

**The Way of the Cross  
with the Terminally Ill**  
*followed by*  
**The Sorrowful Mysteries  
of the Rosary**



**How awesome is this place!  
This is none other than the  
House of God and the Gate of Heaven!**

Genesis 28:17

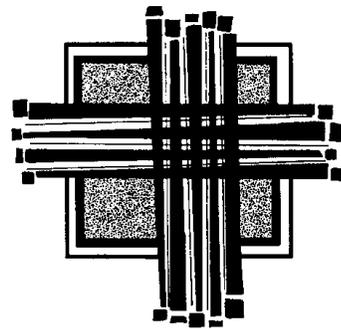
O Cross of Christ

tune: Amazing Grace

O Cross of Christ, immortal tree,  
on which our Savior died,  
The world is sheltered by your arms  
that bore the Crucified.

O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved  
while ages run their course;  
Foundation of the universe,  
creation's binding force.

Give glory to the suff'ring Christ  
And to His Cross give praise  
the sign of God's  
unfathomed love,  
the hope of all our days.



**Reading: Matthew 27:27-44**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered the soldiers before Him. They stripped Jesus and put a scarlet robe on Him, and when they wove a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a staff in His right hand. The soldiers knelt before Jesus and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Jesus, and took the staff and hit Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took his robe off, put Jesus' own garments on Him, and led Jesus away to crucify Him. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If you want to hold the Processional Cross for a Station,  
when the Station is announced,  
(for example: "The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time)  
walk to the Station and take the Processional Cross from  
the hands of the person holding it  
during the previous Station.

We would like to have a different person holding the  
Processional Cross for each Station.



## THE STABAT MATER DOLOROSA

### Station # 1 *Jesus Is Condemned to Death*

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

I'll never forget the day when I received the news. The exploratory surgery did not go well. They said the worst thing that could happen is that I might have a colostomy. When I awoke, the look in my family's eyes told me it was much worse... cancer. There was nothing they could do. That day I felt I had been a death sentence.

**All:** Jesus, what did you do as you stood before Pontius Pilate and received a sentence to die? Just as you did nothing to deserve this sentence, neither did all those who are diagnosed with cancer. Jesus, walk with those who live with cancer and strengthen those who are their caretakers, family members, friends, spouses, and children. Walk with them all and show them how to journey the road to Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

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

## **Station # 2      Jesus is Given His Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader: We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!**

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while  
saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have  
redeemed the world!**

**Station Leader:**

**I have been given this disease, help me Lord to carry  
this cross with courage and love as you did. May I  
carry the cross of discomfort and sickness from  
chemotherapy and radiation, doctors' appointments  
and plain hospital visits.**

**All: Lord, help those with terminal illnesses carry  
their crosses. Walk with them and show them  
how to journey down the road to Calvary.**

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

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

### **Station # 3      Jesus Falls the First Time**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

They didn't tell me I would be this sick. Lack of energy, the emotional drain has me face down under the weight of this cross.

**All:** Help us Jesus to continue. For those who are enduring this pain, there are also so many who need them to continue on. Walk with them and show them how to journey down the road to Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

O how sad and sore distressed, was that Mother highly blessed of the sole begotten one.

## **Station # 4 Jesus Meets His Mother**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader: We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!**

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!**

**Station Leader:**

**As I deal with all this disease has given me, I realize my spouse is dealing with it too. Jesus, how did you comfort your mother? Was it a touch, or a look of compassion for her? Was it an understanding smile you gave her that strengthened Mary in her sorrow and disbelief of what she was seeing?**

**All: Mary, help their loved ones. Walk with them too as they journey down the road to Calvary.**

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs of her dying glorious Son.**

## **Station # 5 Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

The day the hospice caregivers arrived, I knew my Simon of Cyrene had arrived. They came right in when asked and took my cross, my pain, and my worries, as I walked with Jesus.

**All:** With all those who walk with the terminally ill, lift them up, Lord, and carry them on their journey down the road to Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

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

## **Station # 6 Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

There are many Veronicas in my life coming in different forms to wipe my face. The neighbors who have brought food, grocery shopped or sent cards. Those people praying for me. All these gestures are acts of kindness like that of Veronica.

**All:** Compassionate God, help us recognize all the Veronicas in our lives as they accompany us through the difficult periods of our lives. For those who are terminally ill, carry them down the road to Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Can the human heart refrain from partaking in her pain.  
In that mother's pain untold?**

**Station # 7      Jesus Falls the Second Time**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!**

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!**

**Station Leader:**

**Jesus, how can I go on? The pain, the discomfort, the sorrow of my family is all too much for me to bear. I feel flattened under the weight of this cross. Will I even make it to Calvary? Where can I find strength?**

**All:            Jesus, help them to continue. There are so many that need the terminally ill to continue. Walk with them and show them how to journey down the road to Calvary.**

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, She beneath her tender Child, all with bloody scourges rent.**

**Station # 8      Jesus Meets the Holy Women**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!**

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!**

**Station Leader:**

**Lord, how did you comfort the women and children? My children and extended family look at me and cry. I don't want them to see me like this, yet we all need one another. Our good-byes are difficult but not final.**

**All:            Compassionate God, help us accept their sufferings are a sharing in the sufferings of Your Son Jesus. Sustain the terminally ill, their families, friends, and all who care for them as they journey down the road to Calvary.**

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**For the sins of his own nation saw him hang in desolation till his spirit forth he sent.**

**Station # 9      Jesus Falls the Third Time**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:**    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:**            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Lord, how much longer is this road to Calvary? This is it. I am too weak to get up. Too weak to eat or open my eyes. Why me? Why do I have to suffer? What is it that gets you up a third time? Is it again love? That deep desire to love? I hear my children's voices; their love picks me up with you love.

**All:**            Help them all, Lord, the terminally ill, and everyone in their lives, journey down the road to Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**O sweet Mother font of love, touch my spirit from above, make my heart with yours accord.**

**Station # 10 Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

I never thought this could strip me of all I enjoy doing. Sharing a meal with friends and family, working, gardening, baking, and traveling. All these things I have enjoyed are being stripped away each day. Was this what it was like for you? The only thing is simply to be and be present to all who come to visit.

**All:** Please, Lord, stay with them here at Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Make me feel as you have felt; make my soul to glow and melt with the love of Christ, my Lord.**

## **Station # 11    Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:**    We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:**            Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

The time is near. I can no longer eat. The medication is now an added appendage to my body. As I lay here surrounded by my loved ones, I am overcome by a deep loneliness. Why have you abandoned me on Calvary?

**SILENCE IS KEPT SO WE CAN PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE AT THEIR MOMENT OF DEATH.**

**Leader:**    Holy Mary,

**All:**            Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

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

## Station # 12 Jesus Dies on the Cross

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

Jesus, is this where the road to Calvary ends? Here on the cross? Is this where the journey takes me? Only to darkness and confusion?

**All:** Help us Lord, to understand and accept our crosses. Are you really here with us when we are on our own hill in Calvary?

**ALL KNEEL (IF ABLE) IN SILENCE.**

*We all stand as we sing:*

Let me share with you his pain, who for all our sins was slain, who for me in torments died.

## **Station # 13 Jesus Is Laid in Mary's Arms**

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

As they took Jesus body down from the cross, darkness covered the land. Mary, Jesus' Mother, gently took Him in her arms and held Him. Did she die that day too?

**All:** Jesus and Mary, help my family and loved ones accept the many deaths we experience in our life times. You both are with us on our Calvaries. Gently hold us and comfort us in our times of loss and confusion.

**SILENCE IS KEPT SO WE CAN PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL.**

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**Let me mingle tears with you, mourning him who mourned for me, all the days that I may live.**

## Station # 14 Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

*After the Station is announced, we pray:*

**Leader:** We adore you oh Christ and we praise you!

*IF ABLE, we genuflect (touching our right knee to the floor) while saying this entire response. If you can not genuflect, IF ABLE, bow.*

**All:** Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world!

**Station Leader:**

My family and friends wonder sometimes, "Is there more than just the grave?" In many ways, they could be compared to those first disciples. They were not certain what was going to happen. Their hearts were broken with sorrow and confusion.

**All:** Jesus all the events of your passion happened so quickly. Your disciples did not have much time to think what could happen next. Help us all to understand and believe that there is more that awaits us in heaven. It doesn't end at Calvary.

*After the congregational prayer is said, we sing:*

**By the cross with you to stay, there with you to weep and pray, is all I ask you to give.**

**SILENCE IS KEPT AGAIN SO WE CAN PRAY FOR  
THOSE WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL.**



## THE ROSARY

*If there are 36 people or less, we will process to the Saints' Chapel (former Blessed Sacrament Chapel) to pray the Rosary.*

*If there are more than 36 people, we will sit in the center pews, as close to the altar as possible, to pray the Rosary.*

### PROCESSION TO THE SAINTS CHAPEL and BEGINNING OF THE ROSARY

Immaculate Mary *Contemporary Words*

1. Immaculate Mary, we praise God in you:  
His power and his mercy, his grace given to you.  
  
**AVE AVE AVE MARIA, AVE AVE AVE MARIA!**
2. To you by an angel, the Father made known  
The grace of his Spirit, the gift of his son.
3. Most blest of all women, you heard and believed,  
Most blest in the fruit of your womb then conceived.
4. The angels rejoiced when you brought forth God's  
Son; Your joy is the joy of all ages to come.
5. With sorrow you watched while your Son died for us,  
With joy at His rising, you saw him again.
6. Through you to your Son lead us, Mary, we pray:  
Through Christ to the Father is our only way.

Never will anyone who says the Rosary every day be led astray.

This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood.

St. Louis de Montfort

**Sign of the Cross**

**The Apostles Creed**



**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden**

Then going out went Jesus, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. Luke 22:39

*At the end of each decade, we pray the Fatima Prayer.*

**Fatima Prayer**

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

**Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar**

Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime." Luke 23:22a

**Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. Matthew 27:27

**Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross**

As they led Jesus away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. Luke 23:26

**Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion**

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on Jesus' right, the other on his left. Luke 23:33

# SALVE, REGINA / HAIL, MARY

Chant, Mode V

Sal-ve, Re-gi-na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae: Vi-ta dul-  
Hail, Ma-ry, moth-er and queen of ten-der mer-cy, our life, our  
cé-do et spes no-stra, sal-ve. Ad te cla-má-mus,  
com-fort, and our hope, we hail you. From this for-eign land  
éx-su-les, fi-li-i He-vae. Ad te sus-pi-rá-mus,  
Eve's sons and daugh-ters cry to you. So lost, so full of fear,  
ge-mén-tes et flen-tes in hac la-cri-má-rum val-lē.  
we mourn, we grieve, we sigh from this tear-ful vale of ex-ile.  
E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta no-stra, il-los tu-os mi-  
Ah, then, our help, our ad-vo-cate and guide, turn now to us the  
se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te.  
gaze of your all-lov-ing eyes, so full of mer-cy.  
Et Je-sum, be-ne-dí-ctum fruc-tum ven-tris tu-i,  
And Je-sus— your Son, and Lord, your womb's most bless-ed fruit—  
no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.  
show him to us when we com-plete our so-journ.  
O cle-mens, O pi-a,  
O gen-tle, O lov-ing,  
O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-ri-a.  
O be-lov-ed, O Vir-gin Ma-ry.

Text: Latin, attr. to Hermanus Contractus, 1013–1054; English, © 1995, Paul F. Ford. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

### **Prayer After the Rosary**

O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech you, that we who meditate upon these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Memorare**

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



