

The Hymn of Lourdes

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

O Mary, our Mother we come to this place
where you who are sinless appeared full of grace. Ave...

As Bernadette waited there came to her sight
a radiant Lady surrounded by light. Ave...

She gave her a message: "let penance be done,
and pray that all sinners may turn to my son." Ave...

"Come here in procession to praise God and sing,
to wash in these waters and drink at this spring." Ave...

She asked that a chapel be built in this place,
that all be encouraged to pray for God's grace. Ave...

The Lady responded when asked for her name:
"conceived without sin is the title I claim."

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

Novena in Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette

Prayers to be said everyday:

O Lord, we believe in Thee.
O Lord, we adore Thee.
O Lord, we hope in Thee.
O Lord, we love Thee.
Mother of Our Savior, pray for us.
Mother most pure, pray for us.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Hail Mary

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Thou art my Lord and my God.
Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David.
Mother of Jesus, pray for us.
Mother of divine grace, pray for us.
Refuge of sinners, pray for us.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Hail Mary

O Lord, we believe, but do Thou help our unbelief.
Thou art the Resurrection and the Life.
Lord, save us, we perish.
Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on us.
Virgin, most powerful, pray for us.
Virgin most merciful, pray for us.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Hail Mary

Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me whole.
Lord, say only the word and I shall be healed.
Jesus who hast loved us so much, have mercy on us.
Jesus meek and humble of heart, have mercy on us.
Help of Christians, pray for us.
Health of the sick, pray for us.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Hail Mary

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Father of the Poor, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Comforter of the afflicted, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Our Refuge, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.
Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Hail Mary

Prayers to be said everyday (continued):

Prayer to Saint Bernadette

O Saint Bernadette, pure and simple child, thou who wast privileged to behold the beauty of Mary Immaculate and to be the recipient of her confidence eighteen times at Lourdes; thou who didst desire thenceforth to hide thyself in the cloister of Nevers and there live and die as a victim of sinners, obtain for us that spirit of purity, simplicity, and mortification, which will lead us also to the glorious vision of God and of Mary in Heaven, Amen.

Favorite Prayers of Saint Bernadette

My Dear Mother, make me prove my love for Jesus as thou didst by the acceptance of all that it may please Him to send me.

O, Mother, in thy Heart, I come to bury my anguish and to seek strength and courage.

O, Mother, may my heart be hidden in thine and have no other love but the good pleasure of my Divine Master.

O, Mother, come to my aid, grant me the grace to die to myself, so that I may no longer live except through and for my sweet Jesus.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother. To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence, to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the granting of my requests. I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.

Eighth Day (continued)

Teach us also to be faithful in visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Christ was the object of your thoughts and affections during all the happy years you dwelt with Him at Nazareth. The same Christ now dwells in our midst. May we be thoughtful enough to spend at least a few minutes with Him every day. Nothing will please you more than to see us devoted to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Again, O Virgin Mary, we call on you to intercede for us with Jesus that He may deign to answer our prayers. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Saint Bernadette, many years of your life were spent in loving and serving Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Encourage us by the assistance of your prayers to be true lovers of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Ninth Day

Dear Lady of Lourdes, today we bring to a close the Novena in your honor. The past nine days of prayer have been a source of happiness and consolation for us all. It has been a joy for us to come each day to pay our humble tribute of love and devotion to Jesus, to you His Blessed Mother, and to Saint Bernadette. We feel strengthened and improved spiritually as a result of these days of prayer.

But, Mary, we want the graces and blessings of this Novena to continue with us in the future. We want to keep our love and devotion fervent and strong in the weeks and months to come. But, when we think of our weakness and instability, we are frightened. On this last day of the Novena, therefore, we beg of you with all our heart to protect us and help us to persevere in loving Jesus, and you, His Immaculate Mother. When temptation begins to take hold on us and we begin to waver in our fidelity, then come quickly to our assistance.

Blessed Lady, we have implored the help of your powerful intercession every day during this Novena. Now, at its conclusion, we again make known to you our needs. *[Here mention your intentions]* We ask you to continue to plead for us before the throne of your Divine Son. With confidence, we leave our petitions in your keeping, for we know that no one ever sought your aid in vain.

Saint Bernadette, accompany us during life with the protection and assistance of your prayers. May we learn from you to be humble and pure and obedient always to God's holy will.

Novena texts taken from The Catholic Family Book of Novenas. New York: John J. Crawley and Co., Inc., 1956.

Sixth Day (continued)

Saint Bernadette, like Mary, your chief desire was to do the will of God. By obedience to His holy will in little things, as well as in those of importance, you reached the heights of holiness. Assist us by your prayers to walk in this way which leads to true sanctity.

Seventh Day

“I am the Immaculate Conception.” O Immaculate Virgin Mary, you were enriched with all the treasures of divine grace. Of all human creatures you alone were preserved free from the stain of original sin. And during the course of your life no actual sin ever tarnished the beauty of your soul.

Not only was your soul free from sin; but it was also radiant with all the splendor of sanctifying grace from the moment of its existence.

Into our souls also this glorious life of sanctifying grace was infused on the day of our Baptism. But through neglect of prayer and the sacraments we have hindered its growth and development and by our sins we have weakened, or worse still, destroyed it.

O Immaculate Mother, awaken in our souls a spirit of true and perfect contrition for all the sins of our life. Too long have we abused this divine life of sanctifying grace.

Today we renew our baptismal promises to renounce Satan: his work and his pomps. We shall strive in the future to avoid every willful sin and all near occasions of sin.

Teach us, Mary, to realize and appreciate what a wonderful treasure is ours in the possession of sanctifying grace which makes us sharers in the very life of Christ. May no temptation be ever so strong that it will cause us to lose this divine life or mar its beauty by the commission of sin.

Immaculate Virgin, beautiful Lady of Lourdes, make known again to Jesus all the temporal and spiritual needs of us poor sinners. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Saint Bernadette, faithful imitator of the Immaculate Virgin, help us to be pure in thought, in word and in deed.

Eighth Day

Each year, O Blessed Lady, thousands of Masses are offered and a million pilgrims honor Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at your wonderful shrine of Lourdes. Everyday at Lourdes Jesus is carried in solemn procession among the sick and infirm, some of whom He cures, all of whom He blesses. All alike sing out His divine praises.

How beautiful and fitting that Jesus should be thus honored at the hallowed shrine of His Blessed Mother. Mary, we know that this is your own wish, for you told little Bernadette that you wanted a Basilica erected on this spot. Your most cherished desire is to draw souls close to Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Mary, you who rejoice in the celebration of so many Masses each day at Lourdes, give us a greater love and a keener appreciation of the Mass. We must bring our selves to realize that, through the Mass, we give the greatest possible honor to God and to you; and, in the Mass, we possess the best and surest means of sanctification.

First Day

Holy Mary, Immaculate Mother of God we have come to you during this Novena under your beautiful title of Our Lady of Lourdes. In preparation for your feast we want to persevere with you in prayer during the days of this Novena. Mary, we need your help and protecting care. In the spiritual and material struggle of life, in the thick of temptation, in the trying hours of worry and affliction, we need you to console and strengthen us.

During these days of special grace, therefore we want to enkindle anew our love for you and our devotion to you so that we may experience the blessings of your tender love. Abide with us, dearest Mother during these days and draw us close to your Immaculate Heart. Keep us united to you in thought and affection. Allow no care or distraction to take our mind and heart from you for we want to spend these days with you in prayer.

Intercede for us with Christ your Divine Son and obtain for us the favors we ask in this Novena. *[Here mention your intention]*

Saint Bernadette, humble child of Jesus and Mary join with us in asking Jesus and Mary to bless us and to answer our prayers during these blessed days.

Second Day

“We have not here an abiding city, but seek one that is to come.” Mary, this is the lesson we find so hard to learn. We know that one day this life, with all its temptations and all its hardships, will end. We realize, too, that Christ, your Divine Son, has promised a reward exceeding great to those who, with resignation to His Blessed Will, bear the difficulties of life.

But we are so weak! Too readily we succumb to temptation, too easily we give in to discouragement.

O, Blessed Lady, help us to be strong and to persevere in the love and friendship of God. Bolster up our wavering spirits whenever temptation threatens us; encourage us whenever things go wrong.

Lead us to Jesus, your Divine Son, and make known to Him our wants. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Saint Bernadette, you had trials and difficulties to endure here on earth. But in your troubles you relied upon the assistance of Jesus and Mary. Help us also to have faith and confidence in Christ and His Blessed Mother, in all the trials and troubles of life.

Third Day

With confidence, we have recourse to you, Blessed Lady of Lourdes, in our sincere desire to lead a life free from sin. Many times in the past, Christ in His mercy has pardoned us our sins, but many times we have fallen again and offended Him anew. It is sin that keeps us from becoming more perfect and Christlike, because sin injures the life of God's grace in our souls.

Blessed Mother, help us to avoid every willful occasion of sin and assist us in times of temptation. We want to have done with sin forever, so that we may live from day to day in the intimate love and friendship of Christ. May we learn to follow your example and rid our hearts of all sinful affections and thus become more securely attached to Jesus.

Mary, obtain for all poor sinners the grace of conversion, so that they may return to the blessed life of sanctifying grace.

And now, we entreat you once again to make known to your Divine Son the graces, both spiritual and material, of which we stand in need, and for which we are praying in this Novena. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Saint Bernadette, obedient child of Jesus and Mary, add your powerful and efficacious prayers to our humble and heartfelt petitions.

Fourth Day

Sweet Lady of Lourdes, you were our Lord's humble handmaid. Though the most privileged of God's creatures, you were, nevertheless, the most humble. This virtue endeared you to Christ, Who loves those who are humble and bestows on them His greatest graces.

Our Savior not only exhorts, but commands, us to be humble. He warns us that He rejects the proud and gives His blessings to the humble.

We realize that we have every reason to be humble. All that we are and have, we owe to the goodness and mercy of God. To Him we are indebted for our life, our talents and our possessions. We are further indebted to Him because of our sins.

Moreover, life is very short; life is very uncertain, and all things in this world quickly pass away. Why then should we be proud?

And yet, how difficult it is for us to be humble. We are so easily moved to envy and jealousy, resentment and even revenge, because we have not cultivated sufficiently the virtue of humility.

Our prayers, too, are less fervent and our reception of the sacraments is less fruitful when these acts are not performed with a truly humble spirit.

With a humble and contrite spirit, O Blessed Lady of Lourdes, we now ask the assistance of your intercession in seeking Christ the answer to our petitions. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Humble child of God, Saint Bernadette, you resembled Mary, your heavenly Mother, in the practice of humility. Pray for us that we, too, may have the strength of will to be always truly humble.

Fifth Day

Through you, O Blessed Lady of Lourdes, we want to thank Almighty God for the priceless gift of faith which He has bestowed upon us. We believe in Jesus Christ, and we accept all His divine teachings. But this wonderful gift is not the result of our own efforts or merits, but of God's generosity. Great, indeed, then is our privilege. We are truly God's elect.

"But to whom much is given, much will be required." God expects that we who know Jesus Christ should love and obey Him; that we who believe His doctrines should live by them. Our lives should be detached to a great extent from the things of earth and time and occupied with the things of Christ and eternity.

Mary, you were called blessed because you believed and lived by faith. Help us to follow in your footsteps. There is need of faith today when men are so material and when unbelief is threatening the security of the world. Do not permit us to be infected by this awful wave of infidelity.

Today we make a renewal of our belief in Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God and the Savior of mankind. With Saint Peter, we say to Jesus: "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mary, obtain from your Son the blessed light of faith for all who are living in the dismal darkness of unbelief or in the bewildering shadows of doubt and uncertainty. Help them to see and recognize Jesus and to accept His saving doctrine.

With faith and confidence in the power of your intercessions, we once again recommend to you our needs and beg you to present them to your Divine Son. *[Here mention your intentions]*

Saint Bernadette, you whose faith was so simple and so strong, pray for us that our faith may never waver. Intercede for us with Our Lord Whom you see now face to face.

Sixth Day

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord." These words of yours, O Blessed Lady of Lourdes, tell us the secret of your holy life. They express your complete submission to the divine will of God. You did not think of yourself, but only of God's will. All your life His will was your chief concern.

Holiness, we know, is a matter of the will, not of feelings. It consists in keeping our wills, subject and united to the will of Almighty God.

This means obedience on our part at all times to the Commandments of God. It means accepting with patient resignation, success or failure; sickness or health; joy or sorrow. There is no other path to a holy life.

But so often we find it difficult, O Blessed Mother, to walk in this way of resignation. Our poor human nature is sometimes on the point of rebelling. At such times especially, we need your encouragement and help.

Obtain for us, therefore, the strength of will to be humble and submissive at all times and in all circumstances of our earthly life.

"Be it done unto me according to Thy word." Mary, this was your attitude and your prayer, not only when God bestowed on you His favors, but also when He sent you His crosses. May such be our attitude and our prayer in accepting all things for God.

Resigned to whatever may be God's will in our regard we now entreat you, O Virgin Mother, to obtain for us from Jesus the objects of our requests. *[Here mention your intentions]*