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Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for coming to Mass today. Next Saturday, February 11, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858, our Blessed Mother appeared to a poor and sickly fourteen year-old girl, Bernadette Soubirous, along the River Gave in a wooded area outside the village of Lourdes, France. Lourdes is a small town that is located in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains, just north of the border between France and Spain.

Bernadette's family was very poor. Her Dad, Francois, had rented and run grain mills over a series of years. But for a variety of reasons, he and his wife couldn't make ends meet. The couple and their four children ended up quite destitute. Ultimately they were forced to rent a small 12x14 one room space on the bottom floor of a building, that had previously been used as a jail or local holding center. After having been abandoned by the authorities, it became a dwelling for critters and vermin. It was in that condition at the time the Soubirous family, almost completely broke, moved into the room for the winter of 1858 on account having nowhere else to stay.

Bernadette, 14 years old at the time, suffered from a very bad case of asthma and had not advanced very far in her education. On the frigid morning of February 11, 1858, her Mother, Louise, sent Bernadette's 12 year old sister, Toinette and the girl's friend, Jeanne, to the woods to obtain wood for the fireplace. Bernadette begged her mother to also go, and despite Louise's reluctance on account of Bernadette's asthma, she permitted her daughter to join the other girls. As they made their way a half mile or so into the woods, Toinette and Jeanne ran faster and out of sight of Bernadette. Bernadette ended up alone alongside a large rock that formed part of a large cliff-like hillside, the rock formed a cave, and was called Massabielle (meaning, ancient rock). As she sat on a small rock with her back to the cave, she suddenly felt a warm summer breeze, which startled her. She turned around, and there, in the upper portion of the cave's grotto she saw a woman dressed in white with yellow roses on her feet and rosary beads in her hand. Bernadette knelt at the sight. And thus began the appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto of Lourdes, France, on February 11, 1858.

Our Lady would appear to St. Bernadette at the same grotto another 17 times, the final time being on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, 1858. Our Lady eventually identified herself to Bernadette by saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception" - a phrase and title Bernadette would never have heard or known. That manner of identifying herself convinced Bernadette's parish priest of the veracity of the girls claims. Belief in and devotion to the appearances of Our Lady have spread far and wide ever since.

Bernadette would leave Lourdes at age 22 to enter the convent of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, and would never return to Lourdes. After 11 years of living a beautiful and astounding religious life in the convent, she would pass away at age 33. Her body, exhumed in 1925, was found not to have decayed at all, but to be entirely incorrupt - as it is to this day - in the Convert Chapel of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. After visiting and seeing her body there in 2004, and having been so amazed at the sight of her, I commented to my brother seminarians in Italy, "She's the most beautiful woman I've ever seen, and she's been dead for over 125 years."

Lourdes would go on to become the most visited Catholic Shrine on earth. More people have been physically healed of illnesses by the waters of the Grotto at Lourdes than any other location on earth. And the Church has officially confirmed more miracles at that location than any other place. For this reason, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11th is annually the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

St. Bernadette is, by a mile, in the top echelon of my favorite Catholic Saints. She once said in reference to herself that. God looked down on the whole world and finding the most insignificant and unimportant of his creatures, he said, "to that one, I will send my Mother." It was a sign of God's love for the littlest ones. No one is insignificant. The smallest and most unimportant people - by the world's standards - are the most important and dear to the heart of God. That is true here in our Community of Dunkirk and Fredonia as well as the entire world.

Let us pray this week, and especially this coming Saturday, February 11, for all the sick. And let us more and more try to see things as God sees them, and renew our faith on his great works which are still unfolding in our midst. St. Bernadette, pray for us.
God bless, Fr. Mark

Monthly Rosary

Our next monthly rosary will be next Thursday, February 16 at 5:30pm in the church followed by the Adult Ed/Faith Formation meeting in the Chapel. In the month of February, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, when St. Bernadette saw the Blessed Mother. So come and pray the rosary for about a half hour next Thursday in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette.

Queridos amigos,

Muchas gracias por venir a Misa hoy. El próximo sábado 11 de febrero es la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes. En 1858, nuestra Santísima Madre se apareció a una niña pobre y enfermiza de catorce años, Bernardita Soubirous, a lo largo del río Gave en una zona boscosa en las afueras del pueblo de Lourdes, Francia. Lourdes es un pequeño pueblo que se encuentra en las estribaciones de las montañas de los Pirineos, justo al norte de la frontera entre Francia y España.

La familia de Bernardita era muy pobre. Su papá, Francois, había alquilado y manejado molinos de granos durante una serie de años. Pero por diversas razones, él y su esposa no podían llegar a fin de mes. La pareja y sus cuatro hijos terminaron bastante desamparados. En última instancia, se vieron obligados a alquilar un pequeño espacio de una habitación de 12x14 en el piso inferior de un edificio, que anteriormente se había utilizado como cárcel o centro de detención local. Después de haber sido abandonado por las autoridades, se convirtió en morada de bichos y alimañas. Estaba en ese estado cuando la familia Soubirous, casi en la ruina, se mudó a la habitación para el invierno de 1858 por no tener otro lugar donde quedarse.

Bernardita, que entonces tenía 14 años, sufría de un caso muy grave de asma y no había avanzado mucho en su educación. En la gélida mañana del 11 de febrero de 1858, su madre, Louise, envió a la hermana de 12 años de Bernardita, Toinette, y a la amiga de la niña, Jeanne, al bosque a buscar leña para la chimenea. Bernardita le rogó a su madre que también fuera y, a pesar de la reticencia de Louise debido al asma de Bernadette, permitió que su hija se uniera a las otras niñas. A medida que se adentraban más o menos media milla en el bosque, Toinette y Jeanne corrieron más rápido y se perdieron de vista de Bernardita. Bernardita terminó sola junto a una gran roca que formaba parte de una gran ladera con forma de acantilado, la roca formaba una cueva y se llamaba Massabielle (que significa roca antigua). Mientras estaba sentada en una pequeña roca de espaldas a la cueva, de repente sintió una cálida brisa de verano, que la sobresaltó. Se dio la vuelta y allí, en la parte superior de la gruta de la cueva, vio a una mujer vestida de blanco con rosas amarillas en los pies y un rosario en la mano. Bernardita se arrodilló ante la vista. Y así comenzaron las apariciones de la Santísima Virgen María a Santa Bernardita Soubirous en la Gruta de Lourdes, Francia, el 11 de febrero de 1858.

Nuestra Señora se le aparecería a Santa Bernardita 17 veces, siendo la última vez en la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, el 16 de julio de 1858. Nuestra Señora eventualmente se identificó con Bernardita diciendo, "Yo soy la Inmaculada Concepción" - una frase y un título que Bernadette nunca habría escuchado o conocido. Esa forma de identificarse convenció al párroco de Bernardita de la veracidad de las afirmaciones de las niñas. La creencia y la devoción a las apariciones de Nuestra Señora se han extendido por todas partes desde entonces.

Bernardita dejaría Lourdes a los 22 años para entrar en el convento de las Hermanas de la Caridad de Nevers, y nunca volvería a Lourdes. Después de 11 años de vivir una vida religiosa hermosa y asombrosa en el convento, fallecería a los 33 años. Su cuerpo, exhumado en 1925, no se encontró en absoluto descompuesto, sino completamente incorrupto, como lo es hasta ahora. día - en la Capilla Conversa de las Hermanas de la Caridad de Nevers. Después de visitar y ver su cuerpo allí en 2004, y de haberme quedado tan asombrado al verla, les comenté a mis hermanos seminaristas en Italia: "Es la mujer más hermosa que he visto en mi vida, y lleva muerta más de 125 años. ."

Lourdes se convertiría en el Santuario católico más visitado del mundo. Más personas han sido sanadas físicamente de enfermedades por las aguas de la Gruta de Lourdes que cualquier otro lugar en la tierra. Y la Iglesia ha confirmado oficialmente más milagros en ese lugar que en cualquier otro lugar. Por este motivo, la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, el 11 de febrero, es anualmente la Jornada Mundial de Oración por los Enfermos.

St. Bernardita está, por una milla, en el escalón más alto de mis santos católicos favoritos. Una vez dijo en referencia a sí misma que. Dios miró hacia abajo sobre el mundo entero y encontrando a la más insignificante y sin importancia de sus criaturas, dijo: "a esa le enviaré a mi Madre". Era una señal del amor de Dios por los más pequeños. Nadie es insignificante. Las personas más pequeñas y menos importantes, según los estándares del mundo, son las más importantes y queridas en el corazón de Dios. Eso es cierto aquí en nuestra Comunidad de Dunkerque y Fredonia, así como en todo el mundo.

Oremos esta semana, y especialmente este próximo sábado 11 de febrero, por todos los enfermos. Y tratemos cada vez más de ver las cosas como Dios las ve, y renovemos nuestra fe en sus grandes obras que todavía se están desarrollando en medio de nosotros. Santa Bernardita, ruega por nosotros. Dios les bendiga, P. Marcos

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

*In re The Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y.,
Case No. 20-10322*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Court entered an Order (the "**Supplemental Bar Date Order**") setting April 17, 2023, at 11:59 P.M. (prevailing Eastern time) (the "**Supplemental Bar Date**") as the deadline to assert claims against the Diocese arising from or relating to abuse that occurred when the survivor was 18 years of age or older, and which, prior to the enactment of the Adult Survivors Act (S.66A/A.648A) would have been subject to a statute of limitations defense ("**Adult Claims**").

If you have an Adult Claim against the Diocese you must file a claim on or before the Supplemental Bar Date.

ANY CLAIM FILED PURSUANT TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL BAR DATE ORDER SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY IN INTEREST TO ASSERT OBJECTIONS TO ANY CLAIM OR ITS TIMELINESS.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceesofbuffalo> or call (855) 292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time—February 5, 2023

Weekly Masses

Saturday, February 4

5:00 p.m. Joseph & Helen Banach by the Banach Family

Sunday, February 5-

8:00 a.m. Peggy Glenn by Ron & Susan Hall

10:00 a.m. Fr Walter Werbicki & Carolyn Terese by

Maria Kuschel Ruiz

11:30 a.m. Parishioners of SEAS

Monday, February 6-St Paul Miki

7:00 a.m. Jim Arnold by Mary Jakubowski

Tuesday, February 7-

7:00 a.m. Greg Russell by Leo & Sandy Bain

Wednesday, February 8-St Jerome Emilani & St Josephine Bakhita

7:00 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, February 9-

7:00 a.m. Fr. Dennis Riter by Alice Mekus-Britt

Friday, February 10-St Scholastica

7:00 a.m. Cecilia Brenecki by The Brenecki Family

Saturday, February 11-Ou Lady of Lourdes

5:00 p.m. Marcia Mackowiak (Wed Ann) by Frederick Mackowiak & Children

Sunday, February 12-

8:00 a.m. Fr. Walter Werbicki by Leo & Sandy Bain & Family

10:00 a.m. Fr. Walter Werbicki by The Goddogg

11:30 a.m. Parishioners of SEAS

Please remember to pray for the infirmed:

Janet Bonasera, Scott Collins, Sue Dietzen, Len Fijal, Jose Gambarelli, Keith & Kevin, Desiree Jones, John Maternowski, Frederick Mackowiak Jr., Mike McCarty, Peter Notaro, Joel Rivera, Javier Robles, Lenny Schrantz, Jessica Sinclair, Jack Van Dervort, Mollie Watkins, Kevin Washington and Fr Tom Wopperer.

Memorials

Stella M. Karin by David & Suzanne Nicosia

Natalie Gavin by David & Suzanne Nicosia

Natalie Gavin by Albert VanDette

Let Your Light be seen and Inspire Others

"Your light must shine before others," Jesus says. Don't hide it under a bushel. Let it be seen, and inspire others to deeper faith! Preach the Gospel with words and deeds. Contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

Las Clases de Virtus

De acuerdo con nuestra plan diocesana y parroquial de "Protección de los niños de Dios", requerimos que cualquier persona que esté o vaya a trabajar o ser voluntario con jóvenes complete el curso introductorio de VIRTUS y participe en el programa VIRTUS. El Curso Introductorio se ofrecerá aquí en la Escuela Católica Northern Chautauqua el martes 21 de febrero de 2023 a las 10:00 a. m. La inscripción se puede completar en línea en www.virtusonline.org; también puede comunicarse con Natalie al 716-366-1750 para obtener registrándose o con cualquier pregunta.

Weekend of January 28 & 29

Mass Attendance/Asistencia a Misa:

5:00 PM – 50

8:00 AM – 57

10:00 AM – No count

11:30AM– No Count

Total

Collection/Collecta:

\$2,728.38

Catholic Relief:

\$709.00

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Tuesday, February 7– 1:40PM NCCS Mass

Wednesday, February 8 - 3PM-Food Pantry

Saturday & Sunday February 11 & 12-"Souper Bowl" Sunday
canned food collection at all Masses

Sunday, February 12-

9:00AM-Sacramental Prep classes

10:30AM-RCIA English in rectory meeting room

12:30PM-RCIA Spanish in Church

6:30PM-Super Bowl-Eagles vs Chiefs

Upcoming:

February 16-Rosary

February 16-Adult Ed/Faith Formation Meeting

February 20-President's Day-Rectory Closed

February 22-Ash Wednesday

February 26-1st Sunday of Lent

"Souper Bowl" Canned Soup Drive is Next Weekend!

Super Bowl Sunday is one week away before we go home and get ready for our Super Bowl parties and root for either the Eagles or the Chiefs, bring in a can or two of soup and drop it in the collection boxes that will be at all the entrances next weekend February 11 & 12. The soup will then be taken over to our SEAS food pantry and distributed to the needy. So they can make a nice warm bowl of soup for themselves or their families on these cold winter days. May the Super Bowl be a good game for whoever you are cheering for. Have fun at all your Super Bowl parties.

VIRTUS Class to be offered here ...

In keeping with our Diocesan and Parish "Protecting God's Children" policy, we require anyone who is or will be working or volunteering with youth to complete the VIRTUS Introductory Course and participate in the VIRTUS program. The Introductory Course will be offered here at Northern Chautauqua Catholic School on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Registration may be completed online at www.virtusonline.org - you may also contact Natalie at 716-366-1750 for assistance in registering or with any questions.

Have you heard about the Bison Children's Scholarship Fund?

The application process is now open for new families. To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 15, 2023. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications forms and all applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16, 2023.

Scholarship amounts vary depending on the family's income, household size and the school's tuition cost. The highest scholarship amount for 2023-24 school year is \$2,500 per child. Families will be expected to contribute partial tuition towards their child's education.

Flyers are in the back of the church

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**Happy New Year!
May 2023 be a
very Blessed Year!**

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