

SAINT BERNADETTE

I was born in January 1844 in France. My father was a miller and my mother was a laundress. My mom had 9 children but only 4 of us lived to be older than 10. I was the oldest but I was always sickly and got cholera (which is diarrhea and vomiting) which, in turn, led to me getting severe asthma that I had for the rest of my life.

We were so poor that we ended up moving into a basement. One day my sisters and I were out gathering firewood. We went down to cross the stream. The other girls quickly sat on the rocks, pulled their shoes and socks off and ran through the stream. I was nervous about getting in the cold water because of my asthma and was wandering around when I found a cave which people called a grotto. I knew we needed the firewood though, so I sat down and was taking my shoes and socks off when I heard a sudden wind. I looked up and saw a golden cloud floating out of the grotto.

There was a beautiful woman in a white robe with a wide blue belt and a white veil. She had bare feet with yellow roses laying on them. She had an ivory and golden rosary with which she made the sign of the cross and smiled at me. I knelt down, pulled out my own rosary and together we prayed.

I was 14 years old and this was the first of 18 visions I had of the Mother of God. I went back to the grotto after Mass 3 days later. I had the vision again, and again 4 days after that. It was on this 3rd visit that "the vision" asked me to return daily for a "fortnight" (14 days).

My mother was embarrassed when people began to hear this story and tried to forbid me from going. The police and the district attorney wanted to arrest me but I had done no wrong.

On the 13th visit the BVM asked me to "Please go to the priests and tell them that a chapel is to be built here. Let processions come hither." Since this time many people have been cured of illnesses at Lourdes.

Food: cake or cupcakes frosted with white frosting. Use blue decorator's to make rosary beads on the top.

Pretzel rod logs