



The Friends of St. Jude

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

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena, February 2009

Special Points

- Letter from our Chief Administrative Officer, Stedman Matthew
- Novena Masses:
- M-F: 8:00 am & 5:30 pm
Sat: 8:00 am
Sun: 9:30 am & 11:30am
- Novena Preacher: Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P.
- Meditations: Our Lady
- "Our Lady of the Parking Lot "

Calendar of Novenas 2009

- Our Lady of Lourdes Novena (preached) Feb. 3-11, 2009
- Easter Novena (not preached) April 4-19, 2009
- Mother's Day Novena (not preached) May 2-10, 2009
- Father's Day Novena (not preached) June 13-21, 2009
- St. Anne & St. Joachim Novena (preached) July 18-26, 2009
- St. Jude Novena (preached) Oct. 20-28, 2009
- St. Jude Pilgrimage Oct. 24, 2009
- Christmas Novena (not preached) Dec. 25- Jan. 2, 2010

Our Lady of Lourdes Novena

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

Whenever I see the many devotees who come to our St. Jude Shrine, I think of the pilgrims who visit the other great holy shrines of the world, and I marvel at this faith that unites us as a Christian family. For it is faith that leads us pilgrims to these holy places. It keys us to their aura which seems suffused with the presence of God. Indeed the air about them seems to block all that would separate us from God, giving us clear access to His grace, which alone brings us the refreshment and healing we seek.

That is especially true at Lourdes. We were reminded during last year's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes that, although physical healing has long been associated with that holy place, spiritual healing is even more the message. And so we go to Lourdes, in spirit, if not in body, time and time again, because, today more than ever, we need the healing to be found in the life-giving waters of God's grace, deluged as we are by the stresses of our modern world. We might say with the prophet Jeremiah: "Heal me

O Lord and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved." (Jer. 17:14)

It is in that spirit – the need for health not only of body but of soul – that we approach our annual Novena in honor of St. Jude and Our Lady of Lourdes beginning February 3 and concluding on February 11. We hear the message of Jeremiah echoed in that of Our Lady: "Be it done to me according to your word." It is an acceptance of God's plan and her role in it – and, incidentally, the hallmark of our hope, of our *health*. The Blessed Mother indicated to St. Bernadette the steps that lead to spiritual health. She told her to pray and do penance. And so we shall during this Novena. We hope you will find the enclosed holy card helpful to your devotions as you join us in prayer.

Our nine days of grace will offer special Masses and prayers (including the Rosary) led by Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P. Fr. Wall has had a storied ministry as pastor and academician. A former president of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, he has been instrumental in the education of young men preparing for the Dominican priesthood and

brotherhood, support for which is a principal goal of our Shrine ministry. So it will be a special joy for us to welcome him in February. Novena Masses are at 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. each day, 8:00 a.m. only on February 7, and 9:30 and 11:30 on February 8. All Masses are preceded by the recitation of the Rosary. We will have priests available before each Mass for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Please send in your petitions. The letters that come in contain many moving appeals for a great variety of needs. We hope you will join, in spirit or in person, with us and the many people who will be writing in or visiting the Shrine during the Lourdes Novena. We will pray together that your earnest prayer and fondest hopes will be realized.

In Christ and St. Jude,

Stedman Matthew
Chief Administrative Officer





Fr. Antoninus Wall, O.P.

Novena Preacher: Father Antoninus Wall, O.P.

Fr. Tony Wall, a native of San Francisco, is the son of Irish-born parents, and the brother of the late Fr. Kevin Wall, O.P. Fr. Wall attended St. Ignatius Prep in San Francisco and St. Mary's College in Moraga. Entering the Dominican Order, he pursued his sacred studies at St. Al-

bert's College in Oakland and Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He was ordained in Rome in 1950. Fr. Wall has had a career rich in pastoral and academic experiences. He has served as associate pastor in Seattle and as professor of theology at Immaculate Heart

and Dominican College. He negotiated the entry of the Dominicans into the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and served two terms there as President of the Dominican School. He currently resides at St. Albert's Priory in Oakland, California.

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Meditations: Our Lady of Lourdes

When we pray the Memorare we fix upon the Blessed Mother as a model of mercy and humility. We learn from her the disposition of soul that it takes to proclaim this great prayer from the depths of our hearts.

A Friend of St. Jude, Dianna, used to employ this prayer as a means of examination of conscience. She said it helped her get out of herself and the tyranny of her suffering to focus more on others, her relationship with others: her family, her students (she was a teacher), her faith community, the world. Thus did she see herself more honestly.

She was dying of cancer

when she made a pilgrimage to Lourdes for the first time. Like all who visit the great Shrine, where St. Bernadette encountered the Blessed Mother 150 years ago, Dianna sought healing. She discovered instead that she gained the ability to *listen*. Praying the Memorare at Lourdes became for her as much an exercise in listening as it was in petitioning, so that prayer became truly an exchange, a conversation in which she implored the Blessed Mother and listened to what she had to say. For this reason she was able to **hear** the message of the Memorare deep within her heart, filling it and expelling all fear and dread.

And what is the message? There was no one message,

Dianna said. A different phrase from the prayer would strike her more strongly each time, perhaps, and she would meditate upon it, turning it over and over until it seemed to become a key that opened the door to more profound consolations within. In the end, the Memorare became for her a kind of echo chamber of grace, resounding in her mind, heart and soul, cleansing her. When she died soon after returning from Lourdes, she went freely, joyfully to God. But she left us with a gift: those key phrases, her questions and meditations, which we share here with you.

The Meditations:

Most gracious Virgin Mary:

- What does it mean to live graciously, to have -- as the dictionary defines graciousness -- a great generosity of spirit?
- Is it about elegance, refinement; a fine sensibility; an appreciation of the beautiful things?
- Have I used my power, status, education to undermine or demean others -- even silently, in my heart?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Anyone who fled to your protection, help, intercession was not left unaided:

- Have I been responsive to those who've sought my help?
- Have I done enough to feed the hungry; to protect the victim of abuse?
- Has my aid for the poor been about giving handouts -- at arm's length -- rather than truly rolling up my sleeves and helping them because I see Jesus in them?
- Do I remember to pray for others, especially those who have asked for my prayers?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you:

- Do I truly trust God to hear and answer my prayer?
- What are the ways in which I block God's intervention in my life, so that it becomes a case not of "thy will be done" but rather of "my will be done?"
- Have I become somewhat timid of spirit? I who used to be so fearless and positive of outlook?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

My mother:

- What is my relationship with my own mother?
- Do I honor my mother (my father as well) while she is alive (or her memory if she is deceased)?
- Do I neglect her, or do I attend to her needs with love and gratitude for her goodness to me?
- Do I allow rampant individualism, or small misunderstandings, to come between us?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful:

- Do I practice the virtue of humility? How do I practice humility while avoiding being a doormat for others?
- Is humility really the conqueror of fear? How so?
- Do I regard myself as a sinner in need of God's grace, or have I been secretly arrogant and full of pride?
- Do I regularly take advantage of the Sacrament of Confession? How grateful am I for this sacrament as a gift of the Church?
- Do I hate my sins?
- Why do I look past my own sins to fixate on the faults of others?
- Upon whom do I look with disapproval, why?
- Do I truly judge others as God does?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Mother of the Word Incarnate; Mother of Mercy:

- What is mercy? What does it mean to be merciful to others?
- How do I know when to seek punishment for offenses against me and when to forbear punishment even when justice demands it?
- Does the way I live my life represent the goodness of Jesus Christ to others?
Hail Mary full of grace... pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

"Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. "



"Our Lady of the Parking Lot"

It's no surprise that the origin of the grotto of Our Lady behind St. Dominic's Church remains something of a mystery, for, seen from a certain vantage point, it can appear simply to have sprung up out of the ground, a 15-foot coup of nature. We know that it was located in the forecourt of St. Rose Academy on the church grounds, and that it almost didn't survive the bulldozer that completed the demolition of the school following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Thanks to the timely intervention of Fr. Martin Walsh, our Shrine director and then pastor of St. Dominic's, it was saved for future generations and is now a beloved fixed point of reference for St. Rose alumnae.



Today, the grotto is a popular stop as well for St. Jude devotees going to and from their car and the Shrine of St. Jude. It and its gardens are tended lovingly by St. Jude devotee

Madeline Camisa. Officially dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, it is covered in lush, gnarly vines that are nurtured, some say, by a spring that sits beneath the parking lot. It cups a six-foot statue of the Blessed Mother that glows at night from the pale blaze of candlelight, and sits amid a grove of cherry trees, whose fiery pink allure is a source of wonder in the springtime. Rocks, roses, lobelia and other flowers complete a picture of tranquil beauty, an oasis of quiet contemplation.

Madeline says that tending the grotto and garden is for her a "new vocation." She says, "It is a kind of fruition of my devotion to the Blessed Mother, which was reactivated while I lay in hospital seriously ill several years ago and, through her intercession, received the grace of spiritual and physical healing." Stories abound of consolations received at this tranquil place that one local newspaper called "Our Lady of the Parking Lot." Thus it has become to all who visit her.

How to Put the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Your Will

Please remember the Shrine when you prepare your will or trust or your estate plan, and ensure your participation in our mission for years to come. Bequests are free of estate tax, and can substantially reduce the amount of your estate claimed by the government. A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, securities, a piece of property or all or part of the residue of your estate. Please contact your attorney, or call Stedman Matthew for more information, at (415) 931-5919.

Our Lady of Lourdes Spiritual Bouquet

Dear Father,

Please remember _____

so that they may share in the Novena of Masses at the Shrine of St. Jude in observance of the Our Lady of Lourdes Novena, February 3-11, 2009.

Donation: _____

Please place this slip with your donation in an envelope and return it to the Shrine of St. Jude either by mail or by depositing it into the black candle collection box at the Shrine.