

The background of the entire image is a dark, textured surface, possibly stone or wood, with a prominent vertical crack running down the center. A large, dark silhouette of a person on a cross is superimposed over this background. The cross is made of two thick, dark beams. The person's arms are outstretched along the horizontal beam, and their legs are spread apart along the vertical beam. The silhouette is positioned such that the cross's beams intersect near the center of the image. The text is overlaid on the dark area of the cross.

# *The Way of the Cross*

*A Journey with Christ*

## The Origin of the Stations of the Cross

The devotion known as the Stations of the Cross (or, sometimes, the Way of the Cross) originated in Jerusalem, during the late 3rd or early 4th century. As the persecutions of the Church had ended and the road towards official recognition was opening, a devotion to the holy places of Christ's suffering and death led many on pilgrimage to Jerusalem—including Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. In Jerusalem, the holy sites were used for instruction and edification, and shaped liturgical practices and theology that influenced Europe through the writings of the pilgrims.

However, a pilgrimage to Jerusalem was, for most people in Europe, impossible in the 5th century. And so, to meet the growing desire of the faithful, St. Petronius, Bishop of Bologna, had chapels designed at the monastery of Santo Stefano to recall the most important shrines of Jerusalem. At this monastery, popularly called Jerusalem, the faithful could recall the suffering and death of Jesus and imagine themselves in the Holy Land. This is the earliest expression known of stational liturgy in Europe.

Following the Crusades, pilgrimage to Jerusalem again became popular, and from the 12th century it appears that a journey along the Via Sacra (the Holy Road) was common for pilgrims, though stations as we know them were not yet established. It was likely the Franciscan monks, given administrative responsibility for the holy places in 1342, who established the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow) as we now know it, and who then brought the devotion to Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries.

In 1686, Innocent XI granted the Franciscans the right to establish stations within their churches, a right later extended (in 1731, by Clement XII) to all churches. Though it took years to get to the fourteen stations now considered traditional (numbers ran from eleven to thirty), the tradition of this mini pilgrimage has remained an important devotion to Christians throughout the world, especially in Lent.



We invite you to enter this scriptural journey with Christ with your whole heart and imagination. As you compose the scene, pay attention to the details: sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings of the stations. Place yourself in the scene and allow the Holy Spirit to make present the station you are contemplating. Use your imagination to dig deeper into the story so that God may communicate with you in a personal, evocative way. As you offer your time of prayer to God, trust that God is communicating with you. Be assured that God will speak to you, whether through your memory, understanding, emotions, or your imagination.

May the events of Christ's passion and death be present to you,



Joseph P. Carver, S.J.  
Pastor

*St. Francis Xavier would like to thank parishioner John Neuman for his photographic skill and generosity in capturing the artistry of Brother Joseph Carignano, S.J..*



*Turn Away from Sin and Be  
Faithful to the Gospel!*



# The Stations of the Cross

Presider: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Assembly: Amen.**

On the Way, Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them:  
“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem  
and everything written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.  
He will be handed over to the Gentiles and he will be mocked and insulted  
and spat upon; and after they have scourged him, they will kill him,  
but on the third day, he will rise.”

Luke 18:31-33

O God, our beginning and our ending,  
we have come with your Son to the gates of the Holy City,  
help us to enter with hearts ready and eyes open to all that shall unfold.  
May the Spirit, who guided your Son into the mystery of death,  
guide us, as well, as we follow him along this path of sorrows,  
into the mystery of love, poured out like blood and water upon the earth,  
for the salvation of your People and the redemption of all humanity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Sacrifice and Salvation.

**Assembly: Amen.**



The First Station

## JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Grace Desired:

RIGHT  
JUDGEMENT



**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ,  
and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*Format: (Presider, Reader, All)*

Pilate summoned the chief priests,  
the rulers, and the people  
and said to them:

“You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt.  
I have conducted my investigation in your presence  
and have not found this man guilty of the charges  
you have brought against him.  
Therefore, I shall have him flogged and then release him.”

Luke 23:13-14,16

We pray for the grace of *Right Judgement*

Almighty God,  
though he found in him no guilt,  
Pilate gives way to the crowd and sends Jesus to his death.  
Give to our hearts the power to judge rightly:  
to discern with freedom your will;  
to choose with compassion the way of your Son.  
May our judgments be guided,  
not by the pressure of others,  
nor by our pride,  
but by the grace and wisdom,  
poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, Prisoner of Conscience**. AMEN



### *Questions for Reflection*

Placing yourself in Pilate's chair- not seeing any crime in Jesus, but also knowing that your job is to maintain public order - what would you choose to do? (*Allow yourself to imagine the scene, not knowing Jesus, as a Christian, but as though it were today*)

What role does public opinion, or popular opinion, play in making a decision?  
How should it be considered?

Where in your life are you called to judge? Whom do you condemn, and why?  
Can you sense Pilate's position in your judgements? Can you pray for him?



The Second Station

## JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

Grace Desired:

### VOCATION

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

“I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
My face did not shield from buffets and spitting.  
The Lord God is my help,  
therefore, I am not disgraced;  
I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.”

Isaiah 50:6-7

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you wish to come after me  
you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.  
For whoever wishes to save their life will lose it,  
but whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

“What profit would there be for you to gain the whole world  
and forfeit your life?

Or what can you give in exchange for your life.”

Matthew 17:24-26

*We pray for the grace of **Vocation***

Almighty God,  
from the time he arose from the waters of the Jordan,  
Jesus walked the path that led to his cross.  
Give us the grace to heed your Spirit,  
who drives us out to the desert,  
and draws us into the world,  
as followers in the footsteps of your Son.  
May the cross given to Jesus be our summons and our  
strength—a reminder of the vocation each of us receives,  
that we might be like him in all things,  
even to the point of death,  
and so be with him in the fullness of his resurrection.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Chosen One**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Think of this moment in your life: what have you been called to be and to do? Student? Parent? Wife? Husband? Teacher? Lawyer? Person in search of work? What? How is God present in this moment?

Have you “Denied yourself” and taken up your cross? How much of what you do is based upon ego, and not love? How much is limited by fear? How might your life be different - what might your vocation look like - if you set aside your fear and followed Christ? What would be the same?

Imagine taking your cross, standing at the side of Jesus. What would your cross be like? What would you say to Jesus, in that moment?





The Third Station

## JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Grace Desired:

VULNERABILITY

Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**



He grew up like a sapling before him,  
like a shoot from the parched earth;  
There was in him no stately bearing  
to make us look at him.  
He was spurned and avoided by people,  
a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity,  
One of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned,  
and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,  
our sufferings that he endured,  
While we thought of him as stricken,  
as one smitten by God and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our offences,  
crushed for our sins,  
Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole,  
by his stripes we were healed.

Isaiah 53:2-5

*We pray for the grace of **Vulnerability***

Almighty God,  
through rejection and abandonment,  
violence and betrayal, torment and torture,  
Jesus opened himself to the weight of all human failure,  
for the sake of love and the promise of redemption.  
Give us the grace to be vulnerable in love,  
and the courage to rise again when fallen,  
not victims but companions of all who suffer.  
May the fall of Jesus raise us from the earth,  
and his openness to your will, free us  
from the false strength of our ego.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Vulnerable One**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Recall to your mind a time of weakness and vulnerability: how did you react? Did you resist, or find yourself called more deeply within? Were there graces or desolations? Could there have been graces that you missed?

Are there struggles in your life today that are calling you to greater vulnerability? What are they? What would you need to find so as to respond as you desire? What will help you rise again?

Imagine yourself at the side of Jesus, fallen and weak: what do you want to say to him? What do you want him to say to you? Without guilt, can you speak to him?



The Fourth Station

## JESUS MEETS HIS SORROWING MOTHER

Grace Desired:

### FAMILIAL LOVE

Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the Law in regards to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

And Simeon said to Mary, his mother:

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”

Luke 2:25,27--32,34-35

*We pray for the grace of **Familial Love***

Almighty God,  
from the house in Nazareth, to the streets of Jerusalem,  
Mary bore your Son as the child of her body,  
and with her husband, Joseph, raised him in wisdom, in hope,  
and in love.

How deep the sorrow; how profound the wound  
a mother feels in the death of her child!

Help us to love all those within our families,  
with the faithful love of Mary.

May we have compassion on our children,  
forgiveness for our parents' faults,  
and healing for the pierced hearts of our siblings.  
May the tears of Mary wash clean the sins of every family.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, Son of Mary.** AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Imagine yourself in the presence of Jesus and Mary - he, wounded and on his way to death, she beholding him, powerless to do anything. What is each feeling? What does each say? What do you long to say to them?

If you are a parent, how do you help your children to grow in the face of struggle and loss? How do you help them and hold them, without keeping them from their own vocation? Can you imagine speaking to Mary about this?

Think of your family - its strength and brokenness, its love and loss. What are the lessons of Mary and Jesus for your relationships? Can you forgive without becoming a victim? Can you accept forgiveness and show you love in life giving ways? Can you bring your family into this place with Jesus?



The Fifth Station

## SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

Grace Desired:

# GENEROSITY

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.



As they led Jesus away,  
they took hold of a certain Simon,  
a Cyrenian,  
who was coming from the country,  
and they laid the cross on him,  
and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Luke 23:26

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am meek and humble of heart,  
and you will find rest for your selves.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

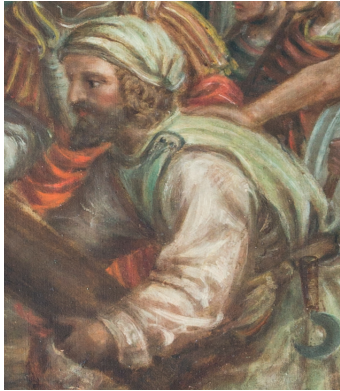
Matthew 11:28-30



*We pray for the grace of **Generosity***

Almighty God,  
like Simon, we walk through the streets of our lives  
unaware of your presence,  
blind to the need that surrounds us;  
until we are called to share in the cross of your Son  
and his work of salvation.  
Help us to open our hearts in love  
and to raise our hands in generous service;  
help us to behold Jesus in the sisters and brothers  
whose burdens we are blessed to share,  
whose oppression we are called to relieve.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, our Companion**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Try to imagine yourself, on your way home from work or school, suddenly asked by the police to help someone carry a cross. What would you think? What would you do?

In imagining the scene, who is the Jesus you are asked to help? Who does he look like: a relative, a friend, a stranger of some kind? Look at this Jesus, and think of the people you saw today, who of them are you called to help?

Whose cross do you help to carry? Where do you take the role of Simon? Can you accept your own generosity as a gift of God, given to you to be closer to Jesus? Can you talk to Jesus about this?



The Sixth Station

## VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Grace Desired:

### FRIENDSHIP

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

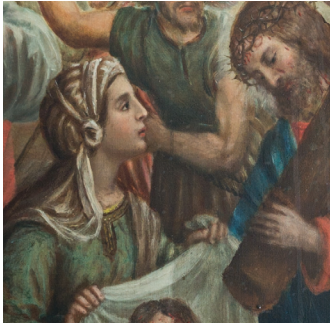
A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter,  
whoever finds one finds a treasure.  
A faithful friend is beyond price,  
no sum can balance one's worth.  
A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy;  
such as one who fears God finds.  
For one who fears God behaves accordingly,  
and one's friend will be like oneself.

Sirach 6:14-17

*We pray for the grace of **Friendship***

Almighty God,  
with a woman's strength and the courage of a disciple,  
Veronica presses past the guards  
and wipes the face of Jesus with her veil.  
Give us the grace of such friendship,  
and allow our lives to be marked  
with the image of your Son,  
as Veronica's veil was marked,  
that we might see in ourselves the perfect image of Christ,  
and offer the friendship of Christ,  
in good times and in bad, to all in need.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, our Friend**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Consider some of the friends in your life, those closest to you. What makes your friendship so strong? What have been the building blocks of your friendship and what are the signs that it is a good friendship?

Are you friends with Jesus? Imagine him as Veronica saw him: see the face of your friend in his - allow your imagination to do this. What do you want to do? What do you want to say?

Are you a good friend? What are the strengths and graces you bring to your friends? What helps you to grow as a friend? Can you imagine talking to Veronica about her friendship, about why she did what she did?



The Seventh Station

## JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Grace Desired:

# COMPASSION

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.



Save me, God,  
for the waters have reached my neck.  
I have sunk into the mire of the deep, where there is no foothold.  
I have gone down to the watery depths;  
the flood overwhelms me.  
I am weary with crying out;  
my throat is parched.  
My eyes have failed, looking for my God.  
More numerous than the hairs of my head  
are those who hate me without cause.  
Too many for my strength are my treacherous enemies.  
For your sake I bear insult, shame covers my face.  
I have become an outcast to my kin, a stranger to my mother's children.  
Insults have broken my heart, and I am weak;  
I looked for compassion, but there was none.  
Instead they put gall in my food; for my thirst they gave me vinegar.  
I am afflicted and in pain;  
let your saving help protect me, God.

Psalms 69:2-5, 8-9, 21, 30

*We pray for the grace of **Compassion***

Almighty God,  
your Son, Jesus, received the fullness of our humanity:  
falling beneath the power of death,  
and the crush of human sorrow.  
Help us be with him in this moment of his Passion,  
and so come to feel his presence ever in our midst.  
May the Passion of Jesus inspire compassion in us  
for all those who suffer and are crushed  
by injustice and inhumanity,  
by loss and sorrow,  
by the weight of our world.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Compassion of God.** AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Have you ever felt that your life was overwhelming, and the crush of all the world upon you? Have you ever felt that the words of this psalm might be your own? Imagining those times, speak to Jesus, who falls under the weight of his cross. What do you want to say? What does he say to you?

Compassion for others is a sharing in their passion. Where have you found compassion in your life? Where have you offered or received it?

Jesus falls, but rises again, because of his desire to drink fully of our human life and to show that our suffering is his. Can you share your suffering with Jesus? Can you feel compassion for him, and so lay your burdens aside? Can you love him and allow him to love you in your brokenness?





The Eighth Station

## JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Grace Desired:

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

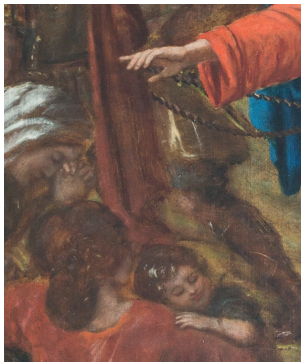
A large crowd of people followed Jesus,  
including many women  
who mourned and lamented him.  
Jesus turned to them and said:  
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me,  
but weep for yourselves and for your children;  
for, indeed, the days are coming when people will say,  
*‘Blessed are the barren,  
the wombs that never bore,  
and the breasts that never nursed.’*  
At that time, people will say to the mountains,  
*‘Fall on us’*; and to the hills, *‘Cover us!’*  
For if these things are done when the wood is green,  
what will happen when it is dry?”

Luke 23:27-31

*We pray for the grace of **Social Justice***

Almighty God,  
in the faces of the Women of Jerusalem,  
we see the faces of millions of women across the centuries,  
caught in structures of oppression and death.  
These are the mothers of the disappeared and the imprisoned,  
the sisters and daughters of the dead and missing.  
They weep for their children; they weep for their families;  
they weep for a world they have nursed into being.  
May their tears for Jesus move us to justice;  
and rouse our hearts to follow your Son  
along the Way of the Cross  
into the fullness of the Kingdom.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Liberator**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

The Women of Jerusalem, who weep for Jesus, seem powerless, except for the testimony of their presence. Is there somewhere that you are called to stand and testify for justice - not because you are powerful, but because you are moved? Where do you weep for Christ?

Imagine being with these women: who are they? How do they appear to you? Can you see the women who have lost their children to violence and war? Can you see your mother, sisters, friends among them? What do you want to say to them and hear from them?

In Jesus' words, the Women of Jerusalem are to look beyond his suffering, but to see it in other places, as well. What breaks your heart? Pray for that today.



The Ninth Station

## JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Grace Desired:

**COURAGE**

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.



When he had entered Jerusalem in triumph,  
Jesus said to his disciples,  
“The hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
Amen, amen, I say to you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.  
Those who love their life lose it,  
and those who hate their life in this world  
will preserve it for eternal life.  
Whoever serves me must follow me,  
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Now is the time of judgement on this world;  
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself.”

John 12:23-26a, 31-32

*We pray for the grace of **Courage***

Almighty God,  
with the last full measure of his strength,  
Jesus ascended towards his death;  
courageously rising again and again,  
his body crushed, his heart still faithful  
to his mission and to his word.  
Give us the courage to live our faith,  
to love with passion,  
to persevere with strengthening hope,  
to follow—even in failure,  
even in the shadow of death—  
the path of Christ Jesus in our lives.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Fallen One**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Courage is the enabling virtue: without it, none of our other virtues can be expressed. Recall a moment of courage in your life: how did it express itself? How did you feel at the moment, or later? What do you do to cultivate courage in yourself?

You have walked with Jesus almost to the top of the hill, imagine this moment and see him stumble again, and then struggle to his feet. What do you want to say? What do you want to do?

Are there moments in your life today that crush your spirit? That force you to fall? Can you speak to Jesus, at this place of his collapse, about these? Can you allow him to share them and help you?



The Tenth Station

## JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Grace Desired:

**HUMILITY**

**Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.**

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,  
they took his clothes and divided them  
into four shares, a share for each soldier.  
They also took his tunic,  
but the tunic was seamless,  
woven in one piece from the top down.  
So they said to one another,  
“Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see whose it will be.”  
in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled that say:

*“They divided my garments among themselves,  
and for my vesture they cast lots.”*

This is what the soldiers did.

John 19:23-24



*We pray for the grace of **Humility***

Almighty God,  
your Son held onto no honor or glory,  
but allowed himself to be emptied of every dignity.  
In his humiliation, our shame becomes transformed,  
and binds us to him in the solidarity of love.  
Help us to grow in true humility,  
without shame or pride to blind us;  
free of the need to prove ourselves through what we possess  
or clothe ourselves in false appearances and deceptive gear.  
Let us stand naked in the truth of our lives,  
and humble in the depths of our hearts.  
May the stripping of Christ, clothe us in his love.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, the Humble**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

What are the garments you wear to keep people from seeing you, or to cause them to see you in a particular way? What is your pride? Is it righteousness or strength, self-sufficiency or competence, beauty or power, humor or self-deprecation? What would it be like for you to be naked before others?

Imagine yourself in the scene, and in the various roles. What is it like to be a guard, stripping and executing this man? What is it to be in the crowd? Or to be Jesus? What does your heart invite you to say and do?

The difference between humility and humiliation has to do with the internal dignity of the person, which no external action can touch. Have you experienced either? Do you desire humility? Can you ask Jesus for help?



The Eleventh Station

## JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Grace Desired:

**SACRIFICE**

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.



They took Jesus, and carrying the cross,  
he went out to what is called  
the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, *Golgotha*.  
There they crucified him, and with him two others,  
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.  
Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross.  
It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.”

John 19:16b-19

Like water my life drains away;  
all my bones grow soft.  
My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me.  
As dry as a potsherd is my throat; my tongue sticks to my palate;  
you lay me in the dust of death.  
Many dogs surround me; a pack of evildoers closes in on me.  
So wasted are my hands and feet  
that I can count all my bones.

Psalms 22:15-18

*We pray for the grace of **Sacrifice***

Almighty God,  
in the wounds of your Son, our wounds are healed;  
in his gift of himself, we are made whole.  
As he is stretched upon the cross-beams,  
Jesus embraced the world.  
May we gaze upon the wounded Christ  
and find, in his sacrifice,  
the depth of your love for us.  
May we, at last, put down the crosses  
of our own construction—fear, doubt, self-hatred, pride—  
and allow our hearts to be fastened with Christ  
upon this altar, offered to you.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, our Sacrifice and Salvation**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Imagine the suffering of Jesus - not just the physical pain, but the loss of his friends, the sense of abandonment by God, the humiliation of his person, the pain he is forced to give his mother. If he is willing to do all this, and still love those who have done it to him, is there anything you could do to lose his love?

It is said that “Sacrifice is suffering done for love.” Knowing that Jesus could have escaped this suffering, why does he do it? What do you want to tell him or ask him?

“The Lord’s cross might redeem us but our own just wastes our time.”

What is the cross you have made for your self, that keeps you from the cross of Christ?

Can you set it aside? Can the sacrifice of Christ move you to it?



The Twelfth Station

## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Grace Desired:

LOVE

Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land,  
until three in the afternoon.  
At three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

*“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”*

Which is translated, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.  
When the centurion who stood facing him saw  
how he breathed his last he said:  
“Truly this man was the Son of God.!”

Mark 15:33-34, 37-39

*We pray for the grace of **Love***

Almighty God,  
in the last moment of his life,  
Jesus gave himself freely into your hands,  
out of love for your people, out of love for us all.  
May our spirit be joined with his  
in the moment of his death,  
and so be received by you.  
And as we join with him in likeness to his death,  
may we be one with him, in the power of your Spirit,  
and raised to the fullness of life on Easter.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, our Beloved**. AMEN.



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Look at Jesus on the cross; really look, closely, at his body and his face, his wounds and his anguish. Listen to his words. What do you want to say to him? What do you want to do?

Who loves you and gives their life to you? To whom are you willing to give your life?  
To whom are you called? Can you ask Jesus to help you love in this way, and to help you receive such love?

People die every day - some quietly and peacefully, many in pain and anguish. What does Jesus say about those who are facing death, and those who remain? What does this love do to you?





The Thirteenth Station

## THE BODY OF JESUS IS REMOVED FROM THE CROSS

Grace Desire:

# MOURNING

Presider: We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All: Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**



There were also women  
looking on from a distance.  
Among them were Mary Magdalene,  
Mary the mother of the younger James  
and of Joses, and Salome.

These women had followed him when he was in Galilee  
and ministered to him.  
There were also many other women  
who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Mark 15:40-41

*We pray for the grace of **Mourning***

Almighty God,  
into the arms of his mother, your Son was laid,  
just as in the manger, she received her child,  
and thought, "This is my body. This is my blood."  
Help us to mourn with Mary  
at the death of your Son,  
and with her, to see him in every unjust death,  
from Syria to South Central Los Angeles,  
from Congo to Colombia,  
in our children in uniform and in every mother's child.  
May our mourning strip away our anger and our fear,  
and open our hearts to mercy and love.

We ask this in the name of **Jesus, Son of Mary**. AMEN



### ***Questions for Reflection***

Hold out your arms to the body of Christ, and let him be lowered to your chest. Can you feel the weight? Can you sense this body, dead as we shall ever be? Can you see the wounds and scars? What do you want to say? What do you want to do?

Have you lost anyone you love? Can you see those touched by the loss - including yourself? How do you mourn with them? What do you do or say?

Sit with Mary, who holds her Son in her arms. Take her hand and speak to her about your losses and hers. What does she long to say to you? And you to her?



The Fourteenth Station

## JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

Grace Desire:

**HOPE**

**Presider:** We Adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

**All:** Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.  
And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.  
Nicodemus, the one who had first come to Jesus at night, also came,  
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths, along with the spices,  
according to Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified,  
there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been  
buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day;  
for the tomb was close by.

John 19:38-42

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead, and their passing away was  
thought an affliction, and their going forth from us, utter destruction;  
but in the time of their visitation, they will shine, and shall dart about as sparks  
through stubble.

Wisdom 3:1-3a, 7

*We pray for the grace of **Hope***

Almighty God,  
into your hands we commend our brother, Jesus,  
whose life and death are yours.  
Yet, it is not without hope that we entomb him,  
for we behold your love, written in all creation.  
Keep us from despair, O God!  
And draw us back to this tomb,  
where the stone we roll upon the dead,  
will be rolled back for the living.  
Nurture us in hope, always.

*We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN*



### ***Questions for Reflection***

In the fullness of death, Jesus enters the tomb. Imagine yourself there - at the side of Mary Magdalene and Joseph of Arimathea - what do you do as the stone closes the entrance? What do you want to say?

What are the challenges to hope in your life? What are the supports?

What are the pieces of your life you need to put in the tomb with Jesus? What needs, at last, to be buried and left behind? Imagine yourself picking up whatever it is - resentments, fears, hurts, etc. - and place them in the tomb at the feet of Jesus. Can you let them be there, among the dead, awaiting resurrection and transformation?

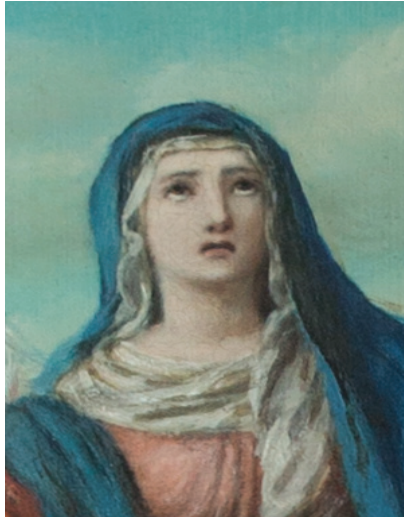






## Closing Prayer

by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, S.J.



Grant, O Lord, that in our contemplation  
of the mysteries of your passion,  
we do not run away from the essential things.  
Help us to contemplate you,  
your Eucharistic love,  
your crucified love as the sum reality necessary  
to understand all the rest,  
as the one reality from which  
all the others receive light and clarity.

We ask this through the intercession  
of the one who had the eye to see all essential things:  
Mary, your mother.

Amen.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
MISSOULA'S JESUIT PARISH

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