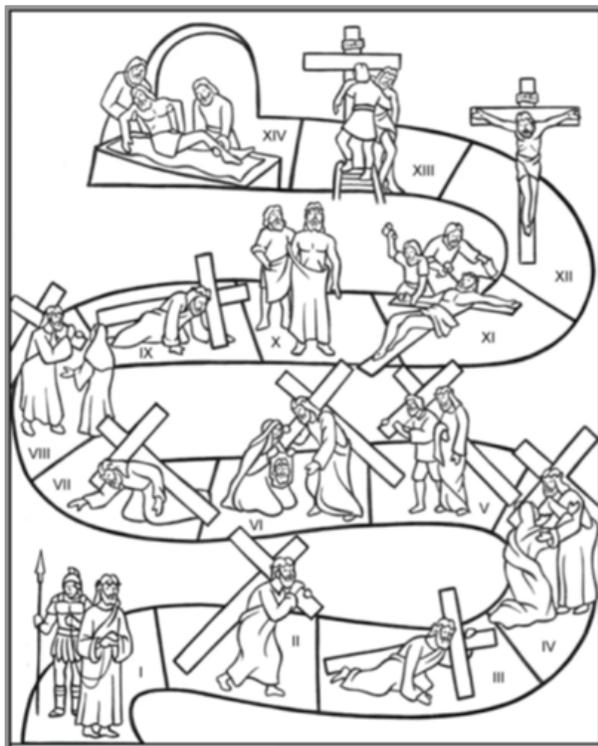


## Stations of the Cross

Just as we keep memories of our loved ones who died – with photos, videos, stories, prayers – Christians in the early Church remembered Jesus through the “breaking of the bread” or the Eucharist as he told them, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

The Stations of the Cross, a popular devotion during Lent, is another way to remember the Lord’s Passion. Tradition holds that Mary, mother of Jesus, set up stone markers at her home outside Jerusalem to prayerfully retrace the steps of her son’s Passion, but the origin of this devotion is not clear.



Travelers to the Holy Land during the 12–14th centuries mentioned a "Via Sacra" or Sacred Way in Jerusalem. Later on it's called the Way of the Cross (Via Crucis), or the Way of Sorrows (Via Dolorosa). The earliest use of the word "Stations" as we understand today occurs in the narrative of an English pilgrim, William Wey, who visited the Holy Land in the mid-15th century.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Franciscan friars began building a series of outdoor Stations of the Cross in Europe to duplicate their

counterparts in the Holy Land. Eventually the Stations were affixed on the walls inside churches.

The number of Stations varied between seven and thirty; seven was common. In 1731, Pope Clement XII set the number at 14, marking events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment. Not all Stations have a clear scriptural foundation.

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On Good Friday in 1991, Pope John Paul II introduced the Scriptural Way of the Cross, more closely aligned with the biblical accounts. This series of Stations was approved for public celebration by Pope Benedict XVI.

TRADITIONAL STATIONS

01. Jesus is condemned to death
02. *Jesus takes up his Cross*
03. *Jesus falls the first time*
04. *Jesus meets his Mother*
05. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross
06. *Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*
07. *Jesus falls for the second time*
08. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
09. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. *Jesus is nailed to the Cross*
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. *Jesus is laid in the tomb*  
*(Original Stations in italics)*

SCRIPTURAL STATIONS (1991; 2007)

01. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
02. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested
03. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin
04. Jesus is denied by Peter 3 times
05. Jesus is judged by Pilate
06. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns
07. Jesus takes up his cross
08. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross
09. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
10. Jesus is crucified
11. Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief
12. Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other
13. Jesus dies on the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

The Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome on Good Friday began in the 18th century. The devotion, led by the Holy Father, ends with a candle-lit cross illuminating the night sky in front of the Roman monument.

During the devotion, whether in a church or outdoors, individuals or a group read or listen to a reflection with a relevant scriptural passage, recite a prayer, and may sing an appropriate song. There is a refrain at every Stations, “We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

*“Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.”*

*“We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered”  
(Cf. Galatians 6:14)*