

LOURDES SANCTUAIRE

RELIQUARY OF SAINT BERNADETTE

Liturgy and Celebrations Guide | USA 2026 / 2027

bernadette-usa.lourdes-france.com

Introduction

Your parish, shrine, school, or institution has been invited to receive the relics of **Saint Bernadette of Lourdes** as part of the **St. Bernadette Relics Tour: Journey of Grace**. This sacred visit is a moment of prayer, encounter, and pilgrimage, offering the faithful an opportunity to draw near to Saint Bernadette and to reflect more deeply on the message of Lourdes: prayer, conversion, healing, and trust in God's mercy.

This **Liturgical Guide** has been prepared to assist each host location in planning the spiritual and liturgical elements of the relics visit. Because every community has its own pastoral needs, physical space, schedule, clergy availability, musical resources, and devotional traditions, the guide is intended to be **adaptable** rather than prescriptive.

Within these pages, you will find suggested prayers, liturgical options, devotional moments, readings, music considerations, and pastoral recommendations that may be selected and shaped according to your local environment. Hosts are encouraged to work closely with their pastor, rector, chaplain, liturgy team, and diocesan guidelines to create a prayerful, reverent, and welcoming experience for all who come to venerate the relics.

The visit of Saint Bernadette's relics is not only an event to be scheduled, but a grace to be received. May this guide help your community prepare well, welcome pilgrims with faith and hospitality, and enter more deeply into the enduring spiritual gift of Lourdes.

Example

A 1 day visit of St. Bernadette of Lourdes:

Novena to St. Bernadette, prayed before Mass each day leading up to arrival of the Relics.

Day 1

05:30PM Relics Welcoming Celebration: Escorted by Dames and Knights of Malta / Local order or volunteers - with Musical Accompaniment

06:00PM Mass, (gesture of Water, or touching the Rock can be organized during the mass before the Offertory) followed by Veneration of St. Bernadette Relics

06:00PM Private Confession available during / before or after the Mass until 7:30

Depending on the time available: Possibility of reciting the Rosary or organizing a catechesis session / conference on the message of Lourdes.

09:00 PM Candlelight Rosary or Candelight Procession (with relics &/or Statue)

Example

A 3 day visit of St. Bernadette of Lourdes:

Novena to St. Bernadette, prayed before Mass each day leading up to arrival of the Relics.

Day 1

05:30PM ___ Relics Welcoming Celebration: Escorted by Dames and Knights of Malta / Local order or volunteers - with Musical Accompaniment

06:00PM ___ Mass, followed by Veneration of St. Bernadette Relics

06:00PM ___ Private Confession available until 7:30

09:00PM ___ Candlelight Rosary or Candelight Procession (with relics &/or Statue)

Day 2

07:00AM ___ Private Confession available until 07:45 AM

08:00AM ___ Mass, followed by Veneration of St. Bernadette Relic

10:00AM ___ Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ / or Conference about the message of Lourdes, or Lourdes Video (45min) followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary

02:00PM ___ Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Anointing of the Sick

02:30PM ___ Lourdes Water Gesture

03:00PM ___ Stations of the Cross followed by the Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

06:00PM ___ Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ / or Conference about the message of Lourdes, or Lourdes Video (45min) followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

09:00PM ___ Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Candlelight Rosary or Procession

Day 3

07:00AM ___ Confession available

08:00AM ___ Mass, followed by Rosary and Veneration of St. Bernadette Relic

Noon ___ Relics Farewell Celebration/Departure: Escorted by Dames and Knights of Malta / local order or volunteers / With Musical Accompaniment

All of these elements are suggestions that can — and should — be adapted to your parish, the time available, and the charism of your community.

The Sanctuary of Lourdes recommends a solemn reception ceremony for the relics, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist and the opportunity for the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Novena to Saint Bernadette

(Say for nine days in preparation of the visit)

Dear Saint Bernadette, Chosen by Almighty God as a channel of His Graces andBlessings, and through your humble obedience to the requests of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, you gained for us the miraculous waters of spiritual and physical healing.

We implore you to listen to our pleading prayers that we may be healed of our spiritual and physical imperfections.

Place our petitions in the hands of our Holy Mother, Mary, so that She may place them at the feet of Her beloved Son, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that He may look on us with mercy and compassion. (Make Petition)

Help, O Dear Saint Bernadette, to follow your example, so that irrespective of our own pain and suffering, we may always be mindful of the needs of others, especially those whose sufferings are greater than ours.

As we await the Mercy of God, remind us to offer up our pain and suffering for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins and blasphemies of mankind.

Pray for Saint Bernadette, that like you, we may always be obedient to the will of Our Heavenly Father, and that through our prayers and humility we may bring consolation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary that have been so grievously wounded by our sins.

Holy Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, Pray for us. AMEN.

One Decade of the Rosary.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. (Say Three Times)

Liturgical Guide

Celebration to Welcome the Relics of Saint Bernadette Soubirous

People will experience the arrival of the Reliquary as the arrival of the Saint herself. It is important therefore that the clergy and the pilgrims can be present at this time.

Entrance procession - 4 valiant men for service (carrying the reliquary + 4 men for the Statue)

Hymn: Marian hymn of your choice (cf Hymnal)

Incense of the Relics

Welcome from the Bishop or the parish priest *(a few words about the relics tour / Lourdes) &/or:*

Reminder of the meaning of the veneration of the Relics

The Relics are the "mortal remains" of the saints which remind us of their human condition.

It was with their bodies that the Saints acted, prayed, worked, and suffered and experienced death. Now, through these tenuous and almost paltry signs, God wants to manifest his Presence and to unleash his power.

For it is He who acts through signs. As the Popes have often reminded us, the Relics of Saints are traces of the invisible but real presence that illuminates the darkness of the world, indicating that the Kingdom of God is within us. They cry out with us, "Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!" Today Saint Bernadette leads us to a meeting with Jesus.

Opening prayer

God, you open your kingdom to the little ones and to the humble,

Help us walk with confidence in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette Soubirous, and thus obtain the revelation of your glory. Through Jesus Christ.

Reading of the Word of God:

Matthew 11.25

At that time, Jesus answered, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight.

All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son, except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and he to whom the Son desires to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Litanies of Bernadette

(It is permissible to sing or recite a selection only)

Saint Saint Bernadette, ***pray for us***
Humble daughter of a miller, ***p…***
Eldest sister in the family

Poorest of the poor
Despair attracting light
Model of purity

Children's playmate
Strong and faithful friend
Fountain of joy

Obedient servant
Hardworking schoolgirl
Hungering for the Eucharist

Far from Lourdes
Denied her catechism
Faithful to the rosary

In Massabielle at the water's edge
Drawn in by the Wind of God
Wrapped in the sign of the Cross

Immersed in prayer
Engrossed in ecstasy
Heaven's smile

Invited for fifteen days
Happy in the other world
Heaven's Confidante

Drawn into the hollow of the rock
Visited eighteen times by the apparition
Twice deprived of a meeting

Praying for sinners
Committed to penance
Kneeling on the ground

Stooping to the mud
Guided to the Spring
Nourished with living water

Fed with wild herbs
Humiliated in the eyes of all
Living Image of the Passion

Sent to the priests
Messenger for the Chapel
The first in procession

Witness of the Immaculate Conception
Heart fashioned by Mary
Mirror of the Mother Most Pure

Burning candle of Jesus
Light for those who do not believe
Radiantly receiving the Bread of Life

Courageous before the judges
Surrounded by miracles
Followed by the crowds

Indifferent to praise
Averse to wealth
Faithful Child of Mary

Instrument of the Queen of Heaven
Sister Marie-Bernard
Treasure of Nevers

Hidden in the cloister
Humble sister among sisters
Given the mission of prayer

Buried in silence
Afflicted by pain
Servant of the Sick

Joy of those who return to God
Consolation for the injured
Comfort for pilgrims

Venerated by the Popes
Friend of the poor and the little ones
Sentinel of the unseen

Peasant wiser than the learned
Simple and transparent heart
Beloved little sister

Pray for us, Saint Bernadette.
- So that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Credo

« I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Angelus *(if the time is appropriate)*

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary…

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary…

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Closing prayer

Lord our God, you permitted Saint Bernadette to gaze upon the Immaculate Conception eighteen times, and then you called her to hide herself away in Nevers where her life was consumed with love for sinners. Give us her spirit of purity, simplicity, and penance so that we may walk with confidence in her footsteps, and by doing so secure the revelation of your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. - **Amen**.

Exit Procession:

Hymn Ave Maria of Lourdes *(or other Marian hymn).*

The Water Gesture

Introduction

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***R/ Amen.***

Dear friends, together we will take part in the water gesture that the Virgin Mary asked us to make.

The Spring

On 25th February 1858, during the ninth apparition, Our Lady of Lourdes entrusted these words to Bernadette Soubirous: "Go to the spring, drink and wash yourself there".

The "spring" is God the Father who gives us his own Son, Jesus Christ.

The "spring" is the person of Christ who gives himself to each of us: "if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37).

The "spring" is the person of the Holy Spirit: "but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

Drinking the Water

Drinking water from the Grotto and washing oneself with it means letting the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come to meet us.

Drinking water from the Grotto and washing oneself with it means asking the Lord to make us open to his Word and to the Sacraments of the Church, which are the source of life.

Drinking water from the Grotto and washing oneself with it means allowing ourselves to be transformed by the grace of conversion and allowing ourselves to be reconciled with God and our brothers.

Prayer of Saint Bernadette:
"O Jesus, give me I pray the bread of humility, the bread of obedience, the bread of charity, the bread of strength to break my will, and make it one with yours, the bread of patience to bear the pain my heart endures, the bread to see you and you alone in all things and always, the bread of interior mortification, the bread of detachment from creatures. O Jesus, You want me to be crucified, fiat. Jesus, Mary, the Cross, I want no other friends but these." Amen

The Water Gesture

Everyone receives a little water in the palm of their hand, drinks it and then washes their face, as we sing a hymn to the Virgin Mary. OR: The priest blesses people sprinkling water on them while we sing a hymn to the Virgin Mary.

Anointing of the Sick

During Mass – After the Homily

Before the Ascension, Jesus reassures us saying, “and I am with you always until the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20).

In the same way that Christ did, the Church considers that part of its mission is to support people affected by illness. Since the Apostles, she has assumed the same kindness that Jesus demonstrated towards the sick.

The anointing that we are going to celebrate now is a sacrament, a gift from God for a baptised people who are going through a difficult stage in an illness, a disability or old age, so that they may be strengthened in their faith, hope and charity.

Invocations

To each invocation we respond – Amen!

- Lord, look kindly on the sick who are going to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. May Your Love come to visit them and strengthen them. **R/. Amen**
- Give them Peace and Joy. **R/. Amen**
- Relieve their suffering. Restore them to health. **R/. Amen**
- Give them courage and strength in their trials. **R/. Amen**
- Fill their hearts with confidence in Your Goodness and in the Eternal Life where You come to meet us. **R/. Amen**.

The Laying on of Hands

Lord Jesus, you told your apostles to lay hands on the sick. Hear our prayer for these sick, grant them relief, peace, joy, and salvation.

In silence, the Priest lays his hands on the sick.

Anointing

Then the priest takes the Oil of the Sick and anoints the forehead and then the hands of each sick person, saying:

– N. through this holy anointing, may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. **R/. Amen**.

– May the Lord, Who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up. **R/. Amen**.

Marian Candlelight Procession

The celebrant begins with the sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father and of Son and of the Holy Spirit. **R/ Amen.**

Celebrant: **Credo** (may be sung)

Celebrant: Prayer for pope's intentions: With common faith, let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Leo, for his intentions and the intentions of the whole Church.

Our Father Who art in Heaven…
/ Hail Mary (3 times) /

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. (or the sung Gloria in Latin)

Mysteries by day:

- Sorrowful Mysteries – Tuesday and Friday
- Joyful Mystery – Monday and Saturday
- Luminous Mystery – Thursday
- Glorious Mystery – Wednesday and Sunday

The procession takes place while reciting the Rosary of the day; the decades are interspersed with the singing of the Lourdes Ave Maria. During the Ave, the faithful raise their processional candles towards Heaven.

Final Hymn: **Salve Regina**

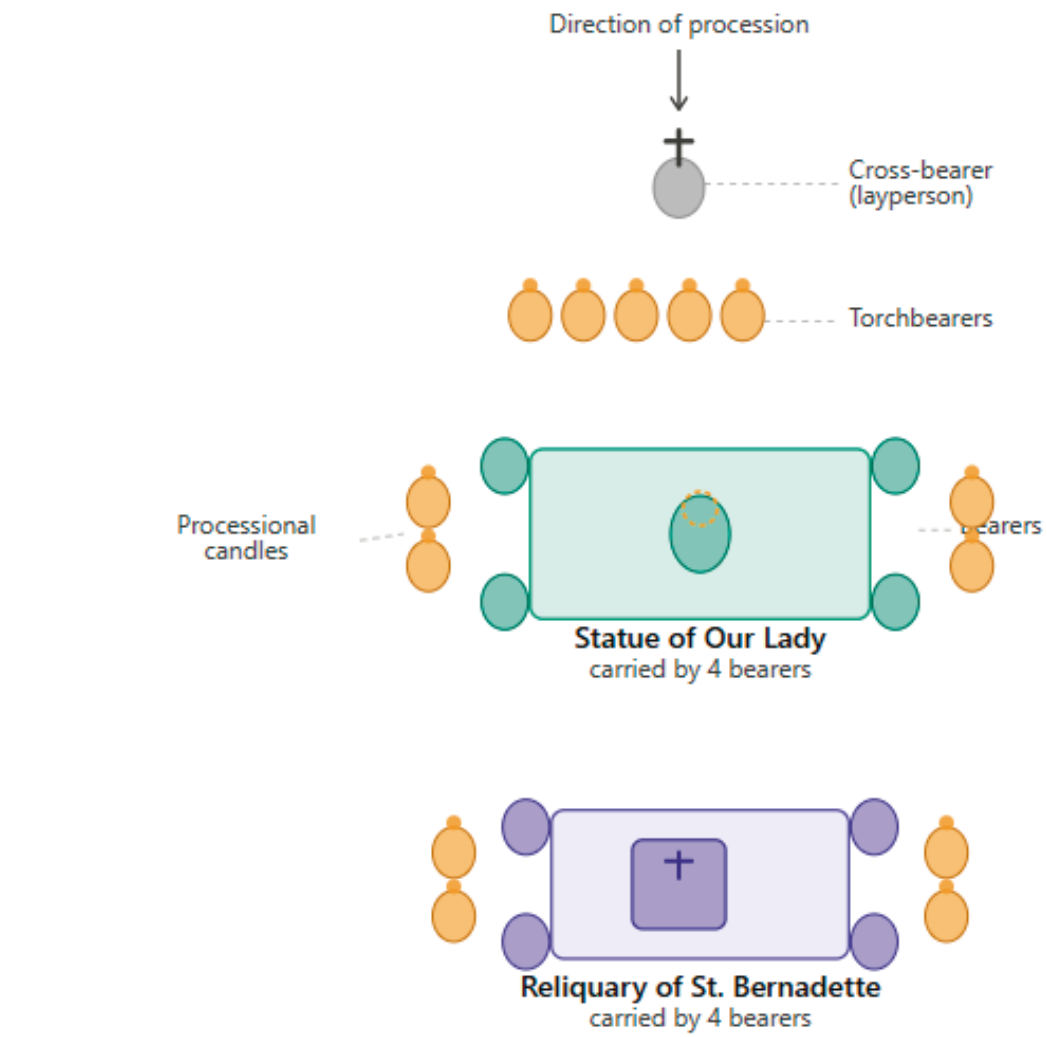
Our Lady of Lourdes. **R/ Pray for us (x3)**
Saint Bernadette. **R/ Pray for us**

Guidelines:

Below is a suggested outline for organizing the processions. These may be arranged differently depending on the space available and the number of volunteers (a candlelight Rosary can also be arranged).

The reliquary may also be carried in procession; however, in the event of insufficient volunteers, priority should be given to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Likewise, candles or devotional lights are secondary to the Processional Cross. The cross-bearer role is essential as he is the one guiding the whole Procession, thus the person should be chosen carefully.

In view of the weight and the precious nature of the statue and the reliquary, it is essential that the role of bearers be entrusted to fit and able-bodied men.


Direction of procession
Cross-bearer
(layperson)
Torchbearers
Processional
candles
Statue of Our Lady
carried by 4 bearers
Reliquary of St. Bernadette
carried by 4 bearers
Legend
Layperson
Bearer
Torchb.
Reliq.
Statue
Clergy
The Faithful — by ecclesiastical order
① Clergy (bishops, priests, deacons)
② Religious orders (monks, sisters, friars)
③ Third orders & secular institutes (Franciscan, Dominican...)
④ Archconfraternities (highest lay rank)
⑤ Confraternities (e.g. Confraternity of the Rosary)
⑥ Pious associations & sodalities (scapular, etc.)
⑦ Lay faithful

Farewell Celebration of the Relics

At the end of those days during which Saint Bernadette came to visit us, we give thanks for her presence among us.

Celebrant: In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **R/ Amen**

Prayer:

Dear Saint Bernadette, you were chosen by Almighty God as a channel of His graces and blessings, and through your humble obedience to the requests of Our Blessed Mother Mary, you gained for us the miraculous waters of Spiritual and physical healing.

We still implore you to listen to our pleading prayers that we may be healed of our Spiritual and physical imperfections.

St Bernadette, place our petition in the hands of our Holy Mother Mary, so that she may place them at the feet of her beloved Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and He may look on us with mercy and compassion.

Help us, O Dear Saint Bernadette to follow your example, so that irrespective of our own pain and suffering we may always be mindful of the needs of others, especially those whose sufferings are greater than ours.

As we await the Mercy of God, remind us to offer up our pain and suffering for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins and blasphemies of mankind.

Holy Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen.

Final Prayer

Father of Mercy, Through the Incarnation of your Son Jesus, you dwell among us. Through the Power of the Holy Spirit, through the Yes of the Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, you gave the Messiah to the World.

- For the visit of the relics of Saint Bernadette, with Mary, we praise you.
- For the apparitions of the Immaculate Conception to Bernadette, we bless you.
- For all those who have come to the reliquary of Saint Bernadette in an action of faith and hope, we glorify you.

Deign to answer the prayers they have put before you through the intercession of Saint Bernadette, and may Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, lead us to her Son. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. R/ Amen

God, who opens your kingdom to the little ones and the humble, grant that we may walk with confidence in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette Soubirous, and by doing so secure the revelation of your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. R/ Amen

LOURDES
SANCTUAIRE

Contact

Father James Phalan
English Chaplain

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

+1 954 697 6358
bernadette.usa@lourdes-france.com

For more information about the **2026-27 US Relics Tour of St. Bernadette** visit:

www.stbernadetteusa.org