



Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a Catholic devotion commemorating 14 key events on the day of Christ's crucifixion. His path, from his trial before Pontius Pilate to his burial, has been followed by Christians since apostolic times.

In 2005, St. Raphael Cathedral in downtown Madison was destroyed by fire. Pending rebuilding, the site is now a sacred outdoor space with fourteen stations on a meditative path.

The Cathedral Parish publicly prays the Stations of the Cross at the site every Saturday morning at 9:00am. We invite our neighbors to join us in this place of beauty for prayer, reflection, or rest.

Preparatory Prayer

O Jesus, treasure of my soul,
infinitely good, infinitely merciful,
behold me prostrate at Your sacred feet.
Sinner as I am, I fly to the arms of Your mercy,
and ask for that grace which melts and converts
– the grace of true sorrow.

I have offended You, adorable Jesus. I repent.
Let the fervor of my love
equal the baseness of my ingratitude.

Grant me to offer devoutly this Way of the Cross,
in memory of that painful journey
which You have traveled for our redemption,
and with the intention of reforming my morals
and amending my life.

Let, then, this way of the Cross obtain for me
mercy in this life, and glory in the next. Amen.

The First Station:

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, it was not so much Pilate as my sins that condemned You to die on the cross. By the humiliation You suffered from this unjust condemnation, save my soul, O my Redeemer, from the pains of eternal death.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Second Station:

Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, it was of Your own will that You took up this heavy cross for love of me. Grant that, for love of You, I may take up my cross and bear it with perfect resignation to Your holy will.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Third Station:

Jesus Falls the First Time

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, it was the weight of my sins that caused You to fall under the cross. By the merits of this first fall deliver me from the misfortune of ever falling into mortal sin.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, by the anguish You experienced in this meeting, give me a devoted love for Your most holy Mother; and do you, Mother of Sorrows, give me a continual and tender memory of the passion of your Divine Son.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, whoever does not carry the cross and follow You cannot be Your disciple. For love of You I willingly accept all the crosses, trials, and sufferings that life may bring.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, Your face was beautiful before, but in this journey it has become disfigured with wounds and blood. Alas, my soul was once beautiful in baptism, but I have since disfigured it by sin. Restore it, my Savior, by the merits of Your bitter passion to the beauty it once possessed.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, how often You have pardoned me, and how often I have begun again to offend You. Grant me the grace to rise promptly after sin, and to conquer all human respect and discouragement that hold me back from Your service.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, love of You, rather than the fear of hell, causes me to weep for my sins. Grant me the grace to know You more intimately, in order that I may love You more ardently, and follow You more closely.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Ninth Station:

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, now I am firmly resolved to give up sin forever, so as not to cause You new sufferings. Strengthen me in this my resolution, and by Your grace make it be realized.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, strip my heart of affection for the things of earth, that it may be clothed in the garb of innocence and penance. Pardon the self-indulgence of the past, and make me strong when temptation assails me.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Eleventh Station:

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, You suffered the cruel agony of crucifixion for me; and should I suffer nothing for You? Fasten my obstinate will to Your cross. I firmly resolve never more to offend You, and for the love of You to suffer everything.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Twelfth Station:

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, since You have sacrificed Your life for me, it is but just that I should spend the rest of my life for You. This I firmly resolve to do. Only grant me, by the merits of Your death, the grace to put my resolution into practice.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O Mother of Jesus, the sword of grief pierced your soul when you took into your arms the dead body of your Son. Pray for me, dear Mother, that I may persevere in the faith and that I may die a holy and happy death.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

The Fourteenth Station:

Jesus Is Laid in the Sepulcher

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

People: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

O my Jesus, by Your holy burial, give me the grace to rise glorious and immortal with You on the last day, that I may praise You and love You forever. Grant this same grace to my parents, relatives, and friends.

All: My Jesus, mercy! (Three times.)

Cathedral Parish

Madison, Wisconsin

www.isthmuscatholic.org

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