

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

3rd Sunday of Lent
March 3, 2024 | Violet

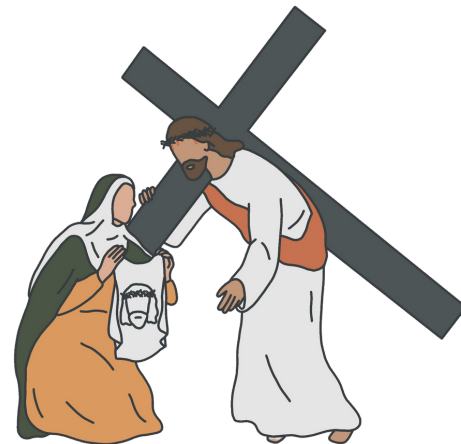
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 5th Station, Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Jesus continues forward, the Cross dragging along the ground behind Him. I **see** a man named Simon step forward to lift the back of the Cross from Jesus but thinks twice and quickly steps back into the crowd. He does not want to attract the attention of the guards who follow so close beside Jesus. He is not fast enough, the guards have spotted Him and yell for him to pick up the the Cross. I feel concern for Simon, I can **see** he is scared to have the attention of the guards. He steps forward once more, this time embracing the dirty and bloodied wood of the Cross, pulling it off the ground. Simon is strong, but he looks fearful. After a few steps, Jesus says something to him, I can't **hear** His words. Simon's face looks deep in thought.

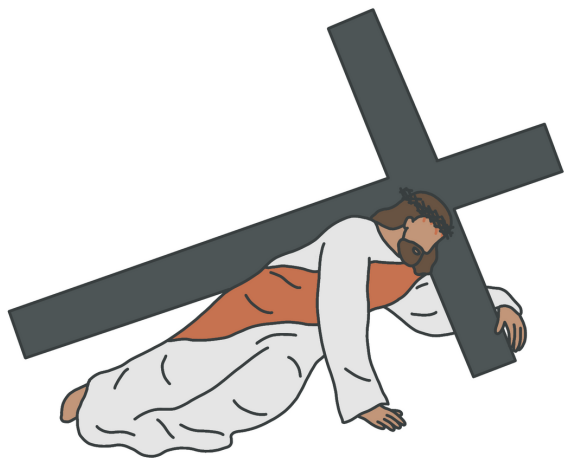
Pray: Lord, You have entrusted us to care for one another; help me to do this well. Give me the eyes to see those who need help carrying their Cross and the courage to do so with strength and confidence especially when we are mocked for loving You.



The 6th Station, Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Jesus continues forward, moving a bit quicker now that Simon has helped Him. The thorns from the makeshift crown dig deeper into His skin. Blood drips down His face mixing with the sweat and sand that already cover Him. I **see** Jesus try to wipe the grit from His eyes with the hem of His bloodied tunic, but it does not seem to offer Him relief. Seemingly out of nowhere, a woman named Veronica steps into Jesus's path. I **hear** the guards begin to yell at her but she pays no attention to them. A tear rolls down her cheek as she unfolds a linen veil and begins to gently wipe the blood and dirt from Jesus's face. He lifts His hand over hers and holds it close with thanks. Everything seems to standstill at that moment.

Pray: Lord, help me to have compassion throughout my day for those who are suffering. Like Veronica, use my hands, feet, and heart to serve those who need Your gentle touch and care so that they may feel seen, known, and loved by You.



The 7th Station, Jesus Falls a Second Time

As Veronica steps back into the crowd, Jesus continues toward Calvary. I **watch** Jesus's feet painfully step one after another, they are barely able to support the weight of all He carries with Him - *not only the Cross but the sins of the world*. Not far from here, Jesus healed the paralytic in Bethesda. Unable to walk for 30 years, the man was seen as a burden. He lay alone, fraught with shame and despair when Jesus came upon Him and said "Pick up your mat and walk," for the first time in thirty years the man stood. Now, just a short distance away, Jesus's own feet fail beneath Him and He falls for the second time; I **feel** myself gasp in sadness. I **see** Jesus's eyes close, He knows that it is only through the strength of His Father that He will be able to rise again.

Pray: Just like Jesus, I will fall under the weight of my cross. Help me to always remember that, the power to rise again is found in Your love for me. You are my strength, the peace within my heart, and the light that leads my path forward. I pray for my brothers and sisters who do not yet understand Your love for them; help them to encounter Your perfect love and purpose for their life this Lent.

