LOURDES SANCTUAIRE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE



RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

U.S Tour 2026 / 2027



Reliquary of Saint Bernadette Soubirous
Created By **Maison Granda, Spain**





The Relics

On 18th April 1925, forty-six years after her death, the body of Bernadette SOUBIROUS was exhumed so that relics could be retrieved.

This mission was entrusted to Doctors COMTE and TALON. Doctor COMTE took the first samples from the body which "was of a soft and almost normal consistency", he wrote in 1928 in the Bulletin of the Medical Association at Our Lady of Lourdes.

On 14th June 1925, Pius XI proclaimed Bernadette SOUBIROUS "Blessed". Her body was then transferred to its current shrine in Nevers on 18th July 1925.

On **8th December 1933**, Pope Pius XI canonised Saint Bernadette, and her feast day is celebrated on 16th April in the United State.

The "Original Acts", preserved in the Archives of Nevers and written in Latin, indicate that taken for the relics were:

- A fragment of the 5th rib
- A fragment of the 6th rib
- The kneecaps
- A sample of muscle, from the external part of the right femur
- Lots of hair
- And various fragments which came from muscles and skin

The conservation and attribution of these relics were entrusted to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, under the vigilance of the Bishop of Nevers.

This relic was given, in the form of an ex-ossibus fragment, by the Sisters of Nevers, to various houses of their Congregation.

It is now in the reliquary made in Spain by the Maison Granda workshop. This reliquary was solemnly unveiled in Lourdes on **30th May 2019**.

Technical information





The Reliquary

Reliquary dimensions
Width: 17.5 inches
Length: 17.5 inches
Height: 38.6 inches
Weight: 132 pounds

Reliquary flight case
Width: 22.8 inches
Length: 22.8 inches
Height: 49.6 inches
Weight: 50.7 pounds

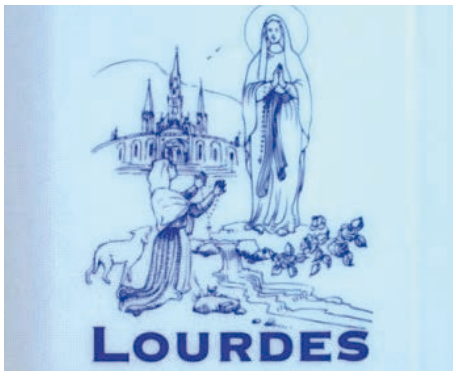


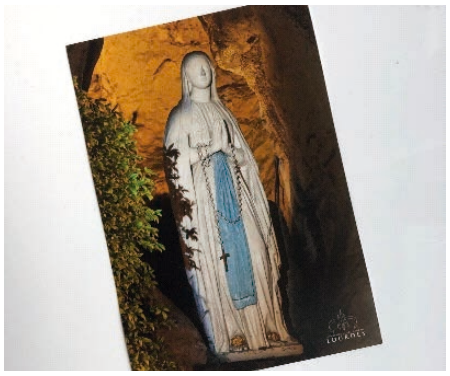
The Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes

Dimensions of the statue
Diameter: 16 inches
Height: 59.1 inches
Weight: 37.5 pounds

Statue flight case
Width: 18.9 inches
Length: 22.4 inches
Height: 66.9 inches







The Reliquary's Stretcher

Width: 31.5 inches
Length: 7 feet, 3 inches
Height: 13.8 inches
Weight: 50.7 pounds

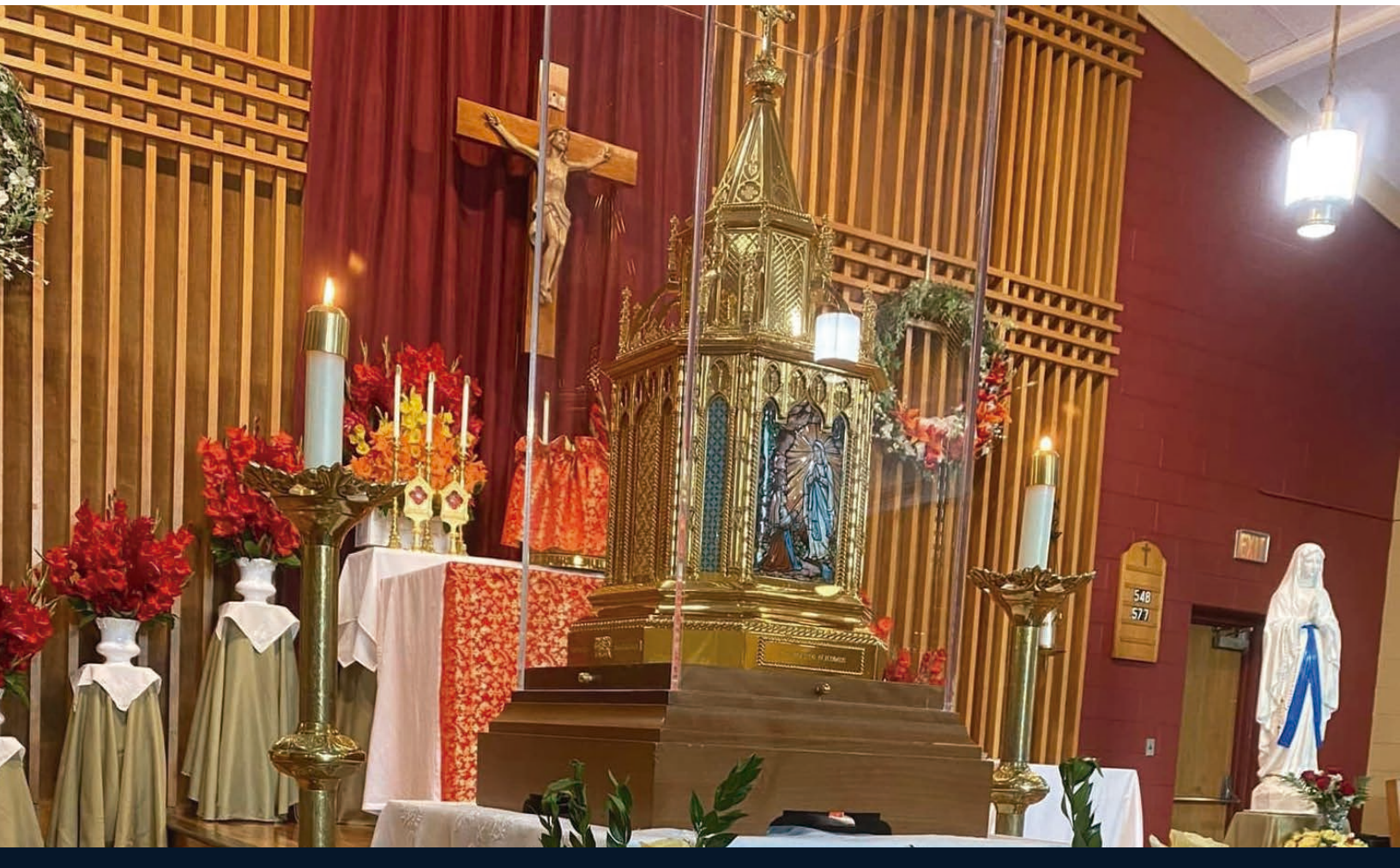
LOURDES Water

Containers of 10 litres
Width: 7.9 inches
Length: 7.5 inches
Height: 13.8 inches

Devotional image of Our Lady of Lourdes

Width: 3.5 inches
Height: 5 Inches


Lourdes Water
For Personal Blessing


EXIT

What to do before the visit of the Relics

Official request of the Relics of St Bernadette

Please fill the form online and attach the "Nulla Osta" from your local Bishop + the signed general agreement: www.bernadette-usa.lourdes-france.com/PEDING

Program creation

The programme for the reliquary's excursion should be decided in advance, and the Sanctuary can assist in its development. Once established, the programme must be sent to the Sanctuary for validation. For reasons of insurance and liability, full details of the places of celebration, transfers from one place to another, and the timetable, must be included.

In addition to the material preparation of the programme, special attention should be paid to its spiritual preparation. The Sanctuary has many documents available to help the organizer. (See The Pastoral Guide for the Relic Tour.)





Communication tools and requirements

The Sanctuary of Lourdes provides a communication guide and tools to prepare for an organized, efficient, and spiritually rewarding visit. As tools, the Sanctuary provides press release, photos, video, logos, etc...

The Sanctuary of Lourdes requires advertising the event to ensure as many of the faithful as possible can interact with the relics of St Bernadette:

- All hosting dioceses should advertise the visit of the relics, minimally in diocesan publications but also via email communications and social media, to the both the clergy and lay faithful of the diocese.
- Use logos of the Sanctuary of Lourdes in your communications.
- Provide short description and history of the Apparitions in Lourdes and of the Sanctuary of Lourdes in your communications and minimally on your diocese or parish website.
- Mention copyright when using a picture provided by Sanctuary of Lourdes: ©, Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pierre Vincent, do not reproduce without written authorization, do not use for commercial purpose.
- Each hosting diocese website should contain a link to the official United States website of the Sanctuary Our Lady of Lourdes www.bernadette-usa.lourdes-france.com



Insurance

Throughout the voyage, the reliquary is provided by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Sanctuary of Lourdes has contracted specific insurance for the voyage.

Each hosting diocese or Parish must send to the Sanctuary the planned program and the places where the relics will stay.

In the event of the disappearance of or damage to the reliquary in an unplanned or unspecified location, the insurance will be invalidated, and any costs incurred will be charged to the diocese that is hosting the reliquary.

Consequently, the reliquary cannot be taken to places other than those scheduled in the agreement with the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Expenditure in relation to the Relics

Insurance costs for the Reliquary will be covered by the Sanctuary of Lourdes. All other costs will be met by the hosting diocese: transport, accommodation for the driver, communication, logistics ...

The total cost of the transport of the Reliquary and the other items (statue OLOL, water, stretcher, ...) is divided by the number of dioceses receiving the relics.

The suggested offering by parish is $2,500 USD, depending on each parishes' or organizations' means.

Each diocese is free to organize good will collections or fundraisers to help them cover the cost.

Please send your offering to the following account and name the bank transfer as following:

"RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE + PARISH NAME"

Friends of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, Inc
11291 SW 142 Avenue, Miami, FL 33186 USA
EIN: 33-4976185

Bank:	Webster Bank
ABA Number:	221-970-443
Account Number:	4204780
Account Name:	Friends of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, Inc.



What to do during the visit of the Relics

The visit of the relics

It is up to the applicant to organize the pastoral program for the duration of the visit of Saint Bernadette's relics.

To facilitate this, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes can provide:

Pictures / prayers of the Virgin Mary and of Saint Bernadette

A presentation of the message of Lourdes

Leaflets from the Sanctuary of Lourdes

A practical information guide (this document)

A liturgy and celebrations guide:

- with the ritual and lectionary for the 2 masses: Saint Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes
- with the Marian Torchlight Procession
- with the ritual for the Water Gesture
- with the novena to Our Lady of Lourdes

A Communication guide and tools





Example of program

The Sanctuary of Lourdes is happy to assist with and offer resources to enhance the Diocesan Program for the Relic Tour of St Bernadette, to include

- Possible guest speakers
- Official video “Story of the Marian Apparitions in Lourdes”
- Video about the healing and miracles in Lourdes
- Catechetical Resources for School-age Children
- Video testimony of pilgrims: *My Lourdes Faith Journey* series, 9 previously aired episodes on EWTN.
- Information for making pilgrimage to Lourdes or serving the sick in Lourdes

Veneration of the reliquary

The veneration of the relics is by exposition. It is recommended that, as in Lourdes, any processions are made with the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and that the reliquary is left exposed inside the church. Any processions with the reliquary must be clearly indicated as such in the program sent to the Sanctuary.

LOURDES Water

It is recommended to use the Lourdes water to sprinkle the faithful due to the limited amount provided.

Security

During the veneration of the faithful, it is essential to leave someone guarding the reliquary and keep the reliquary in safe and secure places.

What to do after the visit of the Relics.

LOURDES Water

If you require more water after the visit of the relics, please order it directly from the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Please ensure that you only order from the Sanctuary as there are many fraudulent websites selling water. Commercial use of Lourdes water is strictly prohibited.

Communication after the visit of the Relics

Photos, videos, etc. taken during the visit (layout of the venues and the reliquary when it is exposed to the veneration of the faithful, masses, processions, vigils ...) should be sent to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes so that we can record the visit, celebrate it on our website, and share it with as many people as possible.

Please send them to bernadette.usa@lourdes-france.com

Feedback concerning the visit of the relics

The Sanctuary of Lourdes would like to hear about the visit of the relics to your diocese. We would be grateful for a report that shares the highlights of the visit and some of the graces received during the visit. We would also like to know how we can be of assistance to you in further developing the grace of Lourdes in your diocese and strengthening the ties that bind us.

Please send it to bernadette.usa@lourdes-france.com





Continue to live and receive the grace of Our Lady of Lourdes in your diocese

Here are a few suggestions to keep alive - and possibly extend - the spiritual fruits of the visit of the relics to your parish/diocese:

- Organize a Marian procession each 11 of February on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick
- Come to Lourdes on a pilgrimage
- Join the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes, The Family of Our Lady of Lourdes
- Create a Hospitality Our Lady of Lourdes in your diocese to serves the sick, poor, or suffering
  (Request A Call from Lourdes Brochure)



LOURDES
SANCTUAIRE

Contact:

Mrs. Toni Pallatto
Official Representative for the United States Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes

Father James Phalan, C.S.C
English Chaplain, Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mr. Claudio Croce
Official Representative for the United States Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes

(954) 697-6358 | bernadette.usa@lourdes-france.com