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Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

11600 Atwood Rd, Auburn, California 95603

May 3rd, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

One evening, Jesus Christ sat with His friends. They had been together all day, but now the sky was getting dark, and the friends felt worried. Something didn't feel right.

Jesus looked at them kindly and said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in Me."

One of His friends, Thomas the Apostle, asked, "Lord, we don't know where You are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus smiled gently and said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. If you follow Me, you will always be on the right path."

The friends listened closely.

Another friend, Philip the Apostle, said, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. I am always with Him, and He is always with Me."

The friends began to feel peaceful again.

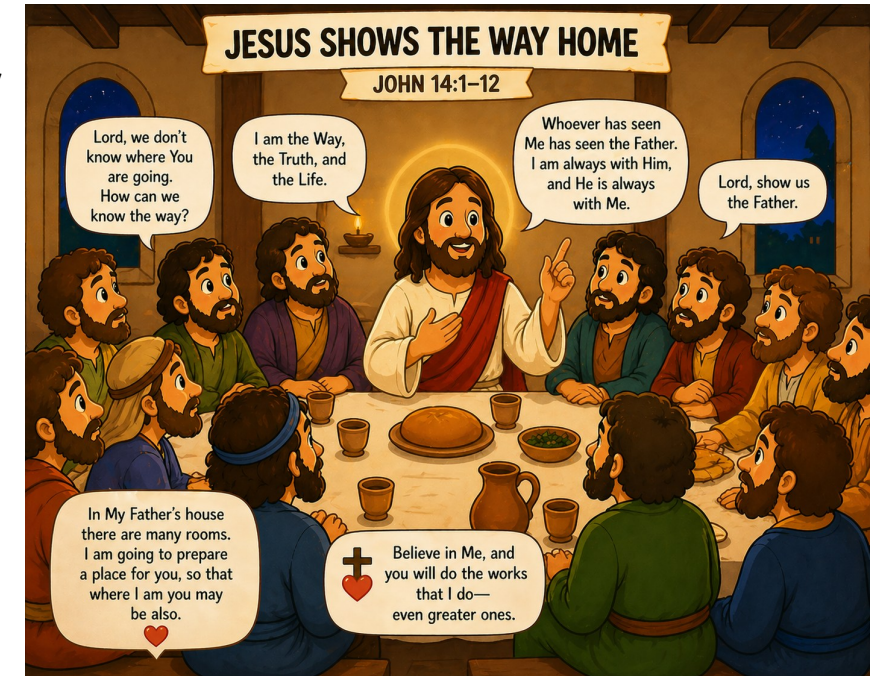
Then Jesus told them something wonderful: "In My Father's house, there are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you, so that one day you can be with Me forever."

The friends looked at each other with hope in their hearts.

"Even when you cannot see Me," Jesus said, "remember that I am with you. Trust Me, follow Me, and I will lead you home."

From that moment on, the friends were no longer afraid. They knew that as long as they stayed close to Jesus, they would never be lost.

And just like those friends, we can trust Jesus too. He is our guide, our truth, and our life. When we follow Him, He leads us to God's loving home.



St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

11600 Atwood Road,
Auburn, CA 95603

www.stteresaauburn.com

Rev. Fr. Arbel S. Cabasagan, Pastor

Rev. Fr. Michael Estaris

Deacons: John Sheehan & Adam Crawford

Mission Statement

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in My Love." In Christ's Love, the Eucharistic community of St. Teresa of Avila, Auburn, embraces and welcomes all as part of God's family. We value every parishioner and strive to reflect the mercy, forgiveness, and healing of Jesus Christ.

Parish Office: 11600 Atwood Rd., Auburn, CA 95603 # (530) 889-2254, fax (530) 889-2643 info@stteresaauburn.com

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00am—4:00pm Closed for lunch 11:30am—12:30pm

Pastor: Fr. Arbel S. Cabasagan (530) 889-2254 ext. 100

E-mail: fr_arbel@yahoo.com

Parish Secretary: Barbara Freuler (530) 889-2254, ext. 101,

E-mail: barbara_freuler@stteresaauburn.com

Religious Education Coordinator: E-mail: dresantateresa@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Jean Sawyer (707) 567-2541, E-Mail, jeansawyer8@aol.com

St. Joseph School: Kristen Mendonsa, Principal (530) 885-4490 E-mail: info@saintjosephauburn.org

OFFERTORY FOR THE FOLLOWING

April 19, 2026

Offertory : \$ 9,361.00

Online Giving : \$ 2,918.00

Total : \$ 12,279.00

Thank you for your generous donations!

Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am,
4:00pm Spanish

Daily Masses:

Tuesday— Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Friday. 9:00am—10:00am
Saturday 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday's 9:00am—6:00pm

Baptisms:

Every 3rd Saturday of the month @ 2:30pm

Classes, every 3rd Friday of the month @ 6:30pm. Call the parish office to register..

Marriage:

If you are a member of our parish, please contact a priest or deacon of your choice at *least* six months in advance of your desired wedding in order to participate

Confirmation:

For teens, the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two-year preparation process; please contact our coordinator of religious education; for adults not yet confirmed, please call the parish office.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

(OCIA, English):

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or becoming Catholic, contact Karen Sheehan @ 916-812-3737

OCIA, (Spanish): Leticia Aceves @ 530-613-4302

Prayer Chain Requests:

For those in need of prayers please e-mail Liz Rhodes: esrhodes32@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4/25 5:00pm George & Barbara Coelho
Megan Mavy
Sunday 4/26 8:30am + Horace Bonner
+ Matthew Murphy
10:30am Sarah Ann Fenner
John Catena
Tuesday 4/28 8:30am Eric Lendewig
Jonah Barr
Wednesday 4/29 8:30am Peter & Mary Coelho
Chrissy Joe Huckins
Thursday 4/30 8:30am Bobby & Jordan Huckins
+ Bill Kinney
Friday 5/1 8:30am Kenny Prust

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE

May 2nd & 3rd, 2026

Cross Bearers

Saturday, 5:00pm Steve McCullough
Sunday, 8:30am The Manleys
Sunday, 10:30am The Durants

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, 5:00pm Jackie Carlson— Captain
Claudia Beckwith,
Duncan Elledge
Carol Coleman, Trish Jensen,
Val Koeberlein
Sunday, 8:30am Tim Gilbride—Captain
Becky Gilbride
Tom Epperson, Kris Epperson
Fran Sypnieski, Luciana Curtis
Sunday, 10:30am Mario Vilamor—Captain
Nati Magowan, Lisa Avila
Rheme Brockway
Erin Angulo

Lectors

Saturday, 5:00pm Richard Veilbig, Cindy Hintz
Sunday, 8:30am Sandy Amara, Vickie Stokes
10:30am Helen Tomerlin, Diane Pette

Sacristans

5:00pm Steve McCullough
8:30am Julia Eggert
10:30am Chuck Manzer,
Danny Bernal

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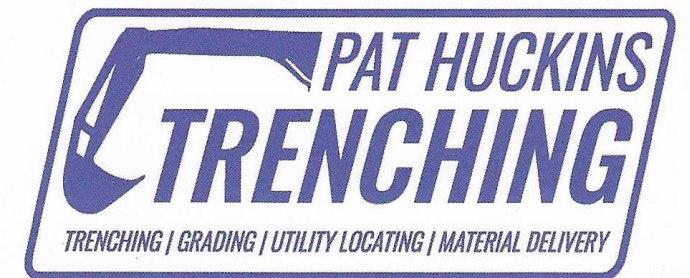
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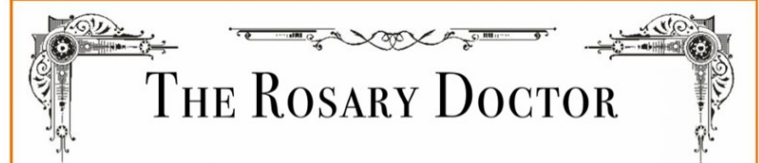
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We joyfully celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism of Conrad Robert Merritt, together with his parents, Isaac and Bonnie Merritt. May this sacred beginning of life in Christ be a source of grace and blessing for him and his family.

Farewell, Barbara!

Barbara Freuler is Retiring!

After 25 wonderful years of friendship and faithful service as our parish secretary—and in countless other ways— Barbara Freuler is beginning an exciting new chapter.

Please join us as we celebrate her dedication, service, and friendship, and send her off with our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for the future.

Potluck Dinner Celebration
 Saturday, June 6
 6:00 PM – Reception
 6:30 PM – Dinner
 St. Teresa Parish Hall

RSVP Required
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ANNOUNCEMENTS **MAY 3rd, 2026**

- 1) The Senior Group will be meeting on Friday, May 8th at 11:00am in the Beatitude Room. Our own Jean Sawyer and fellow pilgrims will be sharing their experiences traveling to Fatima, Avila and other places this past April. Bring a sack lunch. (Coffee and dessert will be provided.)
- 2) The Lector and OCIA ministries will be hosting the Sundays in May after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses. If anyone is interested in volunteering to read the word at Mass as a Lector or anyone who is interested in joining the church or receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation through OCIA; be sure to speak to one of the hosting volunteers.
- 3) The Morning Rosary is prayed each day Tuesday through Friday morning in the Chapel starting at 8:00am.
- 4) Adoration is every Friday morning beginning at 9:00am and ending with Benediction at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to sit with the Blessed Sacrament in silent prayer and meditation.

Acts 6:1–7

In this passage from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the early Church facing a very human problem: tension within the community. As the number of disciples grows, a complaint arises—some widows are being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. What begins as a practical issue reveals something deeper: even a Spirit-filled community must learn how to live charity with justice.

The Reality of Imperfection in the Church

It is striking that this challenge appears so soon after Pentecost. The Church, though guided by the Holy Spirit, is still made up of human beings. There are misunderstandings, cultural differences, and moments of neglect.

This reminds us that difficulties within the Church are not a sign of failure, but an opportunity for growth. Holiness is not the absence of problems—it is how we respond to them.

Listening and Responding with Wisdom

The apostles, led by Saint Peter and the Twelve, do not ignore the complaint. They listen. They recognize the need and respond with both humility and clarity. At the same time, they remain faithful to their primary mission: prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Rather than trying to do everything themselves, they invite the community to choose seven men “filled with the Spirit and wisdom” to take care of the daily service.

This moment marks the beginning of an important structure in the Church—what we now recognize as the ministry of deacons.



The Dignity of Service

The task given to the seven is practical: caring for the needs of others, especially the vulnerable. Yet it is not seen as lesser work. It is essential to the life of the Church.

This passage teaches us that every role in the Church matters. Whether preaching, praying, organizing, or serving, all are called to build up the Body of Christ. Service is not secondary—it is a concrete expression of love.

Unity Through Shared Responsibility

By sharing responsibility, the community grows stronger. The apostles remain focused on their mission, while others step forward to serve. This creates balance, harmony, and deeper unity.

The result is clear: *“The word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples greatly increased.”* When the Church is ordered in charity and guided by the Spirit, it becomes fruitful.

A Lesson for Today

This passage speaks powerfully to our own time. We are reminded:

To be attentive to the needs of others, especially those who may be overlooked
To use our gifts in service of the community
To respect the different roles within the Church
To remain rooted in prayer while engaging in action

The Church flourishes not when one person does everything, but when each member faithfully lives their calling.

Conclusion

Acts 6:1–7 shows us a Church that listens, adapts, and grows. It is a community that does not avoid problems but transforms them through faith, wisdom, and service. We are invited to do the same—to become people who serve generously, listen attentively, and remain rooted in God.

El Evangelio

En este pasaje lleno de ternura y profundidad del Gospel of John, Jesus Christ habla a sus discípulos en la noche antes de su Pasión. Él sabe que sus corazones están turbados, llenos de miedo y confusión por lo que está por venir. En medio de esa incertidumbre, no les da explicaciones, sino **consuelo**: *“No se turbe su corazón. Crean en Dios, crean también en mí.”*

Un llamado a confiar en medio de la incertidumbre

Jesús no niega las dificultades. Más bien, invita a sus discípulos—y a nosotros—a confiar en Él, incluso cuando no entendemos todo. La fe, en este sentido, no es la ausencia de preguntas, sino la decisión de permanecer firmes en Cristo a pesar de ellas.

En nuestra vida, hay momentos en que el futuro es incierto. Los planes cambian, aparece el sufrimiento y la seguridad desaparece. Este Evangelio nos recuerda que la fe comienza precisamente ahí: en confiar en que Dios sigue presente y sigue guiándonos.

“Yo soy el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida”

Una de las declaraciones más poderosas de toda la Escritura está en este pasaje:

“Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida. Nadie va al Padre sino por mí.”

Jesús no solo muestra un camino—Él es el Camino. No solo enseña la verdad—Él es la Verdad. No solo da vida—Él es la Vida.

Esto significa que el cristianismo no es primero un conjunto de reglas o ideas, sino una **relación con una Persona**. Seguir a Cristo es caminar en su camino, vivir en su verdad y participar en su vida divina.

Conocer al Padre a través del Hijo

Cuando Philip the Apostle le dice: *“Señor, muéstranos al Padre,”* Jesús responde con una suave corrección: *“Quien me ha visto a mí ha visto al Padre.”*

Aquí, Jesús revela su unidad con el Padre. Conocer a Jesús es conocer a Dios. Cada palabra, cada gesto de amor y cada acto de misericordia revelan el corazón del Padre.

Llamados a continuar su obra

Jesús hace una promesa sorprendente: *“El que cree en mí hará las obras que yo hago, y aún mayores.”*

Esto no significa que seamos más grandes que Cristo, sino que Él actúa a través de nosotros. Por medio del Espíritu Santo, la misión de Cristo continúa en la Iglesia.

Cada uno de nosotros está llamado a participar en esa misión—con actos de amor, servicio, testimonio y fe. Las “obras mayores” son los frutos de Cristo vivo en su pueblo.

Un lugar preparado para nosotros

Jesús también consuela a sus discípulos con esta promesa: *“En la casa de mi Padre hay muchas moradas... voy a prepararles un lugar.”*

Esto nos recuerda que nuestra vida tiene un destino. No caminamos sin rumbo. Vamos hacia la comunión con Dios—un hogar preparado para nosotros por amor.

Conclusión

Juan 14:1–12 nos invita a vivir con mayor confianza y propósito:

Confiar en Cristo en medio de la incertidumbre

Seguirlo como el Camino

Conocer a Dios a través de Él

Continuar su misión en el mundo

Esperar con fe el hogar eterno que nos prepara

John 14:1–12

In this tender and profound passage from the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ speaks to His disciples on the night before His Passion. He knows their hearts are troubled, filled with confusion and fear about what is to come. In to that uncertainty, He offers not explanations, but **assurance**:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

A Call to Trust in the Midst of Uncertainty

Jesus does not deny that difficulties exist. Instead, He invites His disciples—and us—to trust Him even when we do not fully understand. Faith, in this sense, is not the absence of questions, but the decision to remain anchored in Christ despite them.

In our own lives, there are moments when the future feels unclear. Plans change, suffering appears, and certainty fades. This Gospel reminds us that faith begins precisely here: in choosing to trust that God is still present and still leading us.

“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

One of the most powerful declarations in all of Scripture comes from this passage:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus does not simply show us a way—He *is* the Way. He does not just teach truth—He *is* the Truth. He does not merely give life—He *is* the Life.

This means that Christianity is not first about rules or ideas, but about a **relationship with a Person**. To follow Christ is to walk in His way, to live in His truth, and to share in His divine life.

Knowing the Father Through the Son

When Philip the Apostle asks, *“Lord, show us the Father,”* Jesus responds with a gentle correction: *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”*

Here, Jesus reveals His unity with the Father. To know Jesus is to know God. Every word He speaks, every act of love, every moment of mercy reveals the heart of the Father.

Called to Continue His Work

Jesus makes a surprising promise: *“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.”*

This is not because we are greater than Christ, but because He works through us. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the mission of Christ continues in the Church.

Each of us is called to participate in this mission—through acts of love, service, witness, and faith. The “greater works” are the fruits of Christ alive in His people.

A Place Prepared for Us

Jesus also comforts His disciples with the promise: *“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for you.”*

This reminds us that our journey has a destination. We are not wandering aimlessly. Our lives are moving toward communion with God—a home prepared for us out of love.

Conclusion

John 14:1–12 invites us to live with deeper trust and clearer purpose:

To trust Christ even in uncertainty

To follow Him as the Way

To know God through Him

To continue His mission in the world

To hope in the eternal home He prepares



1 Peter 2:4–9

In this rich and beautiful passage, Saint Peter invites us to rediscover who we are in Jesus Christ. Using powerful images drawn from Scripture, he describes Christ as the **living stone**—rejected by men, yet chosen and precious in the sight of God—and calls us to become something extraordinary: **living stones built into a spiritual house**.

Christ, the Living Stone

Jesus is called the cornerstone—the foundation upon which everything rests. Though rejected by the world, He is the one chosen by God to bring salvation. This reminds us that God’s ways are often different from human expectations. What the world overlooks or dismisses, God can raise up and make essential.

To build our lives on Christ means to trust Him as our foundation. Without Him, everything becomes unstable. With Him, even in difficulty, we remain grounded.

We Are Living Stones

Peter does not stop with Christ—he turns to us: *“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.”* This is a powerful image of the Church. We are not isolated believers; we are part of something greater. Each of us has a place, a purpose, and a role in God’s plan.

Being a “living stone” means allowing God to shape us, to place us where we are needed, and to unite us with others in faith. It also means recognizing that the Church is not just a building—it is a living community.

A Holy Priesthood

Peter goes further: we are called to be a **holy priesthood**, offering “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.” In Catholic life, this is lived most fully in union with the Eucharist. But it also extends into our daily lives.

Our sacrifices—acts of love, patience, forgiveness, and service—can become offerings to God when united with Christ. Even ordinary moments, lived with faith, take on eternal meaning.

Chosen and Set Apart

Perhaps the most striking part of this passage is the identity Peter gives us: *“A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own.”*

These are not just poetic words—they are a declaration of who we are. Through Baptism, we belong to God. We are chosen, not because of our perfection, but because of His love.

This identity gives us dignity, but also mission.

Called to Proclaim His Light

Peter reminds us of our purpose: *“That you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”*

We are not chosen for ourselves alone. We are called to witness—to make God’s love visible in the world. This does not always require words. Often, it is our lives—our kindness, our integrity, our faith—that speak most clearly.

From Darkness to Light

Finally, Peter recalls a profound truth: *“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people.”*

This speaks of transformation. In Christ, we are no longer lost or without identity. We have been brought into belonging, into mercy, into light.

Conclusion

This passage invites us to live with deeper awareness of who we are:

Built on Christ, the cornerstone

United as living stones in the Church

Called to offer our lives as spiritual sacrifices

Chosen and loved by God

Sent to proclaim His light in the world

“ My visit to Our Lady of Lourdes has been one of the most touching moments of this pilgrimage. This is already my second time coming to Lourdes, but somehow the feeling of returning was even more emotional than the first. There is something about Lourdes that touches the heart in a way that is hard to explain. The moment I arrived and saw the sanctuary again, I felt as if I had come home to a place of prayer, healing, and peace.

What moved me most was the evening procession. To see thousands and thousands of pilgrims from all over the world gathered together with candles in their hands was a beautiful sign of faith. Young and old, sick and healthy, priests, religious, families, and pilgrims from every nation walked together as one people of God. Hearing the Rosary prayed in many different languages was especially emotional for me. Even though the languages were different, the prayer was the same. It reminded me that the Church is truly universal. We come from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, yet we are united by one faith, one Mother, and one Lord.

I was also deeply touched to concelebrate Mass with the Bishop of London and priests from many different nations. Standing there together around the altar, I could not help but think of how beautiful the Church is when we are united. In that moment, there were no borders, no differences, only one family of God gathered around Jesus in the Eucharist. It felt like a glimpse of heaven, where people from every nation praise God together.

Visiting the places connected to Saint Bernadette was also deeply moving. To see her humble home, to walk through the places where she lived, and to remember the struggles of her family made me appreciate even more the beauty of her faith. Bernadette came from poverty, hardship, and suffering, yet she remained simple, humble, and faithful. She had nothing in the eyes of the world, but she had everything because she trusted completely in God and in Our Lady.

Today, climbing up to the old castle was another powerful experience. The castle itself was beautiful, but what touched me most was the chapel inside. To see the old altar, the pews, and the statues that Saint Bernadette herself may have seen, touched, and prayed before made me feel very close to her life and faith. I found myself imagining the young Bernadette kneeling there in prayer, carrying the struggles of her family, but still trusting in God.

As a priest, Lourdes reminds me that people come carrying so much pain, fear, sickness, and burdens. Yet they also come carrying hope. Lourdes is a place where tears and faith meet. It is a place where people still believe that God can heal, that Mary still intercedes, and that even in suffering there can be grace.

Leaving Lourdes, my heart is full. I carry with me not only the beauty of the place, but also the faith of the people I saw, the prayers I offered for my parishioners and loved ones, and the reminder that God is always close to the poor, the suffering, and the humble. Lourdes is not only a place you visit. It is a place that stays in your heart long after you leave.” — **Fr. Arbel**



History of Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes refers to the title of the Virgin Mary associated with a series of apparitions reported in 1858 in Lourdes, France. These events became one of the most important Marian devotions in the Catholic Church.

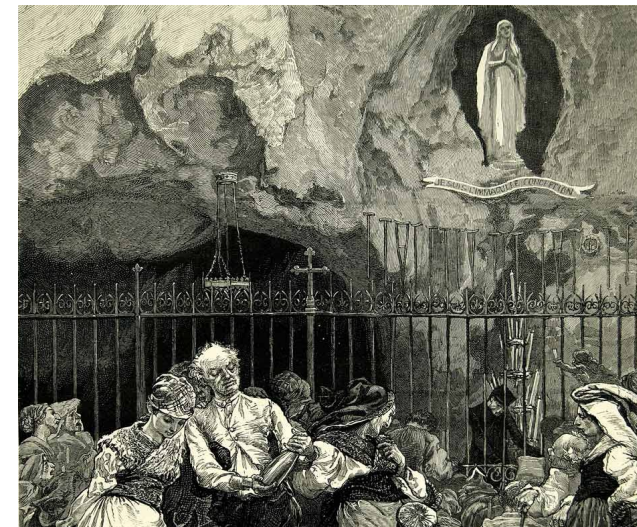
The story begins with **Saint Bernadette Soubirous**, a 14-year-old poor and uneducated girl from Lourdes. On **February 11, 1858**, while gathering firewood near the **Grotto of Massabielle**, she reported seeing a “beautiful Lady” dressed in white with a blue sash. Over the next several months, Bernadette experienced **18 apparitions** of this mysterious figure.

During these encounters, the Lady:

- Invited Bernadette to pray the Rosary,
- Called for prayer and penance for sinners,
- and Instructed her to dig in the ground,
- which revealed a spring of water

Finally revealed her identity on **March 25, 1858**, saying: **“I am the Immaculate Conception.”**

As word spread, the spring water became associated with **reported healings**, drawing pilgrims from many places. Although some claims were later questioned, Lourdes became widely known as a place of prayer, healing, and conversion. Church authorities initially investigated cautiously, but in **1862**, the local bishop officially recognized that Bernadette’s visions were worthy of belief and consistent with Catholic faith. Devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes quickly spread.



A statue was placed at the grotto, and over time a large sanctuary was built, including basilicas and facilities for millions of pilgrims. Lourdes developed into one of the **most visited pilgrimage sites in the world**, especially for those seeking spiritual renewal or healing. Bernadette herself later entered religious life and was canonized as a saint in **1933** by Pope Pius XI. The devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes continues today as a global symbol of Prayer, Repentance, Healing and Hope in God’s mercy

