



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

1101 AMSTERDAM ROAD ✿ PARK HILLS ✿ KENTUCKY ✿ 41011

Our Lady of Lourdes Contra Mundum!



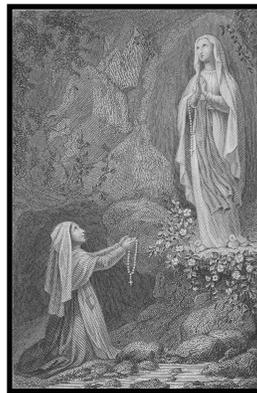
ON FEBRUARY 11, 1858, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, appeared to St. Bernadette in a grotto just outside the city of Lourdes, France. Our Lady came from Heaven to counter the evil effects of the liberal Enlightenment upon France and all the world. To do this, she requested a chapel be built there and the people make procession.

Officials from both the Church and the State tried in a variety of ways either to ignore or silence the counter-attack coming from the grotto and its newly-found sacred spring. Even Bernadette's family, friends, schoolmates and teachers joined in this resistance. At one point, Hell itself seemed to rise up to fight back directly, with a troop of demons making a din in the waters of the nearby River Gave. Voices from Hell threatened St. Bernadette *to get out of there or else!* It was Our Lady of Lourdes *contra mundum!*

As we well know, all these feeble efforts of the worldly-minded proved of no avail. Each and every plan of man was countered and forced to bow down and accept the sweet commands of this heavenly Queen to do *Penance! Penance! Penance!* Even as the apparitions progressed, the Abbe Peyramale, Dean of Lourdes, noticed the increase in the number of confessions as well as an increase of virtue in his people. Since that time, millions upon millions have found their spiritual, mental and physical health restored by making pilgrimage to the Grotto and its Niche at Lourdes, France... by washing in and drinking of its waters, by going to confession, kissing the ground, praying the Rosary, lighting candles, and making procession.

If you have been following our efforts on-line (<https://www.msjb.info>) or in person, you know by now that we have successfully converted and refurbished a once-upon-a-time Lutheran church into

a beautiful structure in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, with its solemn dedication taking place on Feb 11th of this year 2017. THANK YOU a thousand times for all your help in making this possible! May God reward you!



There are still various finishing touches to be done, including niches for the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, and St. Therese, as well as making out plans to refurbish the Bell Tower and install our bells which was not part of the original project. But our main focus remains developing and building a Grotto to capture something of Lourdes and make it present here. Not surprisingly, this is no easy affair. The resistance we are experiencing is beginning to echo what happened to our beloved Bernadette. It is beginning to look a lot like Our Lady of Lourdes *contra mundum* all over again!

Here are a few examples: we are now being told by a few local residents that the proposed grotto is too large, or that we will somehow have a "miracle" here or that an "apparition" will occur (by this, of course, they mean to suggest that we will in some way produce them ourselves as they do not believe the wondrous works of God). This in turn, they claim, will cause serious traffic and parking problems in the city. All this was expressed on the public media (e.g., Facebook) and spoken of at city council meetings. In an effort to present our case, we, and our landscape architects, Vivian Llambi and Associates, appeared before the city council of Park Hills this last



February 27. You can watch the results to see both support and resistance here (2:00-51:00 min mark): <https://tbnk.viebit.com/player.php?hash=gEu6OcpKfAjO>. Having heard some of the comments at this city council meeting, one would think that we were standing in the very shoes of St. Bernadette.



IN ORDER TO PROCEED with building a truly magnificent Grotto worthy of the Virgin Mother of God, we need to resolve a couple of zoning issues as well as satisfy the concern for sufficient parking. This we are doing with due diligence. Such efforts, however, require the purchase and conversion of new land as well as conducting various studies and surveys to prove the soundness of our design as well as to obtain all the needed permits (e.g., a geo-technical survey).

Furthermore, we are working to acquire additional property to satisfy the issue of parking. Along with these costs, design costs, this first phase of the Grotto project will cost around \$350,000 to \$400,000 (e.g., we have already spent just under \$30,000 for architectural, surveying, and legal fees as well as the outdoor statues to be used in the Grotto).

Since the target date for the completion of our Grotto is Spring of 2019, we hope to erect a smaller temporary stone Grotto this Summer to foreshadow great things to come.

Finally, our plan is to work with the international Larson Theme Construction and Sheehan Pools (<http://shehanpools.com/>). Amazingly, these international companies are locally owned and operated by two Sheehan brothers. Larson has made many of the major sets at places like Sea World, zoos and resorts.

This is no ordinary Grotto as we are determined to build something special for Our Lady... a cave where many people can find a place of prayer (only a short drive from I-71/75)... a place to light a candle any time of the day... a place to have processions. It is our hope you are open to helping us fund this worthy project. ✠

Please join us in praying the Novena in honor of our heavenly patron, St. John the Baptist. We have provided you with an intention sheet if you desire to unite your intentions with us before the holy altar of God.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NOVENA PRAYERS

Days 1, 4, & 7

O GLORIOUS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, greatest prophet among those born of woman, although thou wast sanctified in thy mother's womb and didst lead a most innocent life, nevertheless it was thy will to retire into the wilderness, there to devote thyself to the practice of austerity and penance; obtain for us of thy Lord the grace to be wholly detached, at least in our hearts, from earthly goods, and to practice Christian mortification with interior recollection and with the spirit of holy prayer. *Amen.*

Days 2, 5, & 8

OMOST ZEALOUS APOSTLE, who, without working any miracle on others, but solely by the example of thy life of penance and the power of thy word, didst draw after thee the multitudes, in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily and to listen to His heavenly doctrine; grant that it may be given unto us, by means of the example of a holy life and the exercise of every good work, to bring many souls to God, but above all those souls that are enveloped in the darkness of error and ignorance and are led astray by vice. *Amen.*

Days 3, 6, & 9

O MARTYR INVINCIBLE, who, for the honor of God and the salvation of souls, didst with firmness and constancy withstand the impiety of Herod even at the cost of thine own life, and didst rebuke him openly for his wicked and dissolute life; by thy prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous, in order that we may overcome all human respect and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master. *Amen.*

(end each day by mentioning petitions here)

- V. O glorious St. John the Baptist, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His Name,
- R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

Should you wish to contribute to our work, please make out checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist –or– MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)





St. John the Baptist Novena Intentions & Petitions
