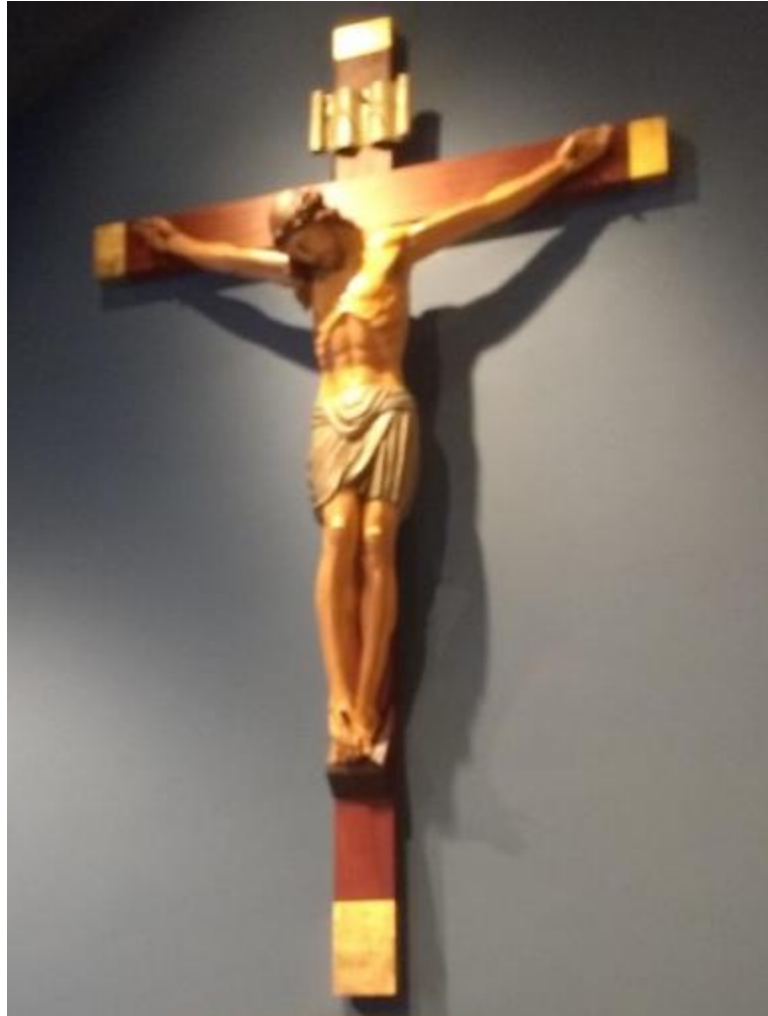


Virtual Stations of the Cross



At Our Lady of Fatima Church

with meditations adapted from
LifeTeen Youth Group's
Stations of the Cross

The First Station:

Jesus is Condemned to Death



Reader 1:

There you stand before the crowd after being beaten. You never deny yourself, yet humbly accept the punishment given to you by those who had witnessed your miracles. It's easy to look at this scene now and think, "How could they have accused you and condemned you to death? All you did was love every person you met?"

Reader 2:

How do I act when I encounter the person no one wants to talk to? When I speak about others, are my words demeaning? It is shocking to see how the crowd and Pontius Pilate treated you, but do I ever treat others in a similar way?

All:

Jesus, forgive me for the ways in which I condemn and pierce others with my words and actions. Help me to always see you in others. Help me to love like you and to learn from your example.

The Second Station:

Jesus Carries the Cross



Reader 1:

By now you have endured a sleepless night and betrayal by your friends. You've been whipped, stripped, and spit on by people in the crowd, some of whom last week treated you as royalty as you entered the city. And now, they hand you a cross to carry. The physical weight of the cross is immense, yet you also lovingly bear the weight of our sins and our burdens.

Reader 2:

How often do I forget that you have carried the load for me? How often do I try to carry things on my own, not allowing you to help me? It was not only the sins of the world that you carried; it was my own personal sin: my selfishness, my pride, my anger. You also carried my burdens: my worries, my fears, my sadness, my insecurities.

All:

Jesus, help me not to forget the load that you carry for me. Give me the strength and the courage to let go of those things that separate me from you.

The Third Station:

Jesus Falls for the First Time



Reader 1:

As you walk through the narrow streets, the pain and the weight of the cross become too much and you fall. In boxing, when a fighter falls and is too beaten to continue, the fight is stopped by the referee. Yet, there is no one there to stop the battle that you fight for us. Even though you know what still lies ahead, you do not stop, and you somehow find the strength to continue.

Reader 2:

How many times have I fallen in my walk? Too many to count, I'm sure. So many times when I fall, I don't feel like getting back up and trying again. I'm faced with too many temptations - it seems so much easier to give in, especially when so many people around me are giving in.

All:

Jesus, help me to remember your courage and perseverance when you fell. Give me the courage to get back up when I fall. Help me remember that it is worth it to live as you lived.

The Fourth Station:

Jesus Meets His Mother



Reader 1:

Amid all the shouts and jeers from the crowd, one voice stands out. At first it is so faint that you wonder if it is real, but then as your eyes meet and you see her face you are not surprised that she is there for you. She has always been there for you. Her 'Yes' to the Father has been a light in the darkness. And now, here in your darkest hour, she is there.

Reader 2:

There are so many times when I feel alone in my struggles. It seems that no one understands what I am going through, not even my parents and family; but I realize they must. Like your Mother in the crowd – I may not see them at first, or recognize their support, but they are there for me, loving me through my most challenging times. Am I aware of this? Do I sometimes forget?

All:

Jesus, help me to remember that I am never alone in my struggles. Help me to see my family as you saw yours, and help me to always know their love for me. Help me also to recognize and remember the light of your Mother in my life.

The Fifth Station:

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross



Reader 1:

The soldiers who had beaten you all day had what appears to be a moment of compassion. Instead, they are selfish. They only want to follow their orders and get you up to the place where you will be crucified. You look so beaten that they decide to grab Simon a Cyrenian out of the crowd to help you carry the cross. He follows behind you, walking in your steps, helping you move forward. You press on, even though you know that the worst is yet to come.

Reader 2:

How often do I pass up an opportunity to help someone in need? Do I let what others may think of me stop me from reaching out?

All:

Jesus, open my ears to hear the ways that you call me to serve. Help me follow Simon's example of helping others. Help me to know what it means to be a true and faithful servant.

The Sixth Station:

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



Reader 1:

By now the thorns cut so deeply into your head that even seeing where you should step next is almost impossible. Up to this point all who approach you, other than your mother, either shout at you or spit in your face. As Veronica approaches, she walks differently than the others. As she reaches out her hands and wipes your face with her cloth, suddenly her face of compassion becomes clear. For that moment, your dignity is restored.

Reader 2:

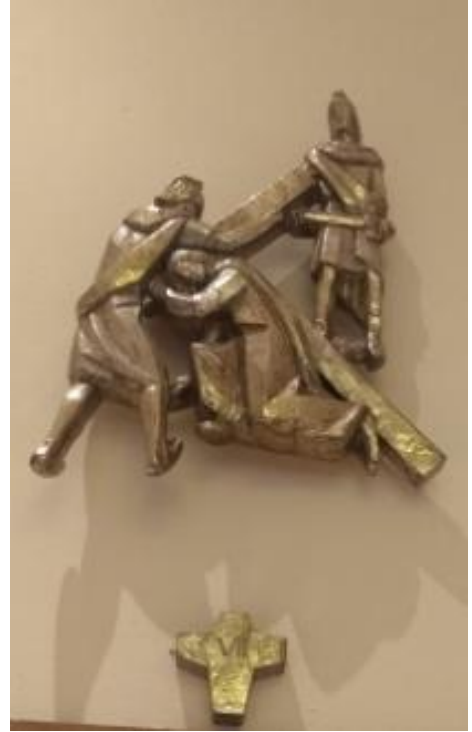
It can be easy to ignore a person's humanity and forget that each person is made in your image and likeness. Veronica courageously stepped forward and dared to treat you differently than everyone else. Could I do the same?

All:

Jesus, help me to see your presence in others. Give me the courage to follow Veronica's example of treating others with love even when no one else does. Help me to be like Veronica, an instrument of your peace and love, bringing comfort to people during their darkest times.

The Seventh Station:

Jesus Falls for the Second Time



Reader 1:

The soldiers are enraged at you for falling this time. They can't understand how Simon's help is not enough. In their anger they hit you again and again before they remember that you have to be alive to be crucified. The beating stops, but the shouts and taunts become louder and harsher. At this moment you can stop this! You are the Messiah and have the power to reveal yourself to everyone there. But you know that it would not fulfill all that is written about you. You know that you must be faithful to all of the Father's promises to His people. Remembering your love and your faithfulness you get up, and you keep going.

Reader 2:

How many times have I failed to follow through on my promises? Or worse yet, have I lied, even to people I care about? Do I remember your faithfulness even when I fail?

All:

Jesus, help me to believe in your faithfulness and love for me. Give me the grace to follow through on my word to others. Help me to be a person of integrity.

The Eighth Station:

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Reader 1:

They cry and weep as if you are already dead. They know you are on your way to be crucified, yet in this moment consumed by death, you speak words of life and say, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.'

Reader 2:

Do I listen to your words in my life? How often have the things I've watched or listened to led me away from you? Have I allowed the gospel of Life to reign in my heart?

All:

Jesus, help me to listen to your words of life. Show me ways that I can put you first.

The Ninth Station:

Jesus Falls for the Third Time



Reader 1:

Again you fall, this time from sheer exhaustion. Only your will presses you forward while your body refuses. How difficult it must be to be you, fully God and fully man. As God, you know that this has to be finished and that it is not yet complete. As Man you feel the excruciating pain and you want to stop here and move no further. Somehow both join together and you muster the strength to get up. You vow to not fall again because now you can see the place they are leading you to. You know the end is close and so you press on.

Reader 2:

How many times have I let my flesh win over my spirit? How often have I chosen to sin rather than to follow your way?

All:

Jesus, help me to follow your ways. Help me remember your victory over my sin. Give me the grace to recognize when I sin and the desire to sin no more.

The Tenth Station:

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



Reader 1:

In some ways to get to this point is a relief because you know this is almost over. In other ways it is terrifying because you know worse pain is still waiting for you. By now your garments are your only thin layer of protection. Now even these are taken away. You are stripped of your dignity as a man, for even animals are given a swifter, less painful death.

Reader 2:

Jesus How often have I judged others by the way they look or what they are wearing? Do I find my own self-worth and self-identity by the clothes I wear or the way I look?

All:

Jesus, help me to look past the outside of others. Help me not to judge them by how they look or what they wear. Help me to find my self-worth and identity in you.

The Eleventh Station:

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



Reader 1:

Lying down on wood is not foreign to you. The first place you were laid when you came into this world was a wooden manger. There you were laid in love and now it is out of love that you lay here on this wooden cross. The soldiers pull your arms out beside you the nails pierce your hands. Then they nail your feet.

Reader 2:

No matter what I am going through, no matter how difficult or painful, I can always turn to you – for you have experienced immense suffering yourself! And yet, you knowingly bore all of this pain out of love for us – out of love for me! How often do I forget this? Do I ever turn away from your love and mercy?

All:

Jesus, help me to turn to you! Help me to seek your forgiveness and mercy for the times that I sin, for your offer it lovingly with your outstretched arms!

The Twelfth Station:

Jesus Dies on the Cross



Reader 1:

Above your head is the inscription, 'King of the Jews'. As you use every last ounce of life left in you to lift your body so that you can speak, you do not look the part. Yet, every word out of your mouth is one of love, truly from another kingdom. The faces of all humanity must flash before your eyes as one by one you recount for whom you are doing this. And finally you say, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit...it is finished.' You breathe your last and it looks as though this is the end.

All:

Jesus, help me never forget your love for me. Help me to know that you died for me. Fill me with comfort in knowing that I never suffer anything you don't understand.

The Thirteenth Station:

Jesus is Taken down from the Cross



Reader 1:

The first arms that held you in this world are also the last. Your mother was told a sword would pierce her heart the day she presented you as an infant to the Father. Your comfort to her will come soon, but in this moment, all hope seems gone.

Reader 2:

How many times have I lost hope in you? How often have I doubted your ability to be God in my life over all things?

All:

Jesus, help me to trust in you. Help me to place all of my hope in you and give me peace in knowing that you are Lord over all things.

The Fourteenth Station:

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



Reader 1:

You are laid to rest by Joseph of Arimethea, Mary Magdalene, Mary your mother and a few other women. As your body is anointed, Mary Magdalene remembers your eyes penetrating her heart. Tears stream down her face along with the others there as they too remember your love. They wrap your body in clean linens and lay it in a new tomb. The stone is rolled over the entrance and now it surely is the end. Up to this point, death is final. While those you have lived with, laughed with and cried with are in their heightened sorrow believing all is over, you are conquering sin and death.

Reader 2:

How many times has death felt like the end? When I've lost a loved one it can be so hard to remember your victory. How often do I miss the opportunities to say, "I love you" to those special people in my life? Do my family and friends know how I feel about them?

All:

Jesus, help me always remember that death is not the end. Give me the strength to say the words, 'I love you' to those people in my life that I do love. Help me to love every person not just in words but also with my actions. Jesus, I love you, I need you, and I trust you. Amen.