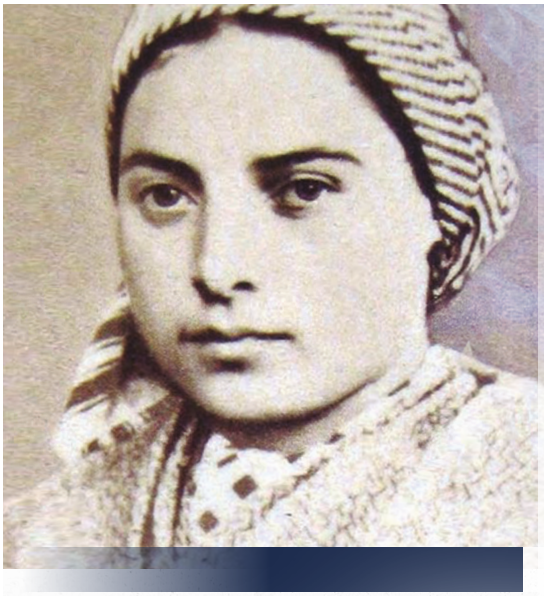

St. Bernadette
USA

St. Bernadette Relics at Our Lady of Lourdes in Ada, Ohio

Thursday, June 2nd to Saturday, June 4th

May 24th – June 1st Novena to St. Bernadette

Thursday, June 2nd

8:30am – 10:00pm: Veneration of the Relics of St. Bernadette

9:00am: Rite of Welcome

9:15am: Mass including Sprinkling Rite with Lourdes Water

6:00pm – 8:00pm: Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience

~8:00pm: Candlelight Rosary Procession to conclude at the Grotto in the Courtyard

~8:45pm – 9:30pm: Confession

10:00pm: Church closes for the night

Friday, June 3rd

8:00am – 10:00pm: Veneration of the Relics of St. Bernadette

12:00pm: Mass with Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes including Sprinkling Rite with Lourdes Water
Anointing of the Sick to follow (for those eligible)

3:00pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Litany of St. Bernadette

6:00pm – 8:00pm: Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience

~8:00pm: Candlelight Rosary Procession to conclude at the Grotto in the Courtyard

~8:45pm – 9:30pm: Confession

10:00pm: Church closes for the night

Saturday, June 4th

8:00am – 11:30am: Veneration of the Relics of St. Bernadette

9:00am: First Saturday Mass including Sprinkling Rite with Lourdes Water

11:30am: Farewell Celebration and Sending of the Relics to St. Bernadette in Lancaster, OH

For full schedule visit
www.stbernadetteusa.org/Ada
www.LourdesAda.org

A Plenary Indulgence has been granted by the Vatican.

www.stbernadetteusa.org

/StBernadetteUSA

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Rib of St. Bernadette to visit Ada, Ohio

A relic of St. Bernadette Soubirous, to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1858 in Lourdes, France is touring the United States and will be on display for veneration at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Ada, Ohio from June 2-4th. The relic is on loan by the Sanctuary at Lourdes, France on a visit to 40 churches throughout the United States from April to August 2022.

St. Bernadette was a 14-year-old peasant girl to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared about 18 times from February 11 to July 16, 1858. Bernadette did not know who she was and called her "The Lady." On her initial reports of seeing the Lady, of whom only she could see, many were quite skeptical. Yet, throughout Bernadette's visions, great crowds of the curious followed her to the spot of the apparitions. The Lady asked her to have a small chapel built there. Bernadette was also instructed by the Lady to dig in the ground and drink from the water that welled up. What started out as a few drops of muddy water, turned into a spring that still flows today. Millions visit Lourdes, France every year to wash and drink of the water from the spring. The Catholic Church has recognized 70 miraculous healings at Lourdes since 1858, though countless more have claimed physical and spiritual healing. (My own late grandmother had a foot ailment and terrible migraines and was healed at Lourdes some 40 years ago.)

St. Bernadette became a nun and died at age 35. Known for her holiness, the Church opened a cause for her canonization (the process of investigating her life in order to declare her a Saint). They exhumed her body in 1909 and found her to be incorrupt, that is, preserved from decomposition. This was cited as one of the miracles to support her canonization. A tiny portion of her rib was cut away so that it could easily be transported. This relic of her rib is what is travelling throughout the United States as an object of veneration.

The veneration of relics is rooted in the Christian faith from its earliest days. The people believed that the power of God could work through holy people. During the time of Jesus, many people clamored to touch him to be healed. The woman who suffered from a hemorrhage for 12 years touched Jesus' garments in the belief that she would be healed. Jesus felt the power flow through him and she was healed. In the Acts of the Apostles, many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. Some were content with the shadow of Peter falling upon the sick so that they would be healed. The people esteemed the apostles and great numbers of people became believers in the Lord.

So it is with the veneration of relics of saints like St. Bernadette. As the relic is a piece of her body, the power of God is at work to bring the believer to a greater faith in God.

The relic of St. Bernadette is housed in a reliquary which is an artistically created box to hold the relic. There is no window to see the relic of St. Bernadette itself, but the act of faith it takes to believe that her presence can draw us closer to God is worth the price of admission, which by the way, is free!

Visit Lourdesada.org to see the itinerary. Visit stbernadetteusa.org to learn more about the tour of her relic.

Father Ed Shikina
Pastor
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Ada, OH
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Kenton, OH