



St. Bernadette

April 16

Who was St. Bernadette?

St. Bernadette Soubirous, born in 1844 in Lourdes, France, is renowned for her visionary experiences and the Virgin Mary's apparitions at the Grotto of Massabielle. The young Bernadette, from a humble background, witnessed these apparitions multiple times in 1858. During these encounters, the Virgin Mary revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, reinforcing a key dogma of the Catholic faith.

Bernadette's importance lies in her role as a witness to these Marian apparitions, which gained widespread attention and eventually led to the establishment of Lourdes as a major pilgrimage site. The Catholic Church investigated the events thoroughly and, in 1862, officially recognized the authenticity of the apparitions, thereby affirming Bernadette's credibility.

St. Bernadette is celebrated on her feast day, which falls on April 16th, the anniversary of her death in 1879. Her feast day is observed with religious services, processions and devotions in honour of her faith and the messages conveyed by the Virgin Mary in Lourdes.

Pilgrims from around the world visit Lourdes to commemorate St. Bernadette and seek healing in the waters of the Lourdes Grotto, which many believe possess miraculous properties. In her honour, various traditions include processions, candlelight vigils and the recitation of prayers. Many also pay homage by offering prayers for the sick, reflecting the association of Lourdes with miraculous healings.

St. Bernadette is particularly venerated for her humility, simplicity and unwavering faith despite facing skepticism and hardship. Her life exemplifies the transformative power of faith and the enduring impact of encounters with the divine. Today, her legacy continues to inspire millions, and Lourdes remains a significant center of pilgrimage and spiritual reflection, attracting millions of visitors each year.

[St. Bernadette CES Website](#)

[Immaculate Conception Parish Website](#)



Quotes by St. Bernadette

"I must die to myself continually and accept trials without complaining. I work, I still have a lot of work to do on myself."

"The more I am crucified, the more I rejoice."

"It is a great happiness to serve the Lord."

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Dear St. Bernadette,

Model of humility and vessel of divine grace, we turn to you with reverence and gratitude. In the simplicity of your heart, you encountered the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Grotto of Lourdes, becoming a beacon of faith and a witness to the miraculous.

St. Bernadette, you embraced the messages of the Immaculate Conception with unwavering trust and humility. As we navigate our own journeys of faith, we seek your intercession to help us grow in simplicity, humility and profound trust in the divine providence of God.

You faced skepticism and trials, yet your steadfast devotion and love for the Virgin Mary never wavered. Pray for us, dear saint, that we too may find strength in moments of doubt and courage in times of adversity.

St. Bernadette, intercede for those who are sick and suffering, just as Lourdes has been a source of healing for countless pilgrims. May your example inspire us to approach God with childlike faith and to recognize the beauty of the divine in our daily lives.

On your feast day and always, help us to echo your words: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Lead us closer to the heart of Mary, that we may draw nearer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

St. Bernadette, pray for us.

Amen.

Patron Saint of:

Bodily Ills

People Ridiculed
for Their Faith

Poverty

Shepherds

Sickness and Sick
People





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:
April 16

SCHOOL LOCATION:
Sutton West, ON

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St.
Bernadette

PATRON SAINT OF:

- Bodily Illness
- Lourdes
- Poverty
- Shepherds and Shepherdesses
- People Ridiculed for Their Faith

