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THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES IN 2026–2027

SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES ANNOUNCES NATIONAL TOUR OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Lourdes, France / Miami, Florida – The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is pleased to announce the 2026–2027 United States Tour of the Relics of Saint Bernadette, bringing one of the most beloved saints of modern times to Catholic communities throughout America.

The pilgrimage will begin in September 2026 as the relics depart Lourdes, France, and travel to the United States. The national opening celebration is planned for September 18–20, 2026, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the largest Catholic church in North America.

Following the opening events in Washington, the relics will continue on a year-long pilgrimage across the United States, visiting approximately 140 locations through August 2027. Planned stops include cathedrals, basilicas, shrines, seminaries, Catholic universities, hospitals, and parishes dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette.

The relics tour seeks to bring the message of Lourdes to communities throughout the nation and to invite the faithful into a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through the witness of Saint Bernadette Soubirous.

In 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Bernadette in Lourdes, France. Since then, Lourdes has become one of the world's most important pilgrimage destinations, welcoming millions of pilgrims seeking prayer, healing, hope, and spiritual renewal.

The 2026–2027 tour builds upon the extraordinary response to the first United States pilgrimage of the relics in 2022, which welcomed hundreds of thousands of faithful at churches and shrines across the country.

This new national tour represents one of the most significant international pastoral initiatives ever undertaken by the Sanctuary of Lourdes.

The tour is being organized by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in collaboration with dedicated Catholic partners in the United States, including the Order of Malta and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, whose longstanding commitment to pilgrimage, hospitality, and service to the sick reflects the mission and spirit of Lourdes.

Together, these organizations seek to foster a deeper understanding of the message entrusted to Saint Bernadette and to strengthen connections between Catholic communities in the United States and the Sanctuary of Lourdes.

Throughout the tour, participants will have opportunities for veneration of the relics, Eucharistic celebrations, Marian devotions, catechetical presentations, prayer for the sick, and encounters with organizations that continue the mission of Lourdes through pilgrimage, hospitality, and service.

The pilgrimage is intended not simply as a devotional event but as an invitation to evangelization, renewal, healing and deeper communion with the universal Church.

In addition to bringing the relics of Saint Bernadette to communities across the nation, the Sanctuary hopes to encourage the formation of local Hospitalités and pilgrimage communities that will continue promoting the spirituality and mission of Lourdes long after the relics have departed. The long-term vision is to deepen the relationship between American Catholics and the Sanctuary while encouraging future pilgrimages to Lourdes, France.

"The message of Lourdes remains as relevant today as it was in 1858," said Father Jim Phalan, English speaking Chaplain for the Sanctuary. "Saint Bernadette's humility, faith, and trust in God continue to inspire people throughout the world. We are honored to bring her relics once again to the United States and invite countless individuals to experience the grace, healing, and hope associated with Lourdes."

Detailed schedules, participating dioceses, pilgrimage resources, and opportunities to support the mission of the tour will be announced in the coming months.

For information regarding hosting opportunities, sponsorships, media inquiries, or tour updates, please contact:

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About the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is one of the world's foremost Catholic pilgrimage destinations and one of the most significant places of pilgrimage for the sick. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, entrusting her with a message of prayer, penance, and hope that continues to inspire millions around the world. Since then, pilgrims from every continent have journeyed to Lourdes seeking healing, reconciliation, and a deeper encounter with Christ. More than a place of pilgrimage, Lourdes has become a universal sign of compassion and faith, welcoming countless men and women who entrust their suffering, illness, and deepest intentions

to God through the intercession of Our Lady. To date, 72 extraordinary healings have been officially recognized as miracles by the Catholic Church following rigorous medical and ecclesial investigation, making Lourdes one of the most remarkable pilgrimage sites in the world associated with documented miraculous healings. Through its mission of welcome, hospitality, and evangelization, the Sanctuary continues to proclaim the Gospel and the enduring message entrusted to Saint Bernadette.

About the About the St. Bernadette Relics Tour

The St. Bernadette Relics Tour is a national pilgrimage initiative organized by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. From September 2026 through August 2027, the relics of Saint Bernadette will visit approximately 140 Catholic churches, cathedrals, basilicas, shrines, seminaries, universities, hospitals, and other faith communities throughout the United States.

Inspired by the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes and the witness of Saint Bernadette Soubirous, the tour seeks to bring a message of faith, healing, hope, and spiritual renewal to communities across the nation. In collaboration with Catholic partners including the Order of Malta and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, the tour will provide opportunities for prayer, veneration, catechesis, and devotion while fostering lasting relationships between American Catholics and the Sanctuary of Lourdes.

For additional information, tour schedules, hosting opportunities, and sponsorship information, visit www.bernadette.usa@lourdes-france.com