

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

XIII. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

You were treated with gentleness and love as your body was taken from the cross. Remind me to treat not only myself but others with gentleness and love. Remind me to live honorably every day, to live every day as if it were my last.

XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHRE

The light of the world is laid in darkness, having suffered like no other for our sin. Like Jesus, let us return out of darkness to the light that is everlasting life with our Heavenly Father.

XV. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

The joy of Easter gives us hope; no matter how much we suffer in this life, there is the promise of eternal life with God in Heaven. As we journey through life, we need to imitate Jesus in all that we say and do. We should remember what Jesus has taught us: love God above all else and love your neighbor as yourself.

Stations of the Cross refers to a series of artistic representations, often sculptural, depicting Christ carrying the Cross to His crucifixion. Stations of the Cross are also called “Way of the Cross” (Via Crucis), “Way of Sorrows” (Via Dolorosa), or simply “The Way”.

Early devoted Christians would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem retracing the steps of Jesus as He carried His cross to His death. The starting point for their journey, through the streets of Jerusalem, began in the ruins of the Fortress of Antonia that originally housed Pilate’s Judgment Hall, now incorporated into the Ecce Homo Convent. It concluded at the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher that marks the traditional site of Golgotha and the tomb of Jesus. The route this pilgrimage took through Jerusalem came to be called the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of Sorrow. Along the Way, certain points on the journey (stations) were associated with specific events recounted (or implied) in the Gospel accounts.

This act of reverence and devotion has been preserved throughout the centuries.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF SHAWANGUNK



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1166 Hoagerburgh Road , Wallkill, NY 12589
Telephone 845-895-2952
e-mail: refgunk@frontiernet.net
Website: www.shawangunkreformed.org

Stations of The Cross



I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Abandoned and afraid, Jesus is condemned. Do I judge those around me when I know only a partial story? Do I leave my fellowman alone and afraid when they really need me?



II. JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

The cross - made not of wood but of every sin I've ever committed - how heavy it must be on Jesus' shoulders.



III. JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

As Jesus prayed to his Father to be freed from such terrible pain and suffering, I remember that like Jesus, my help is in the name of the Lord.



IV. JESUS MEETS HIS SORROWFUL MOTHER

In that moment, did Mary feel hope at the sight of her Savior or anguish at the sight of her son?



V. SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS

As the guards became impatient, I am reminded that I too become impatient with those who struggle under an unseen burden. If called on, would I carry their cross for them? Would I help?



VI. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Help me to be more like the compassionate Veronica. Help me to see and hear the cries that surround me every day. Help me to wipe the brow of the beaten and oppressed.



VII. JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

As I look at my own failures I see that you are by my side helping me to get up and try again. In my frustration I am disrespectful of your kindness; help me to never give up, to persevere no matter the cost.



VIII. JESUS COMFORTS THE WEeping WOMEN

Even in your misery you saw the faces of those who felt your pain and you still gave them your love. Help me think less of myself in times of distress; help me give my love away so that I might in return be fed by the love of others.



IX. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME UNDER THE CROSS

Help me understand those who are tired in body and soul with illness, addiction, anger, hurts and weaknesses; who try and try and fall again and again. Through the humiliation of the third fall give them the perseverance to take up their cross and follow you.



X. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

God was there beside you even when you were stripped of your human dignity. Help me to show kindness to all those who struggle, remind me that you are always with me.



XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Help me to not use words or thoughts as nails of discrimination. Keep me from judging others because of their color, intelligence, income level or name.



XII. JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

In Jesus' last hours He turned to His father in prayer. Teach me to pray with an open heart and to love you as you loved, even until your final breath.