of pain, loneliness and lack of care. Mary, through St. Bernadette, tells us again the story of where God is found – amidst our suffering and pain – there is God!

Christ came, through the Virgin Mary, to find those people who are lost. Jesus comes to tell us that He loves us – unconditionally!

This is the simple, yet powerful, “Message of Lourdes:
God loves us - UNCONDITIONALLY AND ALWAYS!

What Our Lady of Lourdes Said

The first time Mary spoke to Bernadette

On February 18th, during the third apparition, the Virgin Lady of Lourdes spoke to Bernadette for the first time. Our Lady of Lourdes said to her, “what I have to say to you does not have to be written down.”

What Mary is saying to Bernadette is that she wished to speak with Bernadette in a loving way, from Our Lady's heart to Bernadette's heart – person to person, woman to woman. From the very beginning of the apparitions, Bernadette was invited by Mary to open her heart to Our Lady's deep love.

The second time Our Lady of Lourdes spoke to Bernadette

The second statement of Our Lady of Lourdes to Bernadette was this, “Would you be so kind as to come here for fifteen days?”

Can you hear the respect and kindness in the Virgin Mary's voice?

Can you feel the gentleness and softness in Mary's request?

Bernadette was addressed with respect and kindness.

She immediately felt loved and respected as a person.

The story is relating to each of us, the respect and dignity we are owed and the respect and kindness we owe to others as human beings created and loved by God.

We are all worthy of love in the eyes of God.

The third time Our Lady of Lourdes spoke to Bernadette

Our Lady said: “I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other.” In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Sometimes we are confused as to what that means. As Jesus told Pilate, my Kingdom is not of this world.

Then where is it? What is it? Jesus told us many times, “God is Love, and whoever abides in Love, lives in God.”

“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name – I AM THERE.” Jesus is inviting us to discover “another world” - the Kingdom of God - within our world. This Kingdom is so often, as I said, where we don't want it to be, among the poor, the dirty, the outcast of society. Our Lady is pointing out to us that we will find God in many places – especially in places where we don't look for him! Like the cold, damp Grotto at Lourdes where the beautiful Virgin Mary appeared, and transformed what was ugly and abandoned into a beautiful spot of prayer and miracles.

Wherever there is love, God is present.

And her story ends

Bernadette suffered very much at the end of her life. She suffered from tuberculosis and developed abscesses in her ears, making her completely deaf. But if you didn't see her sore-ridden body, you would never know she was sick. Bernadette was always joyful and filled with God's grace and love for others.

Sister Death began to approach Bernadette during Holy Week of 1879. On April 16th, 1879 she asked her sisters in the community to pray the rosary with her.

Her story ends and ours continues

At the end of the last Hail Mary, Bernadette smiled as if she was again seeing Our Lady of Lourdes in the Grotto. Her last words were the conclusion of the Hail Mary: “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners...”

Bernadette Soubirous, saint, and special friend of Our Lady of Lourdes, went to meet the Virgin Mary at the end of her prayer.

Her body was placed in the small Chapel situated in the center of the convent's garden.

Bernadette was canonized on December 8th, 1933. We celebrate her feast day on the day she went to meet her beautiful friend, the Virgin Mary, April 16th.

Saint Bernadette's body can still be seen incorrupt in the convent chapel in the glass casket where she appears to be asleep. This wonderful woman has brought her story and message of the Virgin Mary to generations of believers and now rests in the arms of her dear friend, Our Lady of Lourdes.



continued on back