

Meet Saint Bernadette



A "Stick-With-Me" Storybook
About the Saint of Lourdes



1

2

Little Bernadette

On a January morning in 1844, church bells rang in the little town of Lourdes, France. *"Ding-dong, ding dong!"* Everyone in town knew that meant joyful news: A baby was being baptized. "Marie Bernard," said the priest, as he poured holy water over the baby's head, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Little Marie Bernard's parents smiled. This was their first child, and they loved her so much! They called her Bernadette.

Bernadette's family went to church together, just like your family.
What do you like best about your parish church?

A Life of Suffering ... and Love

As Bernadette grew, her parents had more children. Bernadette loved her little brothers and sisters. She called them "gifts from God." But Bernadette's life was not easy. She had a disease called asthma. The medicines we have today hadn't been discovered yet, so Bernadette had trouble breathing. That made learning to read and write difficult.

Bernadette's family was very poor. They lived in a cold, dark basement that had once been a jail cell. Still, Bernadette loved God. She prayed every day and went to Mass with her family.

Dear God, I pray for: _____

A Shining Light ...

One cold day in February when Bernadette was fourteen years old, she was out gathering firewood with her younger sister and a friend. When they came to a running stream, the other girls waded across. Bernadette knew the icy water was bad for her asthma. "I'll look for a shallow place to cross," she thought.

Suddenly, a sound like a strong wind made Bernadette look up. A bright light was shining in the rocky cliff on the other side of the water. What could it be? Bernadette crossed the stream to find out.

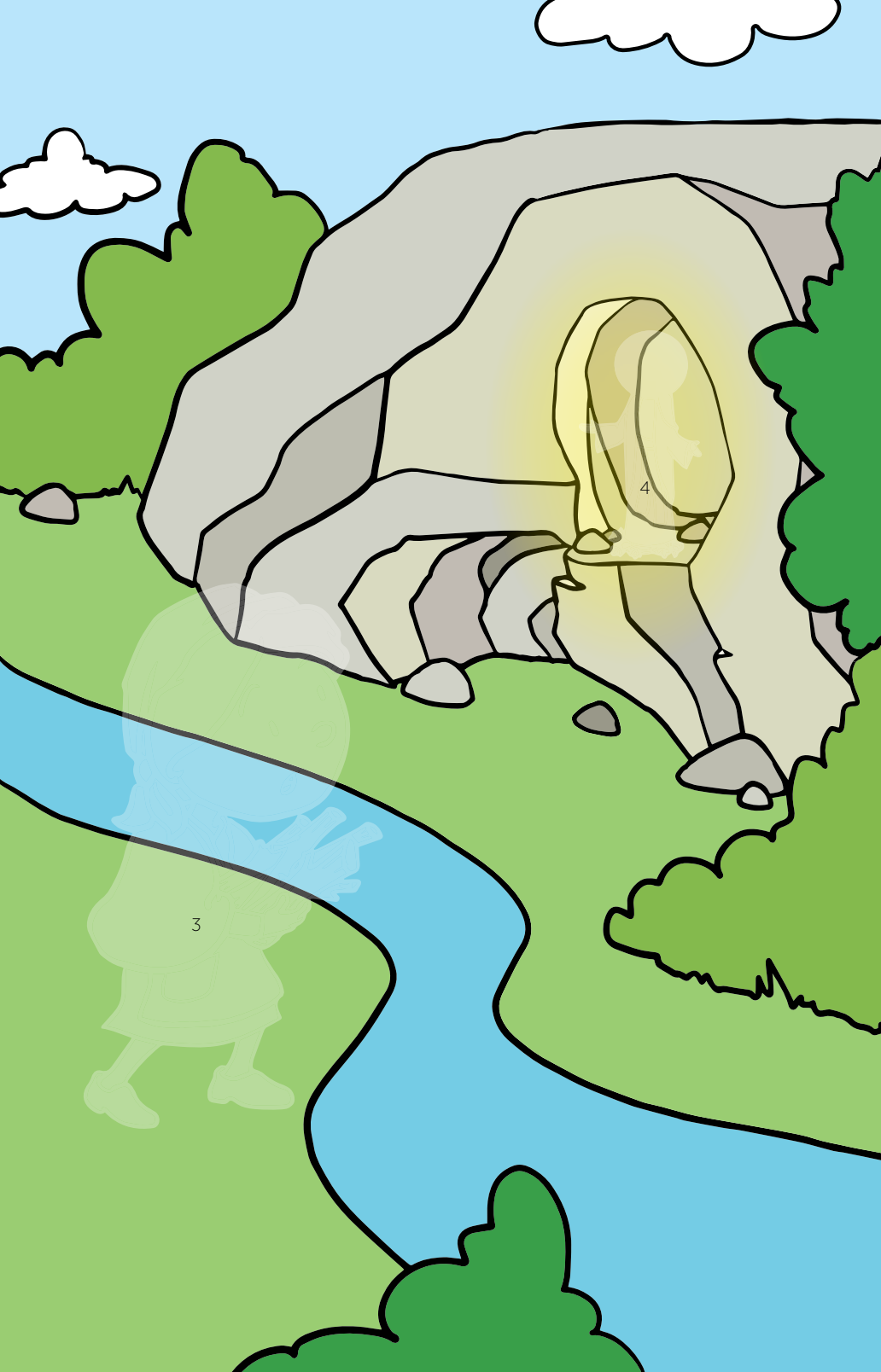
... and a Beautiful Lady

The light was coming from a little cave. Inside, a beautiful young lady smiled at Bernadette. She wore a long, white veil and a dress with a blue belt, and she had yellow roses on her feet. Bernadette had never seen anyone like her, and she was a little frightened. So she began to pray. The young woman made the Sign of the Cross with Bernadette.

When Bernadette finished praying, the lady disappeared. All Bernadette could see were the other girls, staring at her. They hadn't seen a thing.

*The prayer Bernadette said was the Rosary.
It begins with the Sign of the Cross. Can you say it?*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



3

4

Meet Saint Bernadette

A Life of Faith and Trust in God

Our Lady once said to Bernadette, "I cannot promise you happiness in this life, only in the next." These words were true for Bernadette. Her life was not easy. But she loved and trusted God, even when things were difficult.

St. Bernadette is a patron saint of the sick and of people who are made fun of for their faith. St. Bernadette also shows us that faith in God and his love can see us through our darkest, most difficult times.

Celebrate this beautiful saint on her feast day, April 16. And remember to turn to God and pray always!

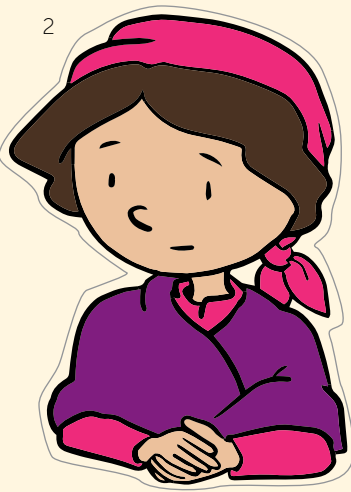


16

4



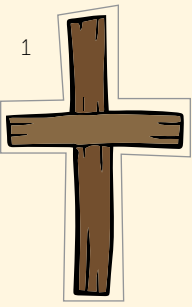
2



3



1



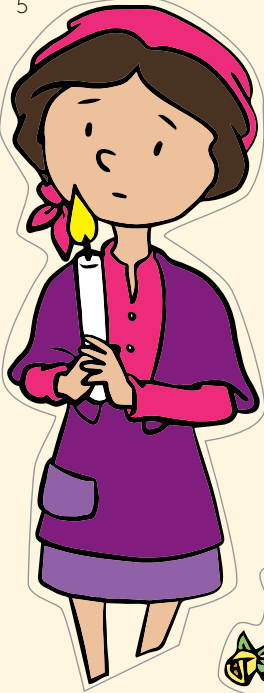
8



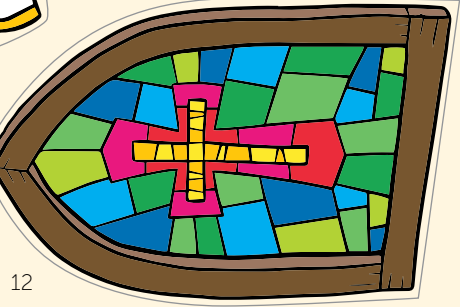
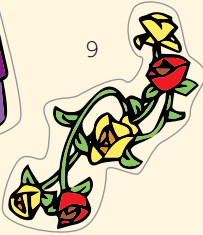
6



5



9



12