

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

1st Sunday of Lent
February 18, 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 1st Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

I am in the Praetorium; Pontius Pilate stands before us, commanding the attention of an anxious crowd. Around me, I **see** the leaders of the priests and elders; they nervously chatter among themselves in angry voices.

I **see** Jesus. He stands tall, wearing a simple tunic. His shoulders are strong and square; a gentleness rests on His face. He gazes upon Pontius Pilate as he bellows the question, "Are You the king of the Jews?"

My eyes cannot look away from Jesus's hands; they are tied together as if He were a criminal. The noise of the crowd fades away as I think about all He has done with the **touch** of His hands. He restored sight to blind men, brought Jairus's daughter from death to life, cleansed lepers of their illness, and multiplied fish and loaves. His hands wrapped around his mother Mary in tender hugs, carved with wood alongside His foster father, Joseph, and pressed together in prayer to His Heavenly Father.

The jeers of the crowd focus back my attention. Men shouting with their hands in fists and pointed fingers, I **hear** the words, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" An innocent Jesus has been condemned to death.

Pray: Lord, I offer you my hands; use them as an instrument of Your care by helping me to give, hold, help, comfort, and protect those who need it. **Help me to remember to always affirm the sanctity of human life and the dignity of each person with reverent gentleness.** In Your mercy, help me to never accuse another unjustly and to seek your wisdom in all matters.



Your Senses

Grow: As we look at these images of Jesus's passion and read about His journey to Calvary, we encourage you to close your eyes and place yourself in the scene. Ask yourself, what do I see, smell, hear, taste, and feel? We will place ourselves in the moments surrounding each station and open our hearts to whatever it is that God desires to share with us as we pray.

Jesus's Hidden Wound

Serve: Saint Bernard of Clairvaux was a saint born in the 11th Century. In deep prayer, Jesus told St. Bernard that the most painful wound He suffered during His Passion was the area on His shoulder that bore the weight of His Cross. Jesus's hidden shoulder wound reminds us to be thoughtful about the physical or emotional pain someone may be silently suffering.

This week (and throughout Lent) serve your family by praying the Stations of the Cross together!

Extra! Explore our Life Focus Guide "The Power Found in Suffering"

The 2nd Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

After Jesus is condemned to death, I **see** them give Him a large wooden Cross to carry to Mount Calvary, where they will nail Him to its wood and watch Him die. The heavy cross beam is dropped over His shoulder, and the weight of it begins to crush through the skin of His shoulder. Blood begins to flow and pool in the crook of His bent arm. As I get closer, I can **see** the wood's rough surface rub deep splinters into the raw edges beside His neck. With each step, the Cross presses deeper. Jesus has begun His journey in terrible pain.

I **hear** the crowd follow behind Him. They are loud; some shout angry and hateful words at Jesus, and others cry with great sadness over what is happening.

Pray: Lord, help me be mindful that those I encounter throughout my day may also experience hidden suffering. I pray that my words and actions rooted in Your love always serve as a gentle relief to the unknown suffering of my friends, family, and classmates.

