



The Friends of St. Jude

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The mission of the Shrine of St. Jude is to foster devotion to St. Jude Thaddeus, "Patron of Difficult Cases," and support the education and formation of worthy candidates for the Dominican Priesthood and Brotherhood.

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena, February 2012

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Calendar of Events, 2012:

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena
(preached)

February 3 – 11

Walk & Retreat for Healing

February 4

Easter Novena (not preached)

April 8 – 16

Mother's Day Novena (not preached)

May 5 – 13

St. Peregrine Novena (preached)

June 1 – 9

Father's Day Novena (not preached)

June 9 – 17

St. Jude Novena (preached)

October 20 – 28

St. Jude Pilgrimage

October 27

Christmas Novena (not preached)

December 25 – January 2, 2013

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

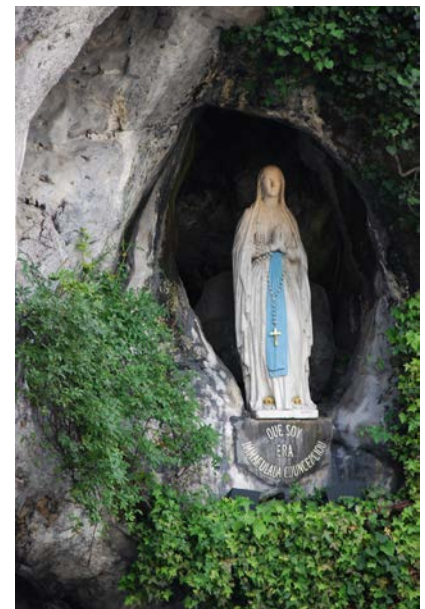
Last month, we celebrated the Solemnity associated with Our Lady's proclamation to St. Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto at Lourdes: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Next month, we will celebrate her appearance itself when we observe the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, on February 11. From the time of this miraculous appearance in 1858 great consolation and grace have flowed to faithful pilgrims who have come to Lourdes by the millions over the last century and a half.

St. Bernadette wrote after the first appearance of Our Lady at the Grotto: "I came back the next Sunday, feeling myself drawn to the place..." It is a sentiment echoed by pilgrims who return time and again to the holy shrine at Lourdes. Some tell us how they were healed in body, mind or soul, and often in ways they did not expect; others recount the changes in their lives, which will never be the same again. Some were moved to more profound lives of prayer and penance; still others to faithful acts of service, following the example of Our Lady.

First impressions are frequently those that last the longest. Many people recount each year to the staff of the St. Jude Shrine their first experience at Lourdes. In my own case, I was there first 35 years ago and remain with the same memory and experience of one of our staff who was there last summer. The most impressive experience of Lourdes is the presence

of peace which comes from Our Lady of the Grotto.

We do not know why our Lady chose Lourdes to make her appearance, but we do know that the fact that she did is significant, as affirmed by the Church, which has set aside February 11 as the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Here at the Shrine of St. Jude, to coincide with the Feast, we will have our annual **Novena in hon-**



Grotto at Lourdes

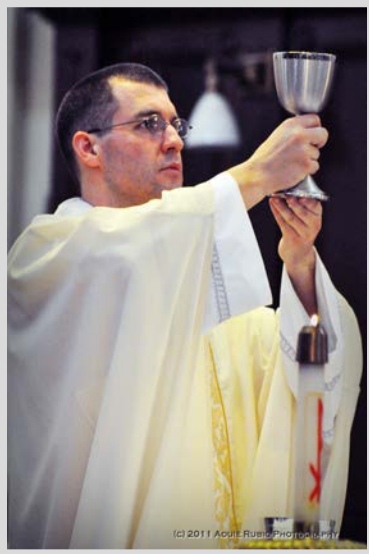
or of Our Lady of Lourdes, from February 3 – 11. As we have done the past two years, we will also have, on Saturday, February 4, our **Walk & Retreat for Healing**, when we invoke our Lady's intercession in a special way for those among us who are suffering in one way or another.

Our Novena preacher will be Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P., one of our

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Novena Preacher: Father John Marie Bingham, O.P.

– *Seeking the Truth, Living the Truth, and Preaching the Truth* –



Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P. is a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. While discerning his vocation, he was urged by one of his mentors to “get up... and let God open the doors He wanted [him] to walk through.” This he did.

He entered the Dominican Novitiate in 2003, attracted by “the Dominican charism of seeking the truth, living the truth communally, and preaching the fruits of the contemplation of that truth.”

Fr. John Marie was ordained to the

priesthood in June 2010. He is the Parochial Vicar at St. Dominic Church in Benicia, California. He is also Promoter of the Holy Name Society and a member of the Formation Commission of the Western Dominican Province (Province of the Holy Name).

We are delighted to welcome Fr. John Marie to preach the Novena in honor of Lady of Lourdes, February 3 – 11. His strong devotion to Our Lady will inform the insights he will share with us, a preview of which he gives us in his discourse below.

Glorify God in Your Body

(1 Corinthians 6:20)

By: Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion
is to look out to the earth,
yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing
good
and yours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.

– *St. Teresa of Avila*

Millions of pilgrims visit the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes each year seeking her compassionate intercession on their behalf and the healing of their illnesses. Even as we seek the mercy, forgiveness and healing of Our Lord through the intercession of the Immaculate Mother of God, Christ fashions our minds and hearts into His likeness so that our body, our hands, our feet and our eyes are his instruments of mercy on earth. So “glorify God in your body.”

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

(Continued from Page 1)

vibrant young Dominicans who was ordained to the priesthood a year and half ago. (See his biography and discourse above.) The Walk & Retreat for Healing of Body, Mind and Soul will be led, as usual, by Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, O.P., pastor of St. Dominic’s Church, home of the Shrine.

From June 1 – 9, we will have our first Novena in honor of St. Peregrine, “the Cancer Saint,” thus continuing the theme of healing in 2012. (See the opposite page for more on this remarkable saint.)

Let’s turn our hearts and minds to the Novena honoring Our Lady of Lourdes next month. Pope Benedict has written that, “precisely because Mary is with God and in God, she is very close to each one of us... Being in God, who is actually ‘within’ all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God.” She “knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness. She always listens to us and, being Mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness.”

What comforting words with which to begin our Novena! Please join us

February 3 – 11. If you are unable physically to join us, then join us in prayer. We encourage you to return the enclosed petition form in the envelope provided, listing the names of those people and intentions you wish prayed for during our nine days of grace. We will present them to Our Lady and say with her: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

Sincerely in Christ and St. Jude,

Fr. Allen Duston, O.P.

Fr. Allen Duston, O.P.

St. Peregrine “The Cancer Saint”

In his book *My Life with the Saints* Fr. James Martin, SJ discusses saints he has encountered in his life and says that we are attracted to a saint because the saint is already praying for us; in other words, the saints choose us, not the other way around.

It's a heartening thought to reflect upon. When we are devoted to a saint, we are inspired by his or her example to cultivate virtue and thus to be drawn deeper into relationship not only with the saint but also with Christ, the ultimate object of our devotion and the one who is virtue itself. From the beating heart of this relationship our faith receives constant nourishment and care.

Certain saints, because of events in their lives, are said to specialize in interceding for particular causes (e.g., St. Lucy, the patron saint of eyesight). With this in mind, we will have our first Novena in honor of St. Peregrine June 1 – 9, 2012.

Who is St. Peregrine? Throughout the world he is known as “the Cancer Saint,” the patron saint of people suffering from cancer – and not only cancer, but other life-threatening diseases as well, such as AIDS. Like St. Jude (“the Wonder Worker” and “Saint of the Impossible”), St. Peregrine is called “the Mighty” and “the Marvelous.” He himself was miraculously cured the night before his leg was to be amputated because of a cancerous growth. Now he is a special friend in heaven to those similarly afflicted.

Every day, at the Shrine, we receive letters and phone calls from

devotees suffering from cancer seeking St. Jude's intercession for themselves or their loved ones with the disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease. Last year, the President's Cancer Panel said that approximately 41% of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetimes.



St. Peregrine

On World AIDS Day last month, government health officials told us that 1.2 million Americans are living with H.I.V. (the virus that causes AIDS) right now, with others being infected every day. Presidents Bush, Clinton and Obama joined forces in renewing efforts to fight the disease.

Come June, we will turn away from the statistics and toward the one who confounds them, Christ the Healer, as we join in hope and trustful prayer to seek healing from cancer, AIDS, and

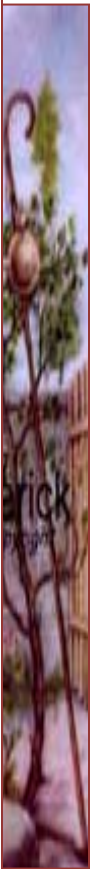
other diseases, cures for which have so far eluded the natural powers of human beings. We know, as Fr. Martin suggested at the beginning, that St. Peregrine is already praying for us, that he's already “chosen” us, and we welcome his uniting with us and our patron St. Jude over the days of our Novena in June.

Prayer to St. Peregrine

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called “The Mighty,” “The Wonder-Worker,” because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh a cancer that destroys the very fiber of our being... You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from the Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you.

(Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying).

Aided by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His goodness and mercy.
Amen



Meditations on Love and Suffering

by: Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P.

The many inquiries we receive here at the Shrine of St. Jude about love and human suffering prompt us to share with you the following meditations by Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P. Both discourses are part of his series on terminal illness.

What are the implications of the fact that God is the source of our love of life?

Since unfulfilled desire gives rise to suffering, one would not wish to awaken desires in another if he knew that these desires could not be fulfilled. This is what sadists do. Sadists get their satisfaction out of the pain they cause others. Since God is the source of our love of life and our desire for immortality, he must intend to bring this desire to a glorious realization. From this it follows that the more suffering one expe-

riences in dying, the greater is the certitude that death is not the end but, in God's plan, a new beginning.

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Is the suffering involved in terminal illness the same for all?



Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P.

All human beings are called to perfect love of God. Therefore, all must undergo essentially the same purification in order to allow God to

take first place in our hearts. The conversion of a soul from mortal sin to grace causes its own form of suffering. It means God has taken first place in one's heart, but it does not follow that this person loves God as fully as God deserves to be loved. To love God as fully as He deserves involves a lifetime of struggle and purification. This is what is involved in carrying the cross.

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Fr. Wall is a member of the Dominican Preaching Band. Please contact the Shrine for other meditations in this series.



Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, you are the refuge of sinners, the health of the sick, and the comfort of the afflicted. You know my wants, my troubles, my suffering. By your appearance at the Grotto of Lourdes you made it a privileged sanctuary where your favors are given to people streaming to it from the whole world.

Over the years countless sufferers have obtained the cure for their infirmities – whether of soul, mind, or body. Therefore, I come to you with St. Jude as my patron, to implore your motherly intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for Your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share in your glory.

Amen

Prayer to St. Jude Thaddeus

St. Jude, glorious apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many. But the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of difficult and desperate cases. Pray for me who stands in need of

God's mercy. Make use, I implore you, of that particular privilege accorded to you to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of.

Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly –

(here make your request) – and that I may praise God with you and all the elect throughout all eternity. I promise you, O blessed Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor. I will honor you as my special and powerful patron and encourage devotion to you. St.

Jude, pray for us and for all who honor and invoke thy aid.
Amen



Our Lady of Lourdes Novena Mass Times:

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.

- Blessing with the holy relic of St. Jude after weekday Masses.
- All Masses preceded by the Rosary led by Fr. Felix Cassidy, O.P.