

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

4th Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2024 | Violet

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Precious and wonderfully made in His eyes, Jesus had YOU in His mind's eye every step of His journey to Calvary. Spending time praying over Christ's Passion helps us to better understand His merciful love and gift of salvation. Following the tradition of the Church, throughout Lent we will Pray, Grow, & Serve with the Stations of the Cross!

The 8th Station, Jesus Meets the Women of Israel



As Jesus pulls Himself back to His feet, He **sees** women in the crowd crying over His suffering. Jesus turns to speak to them; they step forward to **hear** His voice over the chaos of the crowd. His words are hard to hear; I can hardly make them out. He tells the women to not cry for Him, but for themselves. His words are prophetic. Jesus warns of the darkness that will take over our communities and hearts if we are not vigilant, faithful, and courageous in following the light of Christ. The women blink back tears, with shaking fingers they wipe their eyes and try to understand His words.

Pray: Lord, help me to not become blinded by my feelings especially when I am feeling scared, anxious, indulgent, angry, or overwhelmed. Help me to always trust and follow Your plan for love and life, especially when it feels hard. Help me to be vigilant, faithful, and courageous as I live my faith with holy boldness.

The 9th Station, Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Mount Calvary rises before us, blood and sweat drip from the Body of Jesus. He moves with a determination that only love can fuel. His breathing is controlled, His inhale and exhale now match in length. The crowd has gotten louder now that we can **see** the guards at the top of Golgotha ready with a mallet and nails. Jesus stops just steps before His journey is finished; in prayer, His tortured Body falls to His knees. Jesus's eyes are closed, and His lips move as He silently speaks with His Father. There, before the crowd, with closed eyes and the Cross still perched on His shoulder, we **watch** as He looks to the heavens and cries out to the Lord from the depths of His heart, *Your will be done*. He rises for the last time as a willing victim. He knows the worst suffering is yet to come.

Pray: Lord, when things feel too hard, help me to fall to my knees in prayer. In a special way, I lift up all those who have fallen over and over again, especially those who are very sick or facing serious difficulties in their life. I pray that You ease their suffering and fill them with the peace of knowing they are never alone, they are deeply loved, and that with Your grace, all things are possible.



The 10th Station, Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

The guards waste little time preparing Jesus to be nailed to the Cross and begin to strip the clothes from His Body. As the linen pulls away from the raw and bleeding wounds on His shoulder and back I **see** Jesus grimace in pain. My eyes fall on the hem of His tunic—the hem that with one faith-filled touch healed the hemorrhaging woman is now lost in the hands of the unbelieving guard. Jesus stands naked before the crowd; they mock and ridicule Him. Stripping Him of His clothes was their last attempt to deny Him of His dignity.

Pray: Lord, to embarrass and shame You, the guards treated you as an object that they could hit, strip, and mock. Help me remember that I am wonderfully made, my Body is a temple of Your Spirit, and my God-given dignity can never be taken away. I pray for those who have been humiliated and treated poorly that through Your grace, they may know they are worthy of Your love simply because You say they are.

