

**ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC PARISH, FTL
THE WAY OF THE CROSS
(STATIONS OF THE CROSS)**



INTRODUCTORY

Priest: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Respond: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All Respond: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us Pray.

Opening Prayer:

Priest: God of power and mercy,
in love you sent your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with you forever.
Bless us as we gather to reflect
on his suffering and death
that we may learn from his example the way we should go.
We ask this through that same Christ, our Lord.

All Respond: Amen.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

1. *At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last*

THE FIRST STATION

Reader: The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Mark 15:1-5, 15)

Priest: **“As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: Jesus was scourged—three stark words that reveal both human cruelty and suffering. A cruel streak runs through humanity in gossip, exclusion, bullying, and the ease with which we reduce others to something less than ourselves. Yet even while he was being scourged, Jesus saw his tormentor not as a beast but as a human being, and he loved him.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

2. *Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword had passed.*

THE SECOND STATION

Reader: The Second Station: Jesus Carries the Cross

Priest: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)

All Respond: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)

(Scripture: John 19:6, 15-17)

Priest: “When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. And carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.”

(Reflection)

Reader: Jesus embraced every experience of pain and suffering, revealing its deeper purpose. While the world sees suffering as meaningless and to be avoided, God gives it redemptive value—enough to save humanity—and invites us to take up our cross and follow him. When we bring our suffering to Jesus, he transforms it and us in ways beyond imagination.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

3. *Oh how sad and sore distressed
was that mother highly blessed,
of the sole-begotten One!*

THE THIRD STATION

Reader: The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: John 19:1-3)

Priest: **“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: This is the Savior of the world, and we ignored him, humiliated him, mocked him, scourged him, and crushed him under a weight we continue to add to through our sins and love of comfort. Yet even beneath that burden, Jesus rises again and again. He responds not with condemnation but with an invitation to radical transformation, forgiveness, and eternal life with him.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

4. *Christ above in torment hangs;
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.*

THE FOURTH STATION

Reader: The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Luke 2:34-35)

Priest: “...and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in
Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself
a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be
revealed.”

(Reflection)

Reader: From the beginning, Mary knew her son would suffer, but could she
have imagined the agony of watching it unfold before her? One wonders
what she thought and felt that day, and whether those memories pierced
her heart for the rest of her life. Mary, pray for us and teach us to endure
our own suffering with faith and to comfort others in theirs.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

5. *Is there one who would not weep,
whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

THE FIFTH STATION

Reader: The Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Mark 15:21)

Priest: **“They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: Whatever cross we are carrying at this time in our life, we claim it as our own. Name it as our own cross. Talk to Jesus today about what it is like to be carrying that cross. If we need help carrying it, we need to ask him in prayer to send us a Simon of Cyrene and trust God is with us every step of the way.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

6. *Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
in that Mother's pain untold?*

THE SIXTH STATION

Reader: The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Isaiah 53:2-3)

Priest: **“He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain. Like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: Veronica stepped out of the crowd to wipe Jesus’ face, unafraid to be seen with the most hated man of that day, because she noticed his need and went to him. Jesus lived the same way, seeking out those on the margins and never avoiding or ignoring anyone. He invites us to show that same courageous, compassionate love.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

7. *For the sins of His own nation
saw Him hang in desolation,
all with bloody scourges rent.*

THE SEVENTH STATION

Reader: The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Romans 8:31-32; 38-39)

Priest: **“What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?” For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: Jesus was God, yet he fell again under the weight of the world, reminding us that falling is part of the human experience. We often expect life to be easy and try to avoid difficulty, but that only leaves us frustrated and weary. Jesus endured suffering because he had a mission to save humanity—so what mission helps us rise when we fall?

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

8. *Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
she beheld her tender child,
till His Spirit forth he sent.*

THE EIGHTH STATION

Reader: The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Luke 23:27-31)

Priest: **“A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”**

(Reflection)

Reader: When the women of Jerusalem saw Jesus suffering, they were overwhelmed with grief because the hopeful future they had imagined suddenly seemed lost. We experience similar sorrow when dreams collapse, loved ones die, or betrayal and trauma shatter the life we expected. Healing begins by honestly mourning what could have been, for only through grief can we open ourselves to hope and the possibilities that still lie ahead.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

9. O, thou Mother, fount of love,
touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord.

THE NINTH STATION

Reader: The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (*Rise*)

(Scripture: Psalm 38:4-9)

Priest: **“There is no wholesomeness in my flesh because of your anger; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. My iniquities overwhelm me, a burden too heavy for me. Foul and festering are my sores because of my folly. I am stooped and deeply bowed; every day I go about mourning. My loins burn with fever; there is no wholesomeness in my flesh. I am numb and utterly crushed; I wail with anguish of heart.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: Jesus is exhausted and crushed beneath the weight of the cross, a moment we recognize in our own seasons of confusion, betrayal, and darkness. When life leaves us beaten down and unsure which way to turn, the answer is simple though not easy: walk toward the light. God will guide each of us along a unique path shaped by our hopes and wounds, but the light always leads forward.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

*10. Make me feel as thou has felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ our Lord.*

THE TENTH STATION

Reader: The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: John 19:23-24)

Priest: **“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,” in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled [that says]: “They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: They stripped Jesus of everything, even his clothes, yet no humiliation or suffering could stop him from fulfilling God’s will. Our struggles, sin, and shame often paralyze us, keeping us from bringing our mess to the only One who can heal and guide us forward. God is the expert who gives us traction when we are stuck, so let us not let shame stand in the way of surrendering everything to him.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

11. *Holy Mother, pierce me through;
in my heart each wound renew
of my Savior crucified.*

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Reader: The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Luke 23:33-34)

Priest: **“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”] They divided his garments by casting lots.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: There is no greater example of love than Jesus nailed to the cross. Yet our selfishness, pride, anger, envy, and other sins keep us from loving as he loves. Jesus, fill us with the grace to cast these aside so we may see every person as you do and love them more each day.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

12. *Let met share with thee his pain,
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.*

THE TWELFTH STATION

Reader: The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Luke 23:44-46)

Priest: **“It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last.”**

At the Reading of Jesus’ Death, we pause briefly in reverence.

(Reflection)

Reader: Jesus, on this dark day you laid down your life to give us a new beginning filled with grace and mercy. Grant us wisdom to form and follow our conscience, to draw closer to you through suffering, and to forgive as you forgive. We entrust to you those who will die today and ask you to remain with us always, guiding us until our journey on earth is complete.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

13. *Let me mingle tears with thee,
mourning Him Who mourned for me,
all the days that I may live.*

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Reader: The Thirteenth Station: Jesus' Body is Removed from the Cross

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: Matthew 27:57-58)

Priest: **“When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: The glory of this world fades quickly, yet we often chase it with reckless passion while neglecting what lasts forever. Jesus invites us to seek eternal glory with the same energy, viewing everything in the light of eternity where true value is revealed. In the context of his Passion, death, and Resurrection, we are called to reorder our priorities toward what truly matters.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

14. *By the cross with thee to stay,
there with thee to weep and pray,
this I ask of thee to give.*

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Reader: The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Priest: **We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (*Kneel or Bow*)**

All Respond: *Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (Rise)*

(Scripture: John 19:38-40)

Priest: **“After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the [the people], asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.” They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.”**

(Reflection)

Reader: For a moment all hope seems lost as Jesus lies in the tomb, and the disciples feel defeated, confused, and swallowed by darkness. Yet it is often in our darkest hours that God is preparing his greatest work, just before the dawn breaks. Jesus, unleash the power of your Resurrection in us and bring new life to the places that need it most.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa

15. *Virgin, of all virgins blest,
O refuse not my request:
let me in thy weeping share.*

Lord's Prayer:

Priest: **At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
Our Father ...**

Closing Prayer:

Priest: **Let us pray.**

Priest: **Lord Jesus Christ,
your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth
and heaven and reconciles all people to you.
May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries
follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in
heaven
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**

All Respond: *Amen.*

Priest: **The Lord be with you.**

All Respond: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: **May almighty God bless you, + the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.**

All Respond: *Amen.*

Priest: **Go in Peace.**

All Respond: *Thanks be to God.*