

## 14th Station: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



**At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.**

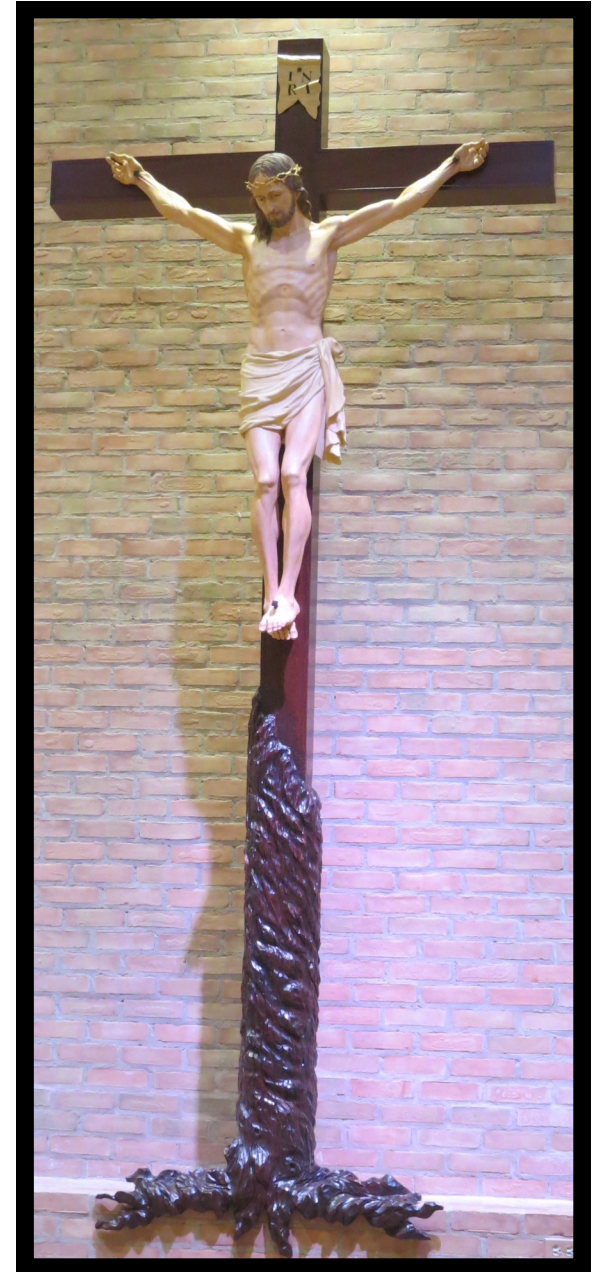
**John 19:41-42**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, you lie in the grave, yet you are so very much alive. Life is stilled but love is stirring. Death has no hold on you. Your promise and your love will not be contained. Resurrection is imminent, ready to burst forth on Easter morning. All creation holds its breath for the wondrous gift of salvation.

**Lord Jesus, ignite hope as we journey. May we bask in the light of your great mercy, pondering the height and depth and breadth of what you have done for us. You are the Savior of the World.  
We praise you and thank you! Amen!**

## **The Cross of Christ: *Transcending Tragedy... Igniting Hope***



St. Michael Parish, Orland Park, IL

### 13th Station: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS



And you yourself a sword  
will pierce so that the  
thoughts of many hearts  
may be revealed.

Luke 2:35

**We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you.  
Because by your  
Holy Cross  
you have redeemed  
the world.**

Jesus, you are laid in your Mother's arms for the last time. All her life, she was learning to let you go ... as a baby growing up; as a young boy, sensing his need to leave the security of parents and family, knowing he belonged in God's house; as a young man learning to be self-sufficient in his work as a carpenter; as an adult, leaving home to follow the path God had laid out for him.

Jesus, now comes the time for your mother's final letting go. Now she feels the fullness of Simeon's prophecy—that her soul would be pierced with a sword. Now is the time to put her complete trust in God, as you have your whole life.

**Lord of Mercy, as only you can do, comfort the  
inconsolable, raise up the grieving, and  
illuminate the lamp of hope in hearts deadened  
with despair.**

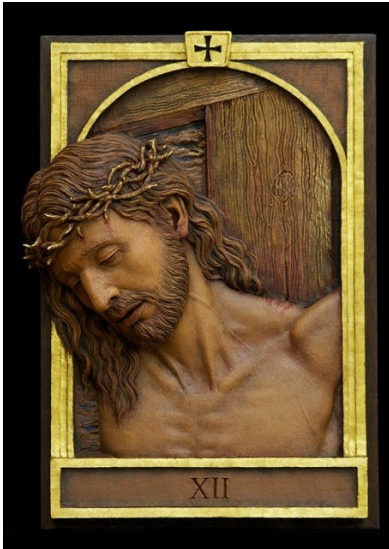
**Reflections by Parishioner**

**Nina McGowan**

**Images by Jeff and Anna Varilla**

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## 12th Station: JESUS DIES



And when Jesus had cried  
out again in a loud voice, he  
gave up his spirit.  
Matthew 27:50

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, as you are dying on the cross, you still find it in your heart to look to the needs of others. You take care of your Mother by entrusting her to the care of John. You forgive the thief crucified with you and assure him of paradise. You even take the second sip of wine offered to you that all of the words of your Father throughout all of history would be fulfilled. You are truly the Lamb of God.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us, help us to transcend all human  
tragedy, and ignite hope as we journey.**

## 1st Station: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



When Pilate saw that he  
was accomplishing  
nothing, but rather that  
a riot was starting, he  
took water and washed  
his hands in front of the  
crowd, saying, "I am  
innocent of this Man's  
blood; see to that  
yourselves."

Matthew 27:24

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, you stand silently accepting your fate, gazing sadly into the crowd and looking for a friendly or sympathetic face. Yet all you see are the faces of those who betray you with shouting voices or with their silence—those you healed, those you ate with, those with whom you celebrated life's joyous and sad occasions—neighbors, friends, probably even some disciples. Yet you say nothing in your defense.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to  
transcend our tendency to betray you with our  
fickle hearts and weak faith.**



## 2nd Station: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS



They took Jesus,  
therefore, and he went  
out, bearing his own  
cross, to the place called  
the Place of the Skull,  
which, in Hebrew, is  
called Golgotha.

John 19:17

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, as you stand ready to take the final steps to Golgotha, you know what accepting that heavy cross means. Pure and holy Jesus, you pick up the overwhelming burden of our sin in the weight of the cross. You willingly carry it to death for us, and for our redemption, so that we will no longer have to bear the weight of sin in our lives.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to  
transcend the times we resentfully complain  
about the inconvenient, temporary, and  
inconsequential crosses in our lives.**

## 11th Station: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED



There they  
crucified him,  
and with him  
two others—one  
on each side and  
Jesus in the  
middle.

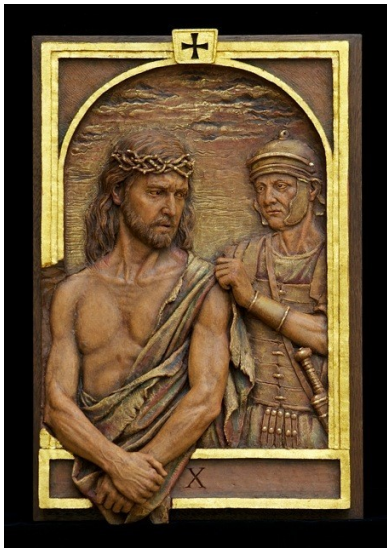
John 19:18

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, even as you stretch out your hands and feet and allow the cruelty of our sin to nail you to the cross, you beg your Father to forgive us. Your only thought is for us and our salvation. Will we ever understand the cost of your sacrifice? Will we ever understand how much our sin continues to hurt you?

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey, help us to  
transcend the sinful patterns of our lives. Teach  
us to be aware of our transgressions that cause  
you such grief. Help us to come to you for  
forgiveness, without hesitation.**

### 10th Station: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS



Dividing up his clothes, they  
cast lots to see what each  
would get.  
Mark 15:24b

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, all is laid bare ... your raw woundedness, your human dignity, your eternal love for us. You give us EVERYTHING, holding back NOTHING. You are ready to die so that we may live.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey. Help us  
transcend all that keeps us from  
understanding the enormity and depth of your  
love. Forgive us for the times we are unwilling to  
be stripped of our complacency. Help us to show  
your kind of love, even in our smallest acts of  
charity.**

### 3rd Station: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME



Come to me all you who  
labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, how tempting it must be to lie down under the weight of the cross and just give up. After all, we are the ones who deserve to die, not you. We are the ones who sin and choose to turn away from God and all His goodness. But no; you struggle back to your feet because you love us. You continue the journey you began so that we can be united again with you and with your Father.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to  
transcend the times we are tempted to give up, to  
take the easy road, to avoid going the extra mile  
for those you give us to love.**

#### 4th Station: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER



The Lord is close to the  
brokenhearted; and  
those who are crushed  
in spirit he saves.

Psalm 34:19

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, the wound to your heart hurts so much more deeply than the wounds to your body as you gaze at the anguish in your Mother's eyes on your way to Calvary. What words of comfort can you give to each other, except to know that God's will is being accomplished? Does Mary's courage give you the strength to continue on as only a Mother can encourage?

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help all mothers to transcend the pain of their broken and lost children, and who would gladly trade places with a suffering child.**

#### 9th Station: JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME



He was pierced for our  
transgressions, he was  
crushed for our iniquities; the  
punishment that brought us  
peace was on him, and by his  
wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, by now Calvary is looming closely in the distance. Should you continue, or should you give up? It would be so much easier to say "This is enough!" than to continue to your death. Yet to give in will have eternal consequences for us all. With a love that surpasses all human understanding, you struggle to rise, you continue on the road to your death and our new life.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and have mercy on us. Forgive us for the times we stumble or fail to persevere along the road you have marked out for us. Help us to transcend the pitfalls of this life and final eternal joy with you.**



## 8th Station: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.”

Luke 23:27-28

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, you meet the women of Jerusalem who are weeping and standing in support of you. They are powerless to do anything else. You acknowledge their tears. Even more importantly, you take the opportunity to warn them against the impending challenges and far-reaching effects that your death will cause. Your purpose for dying is ever in your vision.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and grant us the strength to stand in solidarity with those whom you have given us to travel with through life. Help us to transcend our selfishness and any tendency to have them go it alone. May we remember that we are all on the same path; we need to help each other arrive safely to our heavenly home.**

## 5th Station: SIMON HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS



If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, it takes great courage for Simon to step forth from the crowd and help you carry your cross. In your humility you allow Simon the great blessing of helping you in your struggle. How hard it can be for us to allow others into our own pain and struggles. But by refusing assistance, we deny a blessing to those who reach out to help us.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to transcend our foolish pride when it gets in the way of letting others help us. Forgive us for denying others the blessing of lending a helping hand or a listening ear.**

## 6th Station: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS



For the Lord has  
comforted his people and  
will have compassion on  
his afflicted.

Isaiah 49:13b

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, Veronica's touch of human kindness and compassion show us that even the smallest gesture of love has eternal significance. Her touch connects her with your suffering, as she strives to make your way a little easier. Teach us that we are all connected to each other. We need to reach out past our boundaries to show love and compassion to all.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to transcend the times we find it easier to blend into the crowd, taking no risks to show others how much you love them.**

## 7th Station: JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME



O Lord, hear my prayer,  
and let my cry come to you.  
Hide not your face from me  
in the day of my distress.

Psalms 102:2-3

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
Because by your Holy Cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus, by now you are exhausted, and the weight of the cross is becoming unbearable. Not only do you suffer the human pain of your passion, you struggle with the intense pain of loneliness and separation from your Father. Yet your love for us gives you the strength to rise and continue on.

**Lord, ignite hope as we journey and help us to transcend the times we are tempted to let the weight of life's problems build up and crush us.  
Forgive us for the times we forget that you are always there to lift us up.**