



Our Lady of Lourdes — February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

CONNIE CLARK

Do you know someone who is sick? God sent Our Lady of Lourdes to show how much he cares for the sick. Here's what happened and what it means for all of us.

Fourteen-year-old Bernadette was gathering firewood by a river when she spotted a golden light coming from a nearby cave. When Bernadette came closer, she saw a beautiful lady holding a rosary. The lady spoke lovingly to Bernadette and asked her to pray the rosary with her.



Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879) in 1866

This was the first of thousands of cures at Lourdes, which still pours out healing water today. As Mary had asked, a beautiful church was built there, with spires pointing toward heaven. Remembering that Jesus cared for the sick, hundreds of volunteers help at Lourdes every day. It all reminds us that God loves and cares for us, body and soul. He wants us to care for others as he does.

Our Lady of Lourdes is the name the Church gives to Mary as she appeared at Lourdes. How do you think Mary would like you to celebrate this feast on February 11? Hint: Mary loves and cares for all the sick and suffering!



CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a quarterly magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.

At first, most people didn't believe Bernadette's story about the lady. But that didn't stop Bernadette from returning to the little cave in Lourdes, France. The beautiful lady appeared 18 times between February and July 1858. She told Bernadette to pray for sinners. She also explained who she was: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The beautiful lady was Mary, the mother of Jesus!

As word spread, curious crowds joined Bernadette at the cave. Only Bernadette could see Mary. One day, people watched as Bernadette scraped at the ground. A small spring of water trickled up. Mary had told

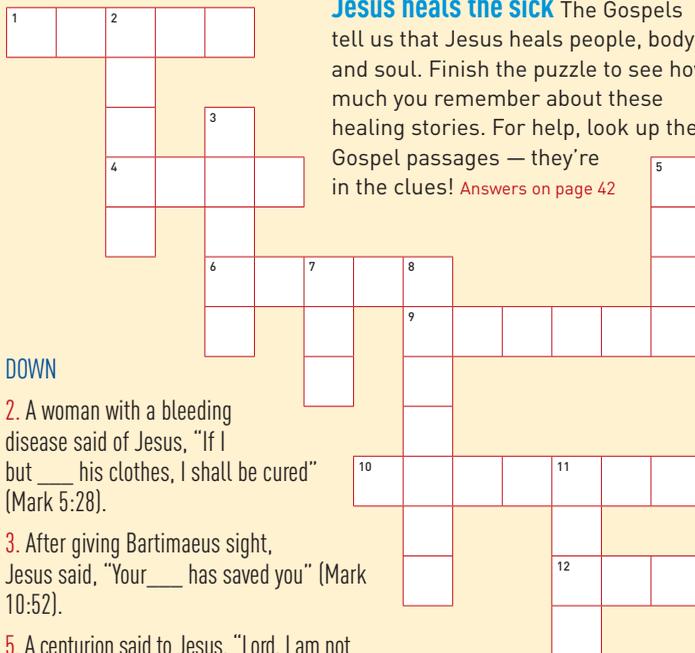
Bernadette that she wanted a church built on the spot. Later, a woman with an injured arm washed in the spring. She was completely healed!

Lourdes, France



Go to the next page for a puzzle about Jesus healing the sick.

Puzzle from LIVING THE LITURGICAL YEAR



Jesus heals the sick The Gospels tell us that Jesus heals people, body and soul. Finish the puzzle to see how much you remember about these healing stories. For help, look up the Gospel passages — they're in the clues! **Answers on page 42**

DOWN

- 2. A woman with a bleeding disease said of Jesus, "If I but ___ his clothes, I shall be cured" (Mark 5:28).
- 3. After giving Bartimaeus sight, Jesus said, "Your ___ has saved you" (Mark 10:52).
- 5. A centurion said to Jesus, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the ___ and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8:8).

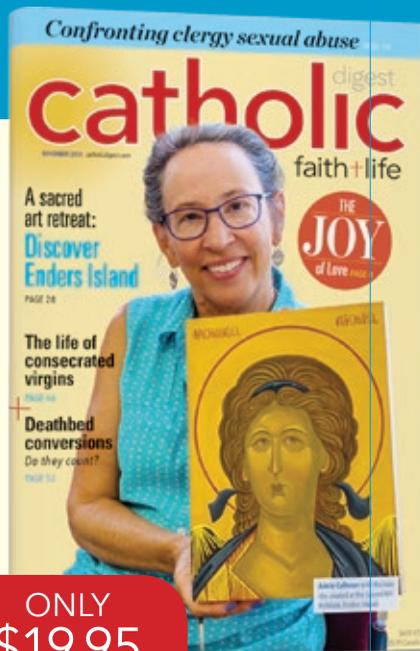
ACROSS

- 1. Jesus healed this apostle's mother-in-law (see Matthew 8:14-15).
- 4. Jesus used this on a blind man's eyes (see John 9:6).
- 6. As Jesus was healing him, a blind man said, "I see people looking like ___ and walking" (Mark 8:24).
- 9. When Jairus learned that his daughter had died, Jesus told him, "Do not be ___; just have faith" (Mark 5:36).
- 10. Jesus brought this dead man back to life (see John 11:43-44).
- 12. The number of lepers who returned to thank Jesus after he had healed them (see Luke 17:15).

DOWN continued

- 7. Jesus' final healing miracle before his death and resurrection was to restore a man's right ___ (see Luke 22:50, 51).
- 8. Jesus often healed people on this day of the week (see John 5:9).
- 11. People lowered a paralyzed man through a hole in a ___ so that Jesus could heal him

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