

Stations of the Cross--Lent 2007  
Online Resources

Quick overview and history of the Stations of the Cross:

Info from [http://sivinkit.net/archives/stations\\_of\\_cross.pdf](http://sivinkit.net/archives/stations_of_cross.pdf)

- During the time of the crusades (1095-1270), it became popular for pilgrims in the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to Calvary
- It is speculated that the Stations of the Cross became a popular substitute pilgrimage throughout Europe after the Moslems recaptured the Holy Land (making pilgrimages there too dangerous).
- Devotional manuals about the Stations date from the 16th century although the actual origin of the devotion is uncertain. The popularity of the Stations of the Cross was fostered by the Franciscans, who obtained a special indulgence from Pope Innocent XI, in 1686, for those who performed the devotion. The Stations represented critical events from Scripture or tradition of Jesus' journey to Calvary. Originally done only outdoors, the Stations were allowed inside churches in the mid-18th century.
- Eventually fixed at fourteen, (By Pope Clement XII in 1731) the Stations soon became a familiar feature in all Catholic churches.

**What are its purpose and benefits?**

It is a powerful way to help people contemplate the journey of Jesus to the cross and its significance for our lives. The stations of the cross...

- is a mini-pilgrimage
- allow us to engage all the senses, heart, mind and body.
- is Christ-centered
- it connects us to our common Christian heritage

Far more extensive historical information and explanations are available at the New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia website:  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15569a.htm>

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The fourteen Stations:

*This is the traditional Catholic version of the stations. Some non-Catholic churches have amended the stations in a variety of ways to include Jesus' resurrection, for example. Traditionally, the stations end with Jesus' body in the tomb, which is why this is a popular devotional practice for Good Friday in many churches.*

- First Station - Jesus is condemned to Death
- Second Station - Jesus is made to bear His Cross
- Third Station - Jesus falls the first time under His Cross
- Fourth Station - Jesus meets His Mother
- Fifth Station - Simon the Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross
- Sixth Station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- Seventh Station - Jesus falls the second time

Eighth Station - Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem  
Ninth Station - Jesus falls the third time  
Tenth Station - Jesus is stripped of His garments  
Eleventh Station - Jesus is nailed to the Cross  
Twelfth Station - Jesus dies on the Cross  
Thirteenth Station - Jesus is taken down from the Cross  
Fourteenth Station - Jesus is buried in the sepulcher

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Text of the Stations of the Cross:

Booklets and other resources for purchase:

Series of posters for Children with the fourteen stations and an additional poster of the Risen Christ: *Cost \$9.95 per set*

<http://catalog.osv.com/Catalog.aspx?SimpleDisplay=true&ProductCode=X216>

Online resources, including reproducible booklet and brochures to use at your church:

Online “Stations of the Cross” for prayer at home or work:

<http://www.kingofpeace.org/stationswp/index.html>

Online “Stations” especially for children and families:

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/stations/index.html>

Online stations from the viewpoint of the Kenyan people with representative artwork by the Turkana artists of Kenya:

<http://www.edow.org/spirituality/lent/Kenya/stations.html>

Online flash presentation with music:

[http://www.beliefnet.com/religion/christianity/holyweek/easter/cross\\_lite2.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/religion/christianity/holyweek/easter/cross_lite2.html)

“Stations of the Cross” printable brochure for use in your church:

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations-prn.html>

A wealth of family activities for Lent and Easter can be found at this website, with an emphasis on Stations activities for families:

[http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/pages.dir/fridge.htm#LENT\\_FAMILY](http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/pages.dir/fridge.htm#LENT_FAMILY)

Books for children and Families:

The Story of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross for Children by Mary Joslin  
*Available from Amazon.com*