

Our Lady of Lourdes



BOBBY, SUE, BETTY, AND JERRY

3RD BLOCK

INTRO TO THE CATECHISM

Who was St. Bernadette?

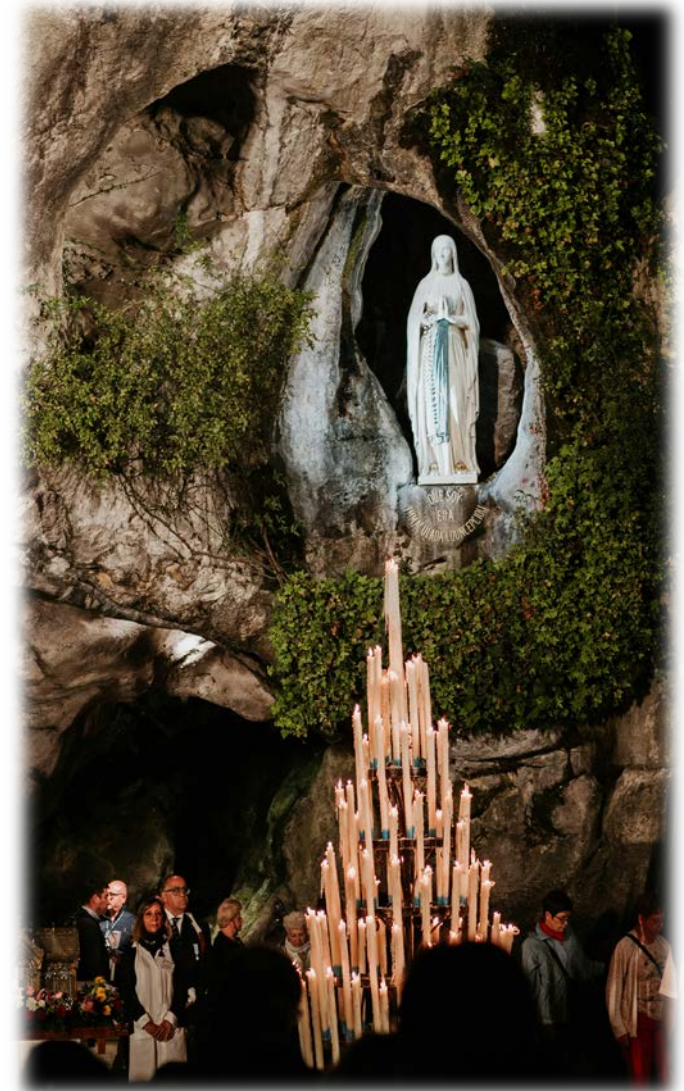
Bernadette Soubrious (January 7, 1844-April 16, 1879):

- lived in Lourdes, France (Pyrenees Mountains)
- from an impoverished but close-knit family
- was illiterate and uneducated in her faith life
- had strong personality but generous heart
- became a Sister of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers
- died of poor health at 35 years old



Overview

- St. Bernadette received the revelations of Our Lady in a grotto.
- No one else could see the visions she saw.
- St. Bernadette was mocked and many were skeptical.
- St. Bernadette stayed strong in her responsibility to share the messages.
- Due to the unusual experiences, local officials suppressed the apparitions.



Apparitions Begin

Feb. 11 1858

Grotto of Massabielle

- Bernadette, sister, and friend went looking for firewood to buy bread.
- At the stream, she heard wind, and looked up and saw the Blessed Mother.
- Mary was clothed in white, blue, a veil, yellow roses, and a Rosary
- Mary smiled at Bernadette and asked her to pray her Rosary



Continuing Apparitions



FEBRUARY

- 14: Bernadette sprinkles holy water at Our Lady; Mary smiles.
- 18: Our Lady request her to come for 15 days to pray
- 19: Bernadette brings her family to pray the Rosary
- 20: Mary teaches Bernadette a personal prayer and tells her to always to bring a candle to the grotto
- 21: Bernadette is questioned by police and examined by a doctor after story of the apparitions is made known.
- 23: Our Lady reveals a secret to Bernadette..
- 24: Our Lady asks for prayers of Penance.
- 25: The flowing spring of water "for sinners" appears at the grotto.
- More apparitions occur praying for penance and sinners.

MARCH

- 1: First healings at the grotto occur
- 2: Our Lady asks for a procession and a chapel to be built at the grotto
- 3-4: Our Lady refuses to reveal her name
- 25: Our Lady reveals she is the Immaculate Conception

APRIL

- 7: A flame of a candle burns through Bernadette's hands and they remain unscathed
- The grotto is closed and altar dismantled after this incident

Messages

The purpose of the apparitions are:

- penance and praying for sinners through the Rosary
- a focus on the Immaculate Conception
- to introduce the spring as a place of healing





*"I am the Immaculate
Conception."*

- Our Lady -

Investigation & Approval

Reports of revelations and healings quickly drew attention

- 1862: the Church confirmed authenticity of apparitions
- 1907: worldwide Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 1909 and 1919: St. Bernadette's body was exhumed twice and uncorrupted
- 1933: St. Bernadette canonized a saint



Healing & Hope: Impact

- Miraculous healings
- Spiritual renewal
- Devotion to prayer and the Rosary
- Pilgrimages to Lourdes occur
- Grottos made to duplicate Lourdes across the world



Our Thoughts

The apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette at Lourdes:

- are a symbol of hope and miracles
- serve as a source of renewal to pray.
- encourage us to pray the Rosary more.
- challenges us to believe God can do the impossible!



Works Cited

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