

# Our Lady of Lourdes

Patroness of healing.

Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 2006 World Day of the Sick included a "special solicitude to the suffering of people with mental illness" and sought for the church communities to "bear witness to the tender mercy of God toward them."

Lourdes, France, was the site of an apparition of Mary to Saint Bernadette Soubirous on February 11, 1858. Since then, the miraculous water continues to attract pilgrims from all over the world who come seeking physical, mental, and spiritual cures.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a special patroness for healing. Regardless of the kind of illness, we know we can always turn to Our Lady for help.

**Feast day: February 11**



**Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes.**

Loving God, you are always near to us, especially when we are weak, suffering and vulnerable. Reach out to those who experience mental illness. Lift their burdens, calm their anxiety, and quiet their fears. Surround them with your healing presence that they may know that they are not alone. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and in the name of your Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.