

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY ONE:

Leader: Mary Brings Light by Saying “Yes.” The Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, between February 11 and July 16, 1858, at the grotto of Massabielle, near Lourdes in France. She asked Bernadette to become her messenger, and to work, in her own way, for the conversion of sinners. She also asked her to establish a place of prayer and pilgrimage. Furthermore, at Lourdes Our Lady confirmed the dogma proclaimed four years earlier by Pope Pius IX: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Today, several million visitors, pilgrims, and sick people come annually, from all over the world, to pray to Our Lady of Lourdes, in order to obtain the grace of conversion and relief for their many trials.

The novena to Our Lady of Lourdes in France begins each year on February 3 and ends on February 11, the date of the first apparition. During these nine days of prayer, which we begin on February 2, we will remember the miracles that the Blessed Mother granted to Bernadette, who was the weakest, the poorest, the most innocent of witnesses, during her 18 apparitions. (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, light in the crevice of the rock. You have come to confirm your Immaculate Conception, to teach us to purify ourselves, to do penance, and to pray for sinners. You see our unending search for happiness, our wanderings, our pains and sufferings. Give us hope and joy.

In the cold and grey of winter, you brought the warmth, light and beauty of your presence. Mother all pure and full of goodness, help us with your love, your prayer and your example. Teach us to open ourselves to the love of the Father who never leaves his children alone, especially in pain and despair.

Lead us on the path of trust in Jesus, your Son, our gentle and merciful Saviour. Draw us closer to Him, so that He may bring us hope and healing, and guide us to eternal life. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. He came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. The Holy Spirit will come upon you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God, for nothing is impossible with God." Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) Where are the places in my life where I have known that God's favour is with me? (pause) How do I believe and ponder the invitation of God for me to give and share my life? (pause) What do I need more of, or less of, in order to say "yes" to God? (pause)



[*Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes*]

Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy; Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven; Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world; Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY TWO:

Leader: Mary Shares Life Because She Believes. February 11, 1858. Accompanied by her sister, Marie-Antoinette, and a friend, Jeanne Abadie, Bernadette goes to the forest of Massabielle, along the Gave de Pau stream, to collect bones and firewood. While the two other girls cross the icy waters of the stream, Bernadette kneels to recite the Angelus which has just rung in the bell tower. When finished, she takes off her stockings to cross the stream, only to hear a noise that sounds like a gust of wind. Raising her head toward the Massabielle Grotto, Bernadette sees, as she would later say, "...a Lady dressed in white: she was wearing a white dress and a white veil. She also wore a blue belt and had a yellow rose on each foot." Making the sign of the cross, Bernadette recites the rosary with the Lady. When the prayer is over, the Lady disappears.

Two days later, despite her parents forbidding it, Bernadette feels an inner calling to return to the Grotto. When Bernadette persists, her mother allows her to go. There at the Massabielle Grotto, Bernadette prays ten decades of the rosary before the same Lady appears once again. Having brought holy water from her parish church, Bernadette sprinkles some at the Lady's feet, to be sure that she comes from God. The Lady smiles and nods. But when the rosary is finished, she disappears. (pause) **Let us pray.**



All: Our Lady of Lourdes, Immaculate Virgin, I kneel before you to beg your grace. You know the hopes within my heart. Carry them to your Divine Son. You who came down to earth to bring the graces of this same Son, bless me with the grace to merit them. My confidence in your power is unshakable. With joy I cry out: "She is Immaculate, Holy Virgin of Massabielle! She is Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes! She who chose to come to us!"

Mother Most Pure, you revealed yourself to a simple child, ignorant of the ways of this world. Yet through this child, you reveal yourself to me. And for all the graces you bestowed on Bernadette, this child remained innocent and humble, satisfied with the promise of happiness, not in this world, but in the next. Grant me, too, a humble heart and a spirit of innocence, so that I may be worthy of the graces I seek. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) For what do I hope? (pause) In what ways do I need to have more hope? (pause) Who makes me cry out for joy? (pause) How can I give thanks for what I have been given and all that has been fulfilled in my life? (pause)

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God the Father of Heaven; Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world; Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY THREE:

Leader: Mary Gives Thanks for God's Justice and Mercy. February 20, 1858. The Lady teaches Bernadette a prayer in private. At the end of the apparition, Bernadette is filled with a great sadness.
(pause)

Sunday, February 21. Bernadette returns to the Massabielle Grotto, accompanied by 100 people. There she is questioned by Police Commissioner Jacomet. He asks her to tell him exactly who or what it is that she has seen. Bernadette can respond with only one word: "Aqhero," which means: "...That one." (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, Comforter of the afflicted, I kneel before you with a heavy heart. The burden of my sins oppresses me. The knowledge of my weakness discourages me. I am beset by fears and temptations of every sort. Is it because I am so attached to the things of this world that instead of longing for Heaven I am filled with dread? Must I tremble at the thought of my death?

O Blessed Mary, Mother of my Saviour, you see my sorrows and my pains. Stay with me always. And when my eyes are closed at last to this world, at the hour of my death, present me to your Divine Son. Blessed Mother, keep me always with you, and hold me close to your heart. Here in the shadow of the cross of your Son, I too have become "your child". O Mother Mary, through the merits of your Son, obtain for me, from Our Heavenly Father, the graces I seek in faith. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who love him from generation to generation. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) Where in my life do I seek and find God's mercy? (pause) Who are the people and what places and circumstances do I desire to be lifted up and be filled by God's compassion and help? (pause) How do my own soul and spirit magnify the Lord? (pause)



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God the Son, Redeemer of the world; Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
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Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY FOUR:

Leader: Mary Lives with Strength and Wisdom through Times of Suffering. February 23, 1858. Surrounded by 150 people, Bernadette returns to the Massabielle Grotto. The Lady appears to her, but reveals a secret known only to Bernadette. (pause)

February 24th. The Lady brings a message: “Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for sinners! Go and kiss the earth for the conversion of sinners!” (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, Mirror of Justice, we your wayward, erring children, join our unworthy prayers of praise and thanksgiving to those of the angels and saints – that the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity may be glorified in heaven and on earth. Immaculate Queen of Heaven, you looked down with love and mercy upon the pure and simple Bernadette. Look upon us today, we beseech you, that your love and mercy may be our comfort, hope, strength and consolation.

Immaculate Mary, Mother of God, You chose to appear in the Grotto of Massabielle, calling the world to prayer and penitence. Listen today to my supplications. Grant the graces I seek, that by coming to fruition, will glorify your Divine Son and lead to the salvation of my soul. Amen.



Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. When the time came for their purification, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus, Simeon took him in his arms, blessed them, and said to his mother Mary “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) What kinds of moments have brought strength and wisdom to my life? (pause) How have the words of others helped me to grow in knowing the blessing and favour of God on me? (pause) In times of suffering, how am I tempted? (pause) What is my deepest fear? (pause) My deepest refuge? (pause)

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Holy Mary; Pray for us.
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Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

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Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
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Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

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Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY FIVE:

Leader: Mary Treasures All in Her Heart. February 25, 1858. Surrounded now by 300 people, Bernadette recounts: "The Lady told me to go drink from the spring. But all I could find was a little muddy water." She tries to dig with her hands, and on the fourth try a spring of clean water begins to emerge, and Bernadette is able to drink. "The Lady also had me wash and eat some grass that was growing beside the spring," she declared. "Then the apparition ended, and I left." People in the crowd ask her, "Do you know we think you are crazy to be doing such things?" Bernadette only replies, "It is for sinners."

February 27th. Eight hundred people now surround the Massabielle Grotto. The apparition is silent, but Bernadette drinks from the spring, picks and washes some grass from beside it, and consumes it. This, she says, is for the forgiveness of sins. (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, fountain of grace, you give us a path to holiness: "Go, drink of the spring and be washed there." Mother most pure, take me by the hand and lead me to the spring – that there I may discover, may hear, may understand, in all clarity, purity, and truth, "the Word of the Kingdom of God," such as Jesus Himself revealed.

Loving Mother, I ask you to pray for my needs. You are the handmaid of the Lord. Intercede for me, that the Lord might give me your willing spirit, and help me to better follow Jesus. And may our Heavenly Father, through the merits of your Son, be pleased to grant me the graces I seek. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. When Jesus was twelve years old, he went up with his parents to Jerusalem, as usual, for the festival of Passover. When the festival was ended, he stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They went a day's journey before they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? We have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) In moments of worry or anger, what is my response? (pause) In these moments and other moments of not understanding, what am I being invited to acknowledge? (pause) And even in these difficult moments, what am I still being called to treasure? (pause) How is my heart being invited to trust in God, even more deeply? (pause)



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Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

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Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
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Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
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Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

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Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY SIX:

Leader: Mary Acts To Help Others. February 28, 1858. More than a thousand people now surround the Grotto at Massabielle. Bernadette prays, kisses the ground, and crawls on her knees as a sign of penance. Still suspicious of the poor and simple Bernadette's motives, and concerned about the ever-increasing number of pilgrims at Massabielle, once again the law attempts to question her. Bernadette is taken to the house of Judge Ribes, who threatens to put her in prison.

The next day, March 1st, the crowd of pilgrims swells to more than 1500 people. Among them, for the first time, is a Roman Catholic priest. That evening, a woman named Catherine Latapie, from the nearby town of Loubajac, goes to the Massabielle Grotto in the hope of finding relief from the pain and disability of a dislocated arm. Dipping her arm into the spring, Latapie's pain disappears – and all of her flexibility returns. This is the first reported miracle of healing through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. (pause) **Let us pray.**

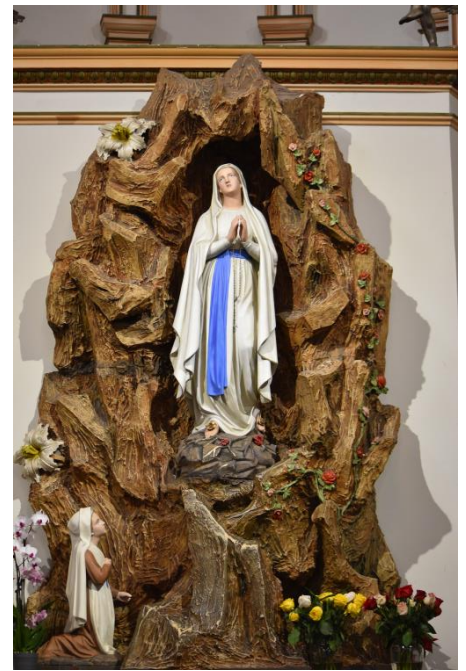
All: Our Lady of Lourdes, Glorious Mother of God, to you we raise our hearts and hands. We implore your powerful intercession, through the gracious heart of your Son, to grant what is necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare. O Lady of Massabielle, from the heights of your dignity look down upon us today, as you did so long ago on Bernadette, and grant us the graces we so earnestly seek.

O Mary Immaculate, health of the infirm, you who heal bodies to better heal souls, open your heart to the healing I seek. Merciful Virgin, whose name alone evokes miraculous cures, show me the strength of your power. Intercede for me and for all who trust in you, especially those dearest to me, whom I commend to your care. May you always be our comfort, hope, strength and consolation. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) How do I respond to need: in others and in myself? (pause) How is Mary a model in responding to the needs I see and experience? (pause) Where am I invited to respond by serving my brothers and sisters in need? (pause)



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Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
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Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY SEVEN:

Leader: Mary Is Mother and Disciple of the Lord. March 2, 1858. The crowd grows, more and more. In this, her 13th apparition, the Lady exhorts Bernadette to contact the Church: “Go and tell the priests to lead the people in procession to Massabielle, and have them build a chapel here.” Bernadette goes to her parish priest, Fr. Peyramale, and tells him of the Lady’s request. Fr. Peyramale is single-minded: “What is the Lady’s name?” He demands proof that she is real: “Let the wild roses of Massabielle Grotto bloom now, in the middle of winter.”

The next morning, Bernadette returns to the Grotto at 7:00, surrounded by 3000 people. The Lady does not appear! Bernadette then goes to school for the day, but she feels an inner calling from the Lady. When she goes to the Grotto after school, the Lady *does* appear, and, following Fr. Peyramale’s directions, Bernadette asks for her name. The Lady merely smiles in response. Fr. Peyramale is emphatic: “If the Lady really wants a chapel, have her say her name and make the wild rosebush of the Grotto blossom.” (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, support of the Church, protect our Holy Father the Pope. Always fill him with the light of the Holy Spirit, and assure him of my faithful love. May I always listen to his voice, and may he bring those who have strayed back to the heart of the Church.

Almighty God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, I humbly beseech you to bless me with health of mind and body. O Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, smile upon me as you did that day on Bernadette, and intercede for me, in the name of your Son, that the graces I now seek may be granted. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) Standing close by to the Lord, what does my heart want to tell Him? (pause) Standing close by to the Lord, what does He want to say to me? (pause) What is the joy and grace I need, in order to grow as a true sister, brother, and disciple of the Lord? (pause)



[*Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes*]

Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy; Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven; Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world; Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...

All: Pray for us.

Leader: St. Bernadette...

All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY EIGHT:

Leader: Mary Is Constant in Her Prayer and Presence. March 4, 1858. The ever-growing crowd at Massabielle now reaches nearly 8000 souls, all expecting to see a miracle by. The Lady appears to Bernadette, but only in silence. Fr. Peyramale is adamant in his demands. Bernadette no longer feels the Lady's inner call, so she stays away from the Massabielle Grotto for nearly three weeks. During that time, the local government fences off the Grotto and sets stiff penalties for those who break through.

Thursday, March 25th. Once again, Bernadette feels called to return to the Grotto, and does so under cover of darkness. The Lady reappears to her for more than an hour. Standing over the rosebush, the Lady speaks to her, but still no flowers bloom. Bernadette later recalls: "She raised her eyes to Heaven, her hands joined in prayer, and said to me, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.'" The young saint turns away and runs down the road, repeating the words she has just heard, but does not yet understand what they mean. Fr. Peyramale *does* understand, and this disturbs him to his core. Four years earlier, for the first time in the history of the Church, Pope Pius IX had bypassed the tradition of verifying dogma with scriptural proof, and declared that his belief in the Blessed Virgin's Immaculate Conception would be an official truth of the Roman Catholic faith. (pause) **Let us pray.**



All: O Immaculate Mother of God, you came from Heaven to reveal yourself to the lowly Bernadette in the barren Grotto of Massabielle. As she knelt at your feet, a miraculous spring burst forth, and millions have travelled there ever since – to kneel, to be consoled, to be refreshed, by the power of your grace.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Ever-Virgin Mother, in your maternal tenderness, you disclosed your name to the simple Saint Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception". Your sweet name invites me to trust, and brings me comfort. Mary, my sweet Mother, I have complete confidence in your powerful intercession with the Lord. Always be my help, O Immaculate Conception, and through the merits of your Son, let me obtain the graces I seek from our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. The Word of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) How do I live the gifts and invitations to build community: in my family, in my faith community, in my work, in my daily prayer and service? (pause) Whose presence brings joy and light to my life, and for whom am I most grateful? (pause) In what ways am I invited to be a presence to and with others, as Mary was? (pause)

[*Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes*]

Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy; Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven; Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world; Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray:

Grant us, your servants, we pray, Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body. By the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrows, and enjoy everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Lourdes...
All: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Bernadette...
All: Pray for us.

[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

DAY NINE:

Leader: Mary Is Present to Us at Lourdes – and Always. April 7, 1858. Two weeks have passed since the previous apparition. The Massabielle Grotto is still fenced off, but Bernadette knows the area well and returns in the dark, holding a lighted candle. Our Lady appears to her, and even though the candle burns down to the palm of Bernadette's hand, somehow her skin is not burned. This small miracle is immediately noted by a physician, one Doctor Douzous.

July 16, 1858. A palisade has now been erected to prevent all access to the Massabielle Grotto. Bernadette goes to pray on the opposite side of the Gave de Pau stream. "It seemed as if I was kneeling directly in front of the Grotto," she later says, "the same distance as before. But all I really could see was the Holy Virgin. She had never seemed to be so beautiful!" (pause) **Let us pray.**

All: Our Lady of Lourdes, Light of the morning, the power of your love fills the heart of your Son. To you I raise my heart and hands, imploring your powerful intercession, to obtain the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal well-being. Command, O Queen of Heaven, and you will be heard. See my poverty, my miseries, my fears – and have pity on me. Mother of goodness, draw with both hands from the fountain of heavenly blessings, and pour them over me – over all those who pray to you in faith.



Immaculate Mary, Mother of God, your deepest desire is to bring us to your Son, so that we might follow him more closely. When you appeared to the innocent Bernadette in the Grotto at Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where all people might receive God's healing gifts in body and spirit, and in this way meet Jesus, the Christ. O glorious Mother of God, as we conclude this Novena for the special graces we seek, we are filled with hope that your prayers on our behalf will be lovingly heard, and that we may one day share the union you enjoy with God in heaven. Amen.

Leader: A reading from the Book of Revelation. God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She bore a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One." The Word of the Lord.

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Please reflect in silence. (pause) Allow the depth of God's love for us, spoken at Lourdes in Mary's prayer, and revealed in Christ, to touch your heart. (pause) What grace and thanksgiving do you most wish to place in Our Lady's protection, with trust in God's tender mercy and love? (pause)

[*Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes*]

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Christ have mercy; Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy; Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us; Christ graciously hear us.
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God the Holy Spirit; Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God; Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary; Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God; Pray for us.

Mother of Christ; Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior; Pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, help of Christians; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, source of love; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the poor; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the handicapped; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of orphans; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all children; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of all nations; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, mother of the Church; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, friend of the lonely; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of those who mourn; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, shelter of the homeless; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, guide of travelers; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, strength of the weak; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, refuge of sinners; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the suffering; Pray for us.
Our Lady of Lourdes, help of the dying; Pray for us.

Queen of heaven; Pray for us.
Queen of peace; Pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; Spare us O Lord.
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[*Closing Hymn: "Immaculate Mary"*]