



Holy Spirit  
Catholic Community



## The Stations of the Cross

In the next few weeks, we will see many signs that indicate we are entering the liturgical season of Lent. There will be a greater emphasis on the cross; ashes in the sign of a cross, adoration of the cross, a special Lenten environment throughout our church building and signs. Many signs! An abundance of signs! One unique series of signs is The Stations of the Cross. The Stations might be considered road signs on a journey; the journey to the cross and resurrection beyond. That is why our stations are placed in the floor of the ambulatory that encircles our Worship Space, so that we might walk the road. And in walking this path, through prayer and meditation, we might ourselves move closer to resurrection.

On this journey we encounter distinct signs or events. It is these events that help us understand the example Jesus set when he went down the road. As we walk this journey, we notice the pathway in each station is rough and winding.



Jesus journey toward resurrection was not smooth nor will our own journey be smooth. We might be wrongly accused. We might endure persecution. And, yes, we will experience a fall now and then. But hopefully, we will be encouraged by Jesus example to get back up and continue, to stop and encourage those around us and to forgive those who have wronged us. Our first Station begins by the Reconciliation Room. Because we must be reconciled before we reach Resurrection. And the 15th Station, Resurrection, ends in front of the Baptismal Font; the symbol of new life and rebirth. Most important to remember is that we do not walk this road alone; Jesus walks it with us every day.

One reason that we have no pictures on our Stations of the Cross, is that there are many ways to pray the Stations. The Jerusalem Stations begin with Jesus being condemned to death. The Scriptural Roman Stations begin with Jesus praying in the Garden of Olives. There are Stations of the Cross written with justice issues in mind. There are Stations written for teens and their daily concerns. What all of them have in common, though, is that the Stations are meant



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to be walked in a prayerful way, with each station being a time to meditate on how we are doing in our faith journey.

Throughout lent we will be offering alternative ways for you to experience the Stations of the Cross. We will provide special booklets with different ways to walk the Stations anytime the Worship Space is free. We will also have a Stations of the Cross Coloring Book for Children designed by our own ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Ministry, so you can walk the Stations with your children at their own pace and then have them color the images at home.