



**Twelfth Station:
Jesus Dies on the Cross**

In agony, Jesus offers forgiveness to his captors and the crowd, and accepts his earthly death.

Reflection: Our souls must have value in Jesus's eyes, for he paid a great price for them. He longed to remain with us, yet he desired even more to be reunited with his Father. I feel as though I could die from longing. But it is my time to remain and pray, to live out my earthly life.

Prayer: *Death never makes sense to me, yet I know that it must come at some time to each of us. Help me, Jesus, to accept this death and to continue with my own life according to God's plan for me. Amen.*



**Thirteenth Station:
Jesus is Given to His Mother**

Much as she did at Nazareth, Mary cradles her beloved Son, ever aware of God's divine plan.

Reflection: Death affects us all, especially when it touches us closely. When understood as the end of everything, death frightens us. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "... death is nothing but going home to God", the beginning of our eternal, joyous life.

Prayer: *Blessed Mother Mary, you knew the joy of love and the pain of death. Just as you stood by your Son dying, stand by me—help me bear my burdens with grace. Please take to God and to Jesus this special request I name today: _____ . Amen.*



**Fourteenth Station:
Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

Lovingly, friends of Jesus wrap his dead body and lay him to rest in another man's tomb

Reflection: Jesus' friends performed this act of mercy for him. If I am able, I will visit the sacred place of burial and pray there for my loved one.

Prayer: *I invite you now, Jesus, to rest in this soul of mine. My Redeemer, give me the courage to pray for my beloved dead, as I walk this journey of grief.*



**Fifteenth Station:
The Resurrection**

Gloriously, Jesus rises from the dead.

Reflection: Belief in the resurrection of Jesus and in our own eternal life lies at the very core of our Christian identity. Scripture tells us "Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised."

Prayer: *Risen Savior, my Lord and my God, I believe that through your redemptive love, life is eternal. I pray that my loved one was not lost to tragedy but rather is on the path that leads to glory. Shepherd my loved one as he/she follows in your path. Strengthen my faith; transform my life now, my feelings of loss and grief, into the Resurrection certainty of your peace and everlasting life. Amen.*



St. John, you stood at the foot of the Lord's cross, please pray for all who mourn the loss of a loved one

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For Grieving Persons



**First Station:
Jesus is Condemned to Death**

Jesus, unjustly condemned, contemplates what the next hours will mean for him.

Reflection: I think about my own hopes and dreams for the future. Anxiety and fear of the unknown sometimes get the best of me. I must trust, as did Jesus, and say "yes" to the life God has planned for me.

Prayer: *My savior, Jesus, you must feel that this punishment is unjust. Let me, too, try to accept my loss; that to feel this pain, to grieve, and experience sorrow is a necessary part of the healing process. Amen.*



**Second Station:
Jesus Carries His Cross**

Jesus struggles to bear the load placed upon him, not only the heavy cross but also the sins of all humankind. He teaches us that suffering is a journey that takes time.

Reflection: My cross comes in many disguises. Is it worry, pain, doubt, fear of the unknown? If I bear it with Christ in faith, I know he will sustain me when my cross grows heavy.

Prayer: *Glorious redeemer, Jesus, let me bear my pain along with you as you suffer to bring all of us to life eternal. Amen*



Third Station:

Jesus Falls the First Time

Jesus finds carrying his cross a struggle, yet he continues his painful journey for our salvation.

Reflection: Jesus suffered fatigue and exhaustion and by Divine Power lifted himself and the cross.

Prayer: *My Jesus, I too, stumble. You taught I can rise, with your Divine assistance. I have faith in the promise of final victory and salvation. Amen.*



Fourth Station:

Jesus Meets His Mother

Jesus sees the concern in his mother's eyes. How tragic that they must say goodbye in this way.

Reflection: My goodbye was just as sorrowful as the one that Mary endured. And just as Mary did, I must try to accept the finality of the death I mourn.

Prayer: *Most loving Jesus, I also grieve as one who had great love and concern. Help me to understand why we had to say goodbye. Amen.*



Fifth Station:

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Simon did not choose the cross but helps Jesus, burdened by the weight of it.

Reflection: I am laden with emotions, physical pain, material needs, decisions to be made, and spiritual longing. Perhaps I could allow others to help me ease some of my load.

Prayer: *Blessed Jesus, you did not deserve your pain. Look upon me as you did Simon of Cyrene, knowing my limitations. So far as necessary, force me to carry my own cross and, just as important, show me when I should reveal my needs to trusted friends who wish to be of help. Amen.*



Sixth Station:

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Veronica reaches out in compassion to touch Jesus, offering her veil to clean his holy face.

Reflection: I feel isolated, unable to see or touch the person I love so much. I cherish the memory of my loved one's eyes, smile and gentle touch.

Prayer: *Jesus, I pray for your blessing on those who come to help me. I pray too for the grace to see my loved one again. Until then, I offer the gift of prayer for his/her behalf. Amen.*



Seventh Station:

Jesus Falls the Second Time

Even with Simon helping him, exhaustion overcomes Jesus.

Reflection: I feel overwhelmed by so much: questions, confusion, uncertainty, fears. I need to take a deep breath, look up, and picture what the future might be like for me.

Prayer: *Jesus, you provide courage, strength, and grace for those who must start over. Give me patience in my loss; help me to take one step at a time, realizing that my recovery may be painful at times. Amen.*



Eighth Station:

Jesus Comforts the Women

In the midst of his journey, Jesus's thoughts are not of his sorrows, but of the sufferings of others.

Reflection: People come to be near to me. I can gain hope by sharing my story with others. When someone shows concern, I will tell my friend exactly what I need.

Prayer: *Most compassionate Jesus, I desire to unite my suffering with yours, so I may show compassion for others. Teach me to weigh concerns in the light of salvation for my loved one and for me. Amen.*



Ninth Station:

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Thoroughly exhausted, Jesus falls again.

Reflection: Your will to sacrifice endures because it is nourished by Divine Love. I experience raw grief time after time. I must realize that even on a low day, I have already come quite far since this journey began.

Prayer: *Son of God, you were truly human and suffered as I do today. I do not know what lies ahead, but please sustain me with your Love Divine as I continue this journey of grief. Amen.*



Tenth Station:

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Soldiers in their cruelty strip all final dignity from our Savior.

Reflection: I keep my feelings to myself to remain poised and to preserve my sense of dignity. Yet I know it is only by baring my soul that I am able to face the truth and uncover all that must be revealed as I journey through grief.

Prayer: *Precious Jesus, your heart must have ached to be treated so cruelly. Help me to realize that by troubles shared my pain is halved, thereby making room for joy in my life. Amen.*



Eleventh Station:

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Jesus sustains the iron nails of man's ingratitude. Only God could bear such pain with a prayer of forgiveness.

Reflection: The hammer blows beat upon Mary's heart. My sorrow and pain beat upon me at times.

Prayer: *Blessed mother, let me hear the hammer too, so that, as I suffer my losses, I am encouraged to confront every hardship in union with your Son.*