

Faith IN WV

DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Stations of the Cross with St. Joseph

During the month of March the Church honors St. Joseph, whose Solemnity is March 19th.

Father Edward Looney of the Diocese of Green Bay, presents the Stations of the Cross, inviting the faithful to walk with St. Joseph beside his Son:



1st Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Saint Joseph knew to some extent that this would one day happen, because Simeon prophesied this in the temple, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted" (Luke 2: 34).

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for me, that I may receive the grace of a happy and holy death.



2nd: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Saint Joseph was a carpenter. Imagine Jesus in his woodshop making a cross. Now He picks up, accepts, and makes His own cross for us.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to accept the crosses of life that I am handed.



3rd Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

Saint Joseph, who took Jesus as his own, remembered that first fall of Jesus. Any parent does, as they look on and see the hurt and pain of their child. For the first part of his life, Jesus had Joseph who could come

to his aid.

Dear St. Joseph, in my stumbles in life, be an intercessor for me.



4th Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

Mary and Jesus lock eyes. The glance of Jesus consoles her suffering heart, if only for a moment. Saint Joseph is not there. She is alone, without her spouse.

Dear St. Joseph, be present to families who encounter the illnesses and sorrows of their loved ones.



5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

The Roman soldiers summoned a bystander to help Jesus carry the Cross. Joseph protected Jesus during his infancy (fleeing to Egypt), when even then someone wanted to put him to death.

Dear St. Joseph, ask the Lord to send me the people I need when I need them most.



6th Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Consider the care and love of St. Joseph for Jesus as a child. With fatherly love, he attended to Jesus' wounds. With a father's touch, he wiped the tears of Jesus.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me that I may be more aware of those who need help.



7th Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

After an angel tells St. Joseph it is safe to return home from Egypt. Think of what it must have been like for St. Joseph as he returned the Holy Family to Nazareth. His return to daily life was an act of trust. When

we fall trust the Lord's plans.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to trust in God like you did.



8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus speaks to the gathered women, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." As Jesus expresses these words during his Passion, imagine what he shared

with St. Joseph during those hidden years. Surely his words taught, healed, and consoled his father.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me, that the words Jesus speaks might transform and change my heart.



9th Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Maybe life seemed heavy at times for St. Joseph. Maybe he did not understand everything that was happening in his life. St. Joseph had a lifetime to understand the mysteries of the kingdom.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may gain wisdom and understanding of the divine mysteries.



10th Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

In birth, a child is born naked, only to be clothed by his parents. And now Jesus in death is stripped of his garments. As an infant, the Christ child needed to be tended to, and most certainly St. Joseph attended to

his needs.

Dear St. Joseph, tend to my wounds, intercede for me, that I might be clothed in the love of God.



11th Station: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

These nails are not the carpenter's nails.... They are nails of torture... nails of our salvation.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to be silent, so I may never crucify anyone by my words.



12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

By Jesus' entrusting of Mary to St. John, we know that St. Joseph had already passed from this life. As Jesus draws his last breath, let us recall the last breath of St. Joseph, who died in the company of Mary and Jesus.

Dear St. Joseph, watch over families who have experienced a recent loss; be with the widowers and comfort the bereaved.



13th Station: Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

As Jesus is taken down from the Cross, he also descends to the depths of the netherworld.... He gives life to all who awaited salvation and redemption. Now, the gates of eternal paradise are open.

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for my family and friends who are still in Purgatory. By your prayers and those of Mary, may they soon come to enjoy the vision of Heaven.



14th Station: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

The body of Jesus has been anointed, and for three days Christ sanctifies the tomb for all who believe in him. Let us not forget that wherever St. Joseph was buried, Jesus would have visited.

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for me as I draw my dying breath.

For Fr. Looney's Aleteia article [CLICK HERE](#).

Access a video by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Editor's note: The photos of the Stations of the Cross were taken at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

The painting in the graphic below of St. Joseph is from St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg and is by WV native, Catholic artist Christopher Santer.



Know the Scripture verse you will use ahead of time. Find your place of prayer. Open your Bible and find the passage.

1) Preparatory Prayer

"A step or two before the place where I am to contemplate or meditate, I will stand for the space of an Our Father and, with my consciousness raised on high, consider how the Lord my God looks upon me. Then I will make an act of reverence or humility" (St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, no. 75).

Spend the first minute considering how God looks at you.

Ask God our Lord for the grace that all your intentions, thoughts, and actions may be ordered purely to the service and praise of his divine majesty.

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A Study with Bishop Andrew Cozzens

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