

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Pandemic of COVID-19, 2021 (Coronavirus)

By Maribeth Hopps



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

ALL: *Lord Jesus we offer our prayers to you today for our world, our country, our state, and our local community.*

*As we meditate on your sacred Passion,
may we take the pain and needs of all humanity
and pray through your suffering for your creation:
your people whom you love.*

In your precious name, we pray.

Amen

THE FIRST STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

LEADER: Lord, you were held captive and given a death sentence.

This was truly undeserved but nonetheless it was still carried out -even though you were innocent.

There are thousands upon thousands in our world today who have been held captive by this pandemic not knowing what their fate will be: people in cities large and small, neighborhoods, people confined to their own homes, in nursing homes and care facilities and those in quarantine.

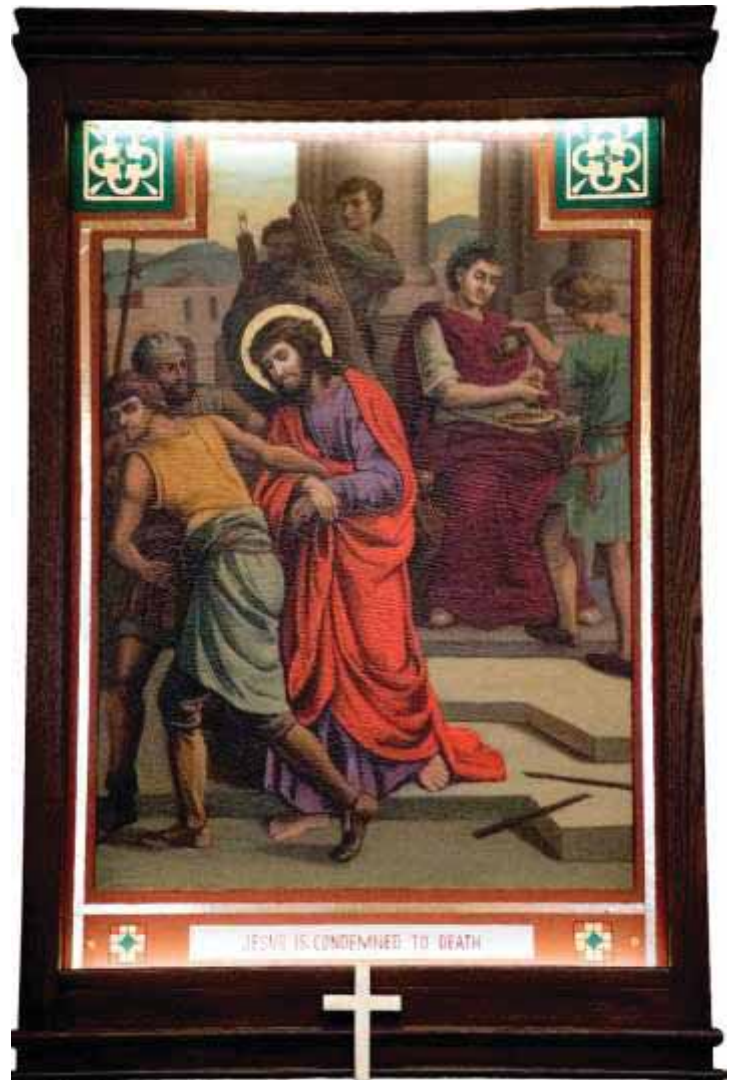
They too, are innocent victims: victims of a disease that cannot be seen, tasted or felt. But for many people the sickness can quickly become a death sentence. We hold their futures in prayer.

We remember those in jails and prisons, and for people being kept in immigration holding areas, and for those who work and volunteer there so that everyone's physical and mental health is protected.

ALL: We pray for all in captivity. Allow them to feel your presence. Watch over them. Holy Spirit, give them peace.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SECOND STATION JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your
holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, you were given a cross, a heavy load filled with the pain, death, and suffering of all humanity.

The separation of our lives from yours through sin must have been a pain almost too heavy to bear.

Was the separation, death and sickness the world feels now from this virus, a part of the cross you carried?

The fear, the misguided beliefs and the anxiety surrounding this pandemic - did it all add to your burden?

May we depend on your love and your carrying of the cross to carry us through these times of the unknown.

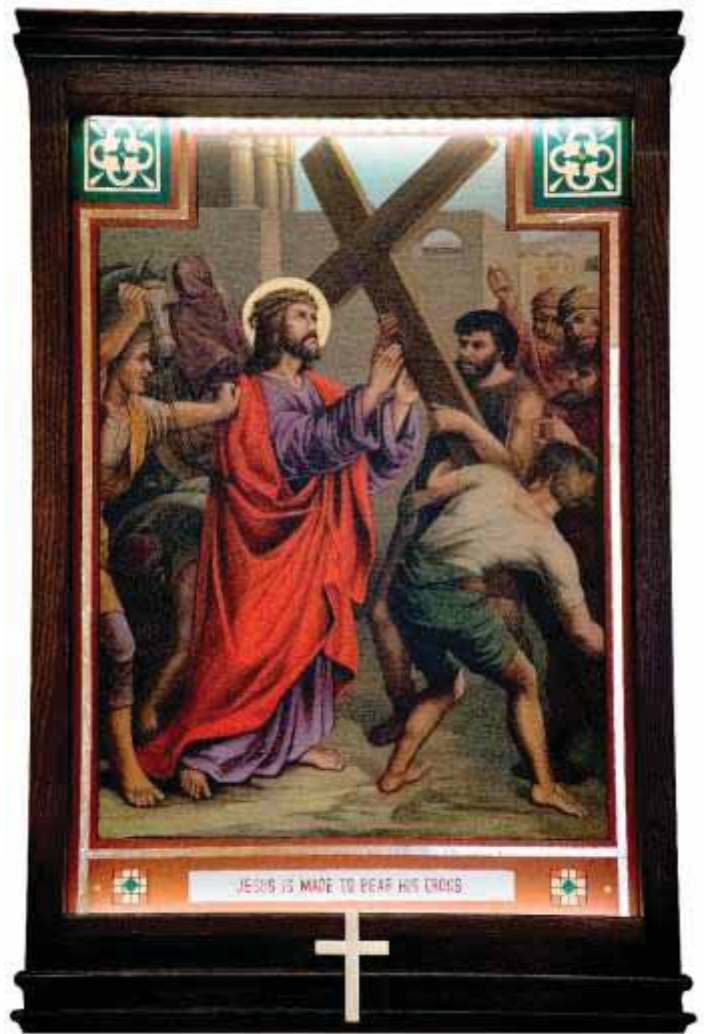
Even after a year's worth of experience with this disease, so much continues to remain a mystery.

Your carrying the cross to your crucifixion was a mystery to your friends as well. Watch over us.

ALL: Holy Spirit show us how to accept the cross of this pandemic and move forward.

Silence

Glory Be



THE THIRD STATION JESUS FALL THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

LEADER: Lord, you fell underneath the burden of the cross and the pain of your wounds.

The road was not an easy path, and all of that brought you unexpectedly to your knees.

This coronavirus was unexpected and has brought our world, our nation, our community and our health care system to its knees in trying to fight the invisible: the disease that is not always the same from person to person, even country to country as it mutates and changes.

The entire world has been affected. Some have fared better than others. Some have been consumed by the disease. Some are exhausted by it. Some are starting to be able to live normally, but what use to be normal does not mean it was best for us.

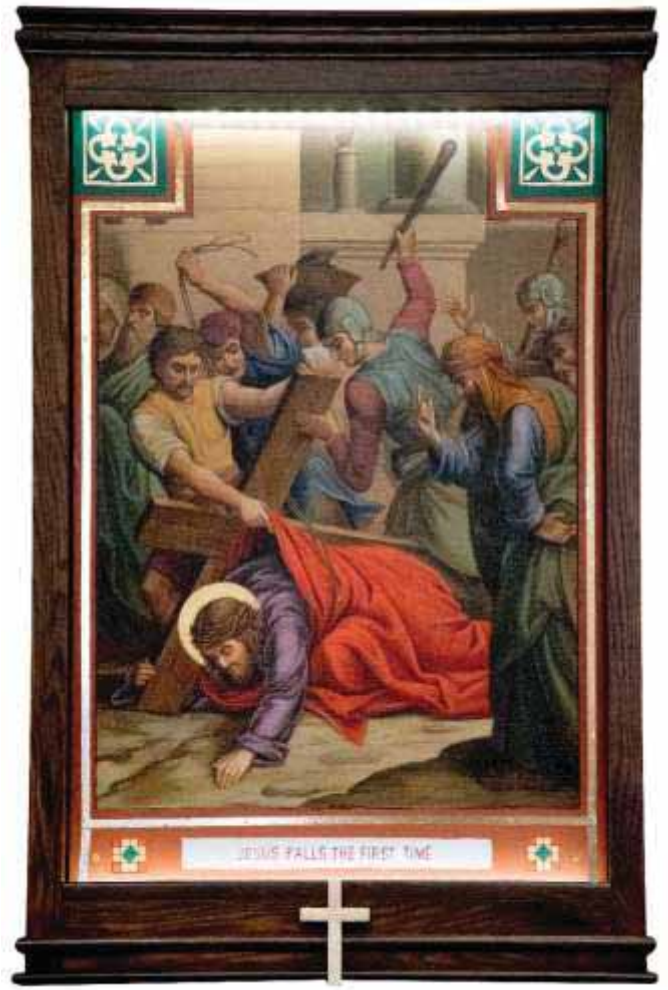
The possibility that this small virus can again arise from the ashes brings us to our knees. But just as you did not give up, neither does humanity that you created. As we drop to our knees, may we take the time to ask you for help and to unite our suffering with yours.

Watch over us.

ALL: Holy Spirit, with your help, may the world be given the wisdom to continue to fight this disease.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

LEADER: Lord, your mother loved you and you loved her. Meeting her when you were so fragile and so worn had to be difficult.

Many families in our world, in our nation, and in our community have come together and bonded and helped each other in this time of trial. Over these past twelve months we have had our struggles. Some of our loved ones have become very sick and many have passed away from this virus. Some families have unknowingly passed it to each other at gatherings and celebrations. Many are suffering from the sense of guilt of feeling responsible for causing another person to become ill.

In your divine passion, please give to us your divine mercy and compassion as we seek to make sense out of these troubling thoughts and fears. Our hearts ache with love and desire to be with our family and friends after such a long period of separation.

We have used technology to keep us in touch without touching each other. Funerals, weddings, celebrations, Mass, and simple acts of love -like reading a book to grandchildren- have often taken place on computer or phone applications. You and your mother understand that separation. Watch over us.

ALL: Holy Spirit, help us to love each other so much that we put the health and needs of those around us before our own.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FIFTH STATION SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

LEADER: Lord the cross was heavy and you were slowing down.

Simon was told to help you. And you humbly accepted his help.

We know in this time of pandemic each country is testing and working hard to fight the virus, to heal its citizens and to obtain and distribute vaccines and medication to fight this disease.

We pray for those in the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control, our President and all elected officials to make wise decisions to benefit all. We pray for a safe, equitable and peaceful distribution and rapid disbursement of the vaccines throughout the world.

May the government leaders and medical teams of all nations be willing and able to share information with each other so that together, with the guidance of your Holy Spirit, we come to know what works and how to safely handle this cross of illness.

ALL: Watch over our leaders. Through their service may they bring healing. Holy Spirit, guide them.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SIXTH STATION VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

LEADER: Lord, blood, sweat and dirt covered your face and eyes and it was becoming difficult to see where you were going.

When your face was wiped with gentleness, and out of love and care, you had a small moment of relief.

We look for ways to relieve anxiety and fear in all people, and for ways to protect and send information without panic and anger.

We hold in prayer all of our clergy who meet the sick daily and pray and anoint them. Keep them safe.

We pray for the medical community that cares for the sick and puts in endless and often thankless hours of vigilance.

Keep them in your care, and give them wisdom.

We pray for those who continue to work and provide necessary services to keep our lives and economy safe.

May each country's attempt to curb the growth of the virus be lessons for the world community.

ALL: Watch over us. Holy Spirit, help us to trust and not be filled with fear.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SEVENTH STATION JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, weakness again overcomes you and you fall under the weight of a cross that you bore on our behalf.

We pray in respect to the weakness of our health care and governmental systems in the ability to fight this unknown entity of coronavirus.

We have never experienced something like this and we need your help in combating it.

We are stronger when we are unified in you, Lord. In these past several months we have identified many weaknesses in our country, state, and community in regards to following laws put in place for safety, covid testing, vaccine production, distribution and follow up... and even the types of masks that we should wear and the necessity of those masks.

Please help us repair the weak links in our health care system so that we can advance and work together for the care of all people.

Watch over us.
Unite us.

ALL: Holy Spirit, inspire us to set aside differences, and help us rise to the occasion to do your work here on earth.

Silence

Glory Be



THE EIGHTH STATION JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, some of your friends were reaching out to you in your greatest time of need.

In these challenging times we see instances of family and friends helping one another.

We see friends and strangers alike taking it upon themselves to check on neighbors and make visits to those who are elderly even if it is just through a window, or under a heater, outside in the cold.

So many volunteers and medical workers are coming together for many hours, standing in the heat and cold -and even outdoors- to test, vaccinate and diagnose. We see medical professionals putting themselves on the line every day taking care of the sick, often not knowing if the illness that is being presented is COVID-19, a new variant, influenza or the common cold.

ALL: We hold in prayer all those in our town who are concerned for their loved ones and do everything they can to protect them.

Watch over them. Encourage them.
Holy Spirit, give them an understanding of hope.

Silence

Glory Be



THE NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, your pain from your head to your feet was burning and overwhelming.

It took immense concentration to put one foot in front of the other, and your pain was so intense that you fell again.

You had to be exhausted. No one can imagine what you were going through.

This pandemic and all of its effects seems to have overwhelmed and exhausted the entire world. We have a hard time understanding that we are living in this day and age where a virus crossed borders, infected millions, caused millions of deaths, and challenged economies.

This anger and fear has transitioned at times into name-calling, riotous reactions and violence.

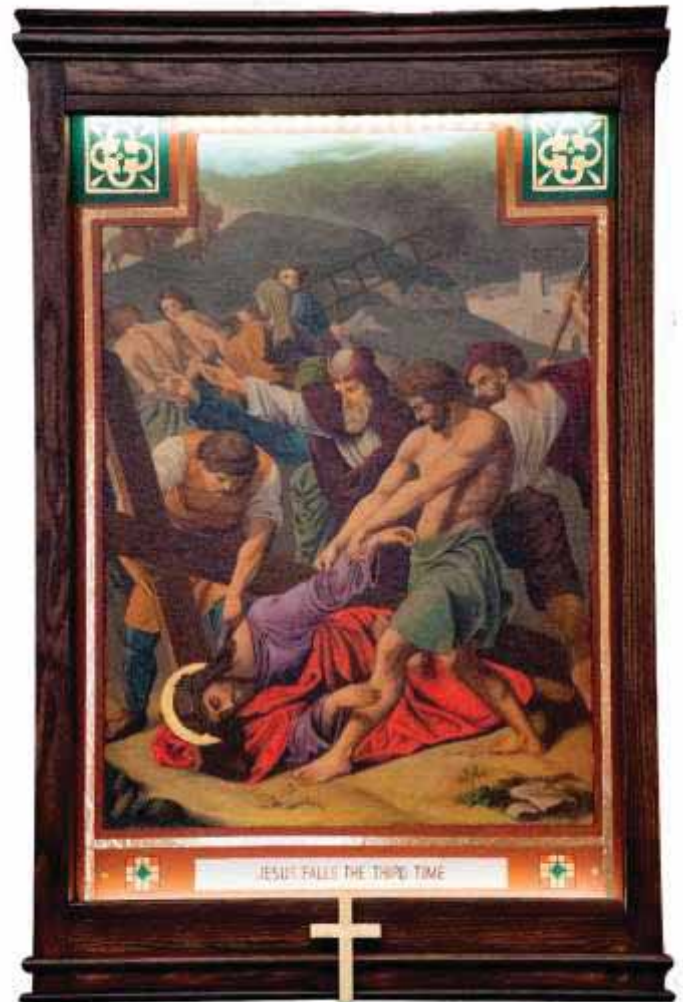
Is the violence, panic and rage we have seen, a part of the cross that dropped you to the ground?

We have failed to treat each other with love as you taught us. Displaced anger becomes a cross that causes each of us to fall and take others with us.

ALL: Watch over us. Change hearts. Holy Spirit, convict us so we can lifteach other up.

Silence

Glory Be



THE TENTH STATION JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, when you were stripped of your clothing, you were mocked and debased.

We have seen instances of those who are being mocked in profiling for this virus. We ask forgiveness for times we have been afraid of someone because of their culture, their ethnicity, their age or their income level.

We are all your children and we must treat one another with dignity and care.

But this virus has affected certain groups of our brothers and sisters disproportionately. This has made a greater divide in our support for each other.

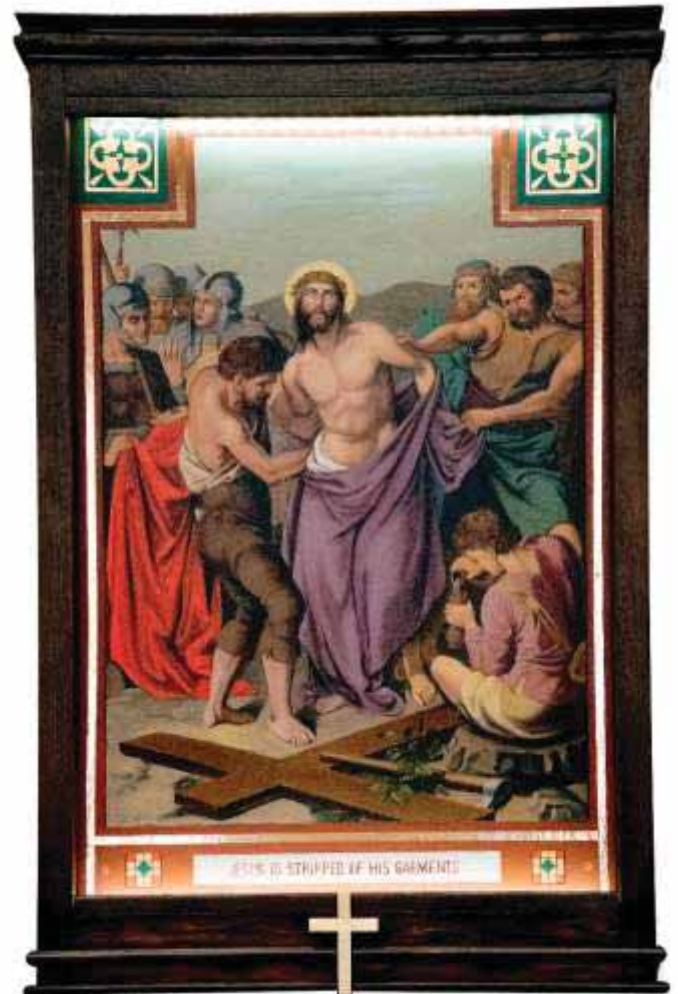
We pray for those in our world, country and town who are some of the most vulnerable to this virus: people at the margins, those who have underlying health concerns, the aged, and those with disabilities.

Watch over them. Build them up. May they receive the vaccinations they need in a timely fashion.

ALL: Holy Spirit, open our eyes to any treatment that is unfair and prejudicial, and give us courage to stand up for those in need.

Silence

Glory Be



THE ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, you were nailed to the cross and raised high for all to see and condemn.

Your suffering and dying tore through your body with every breath you took.

Your mother never left you, and a few of your friends stood by and held vigil for you.

Even in your pain you reached out to the thief next to you and assured him of salvation.

We also seek assurance at this time.

We look back over the months and see how our lives have been altered. Every single person on the earth has been touched by the same disease and at the same time.

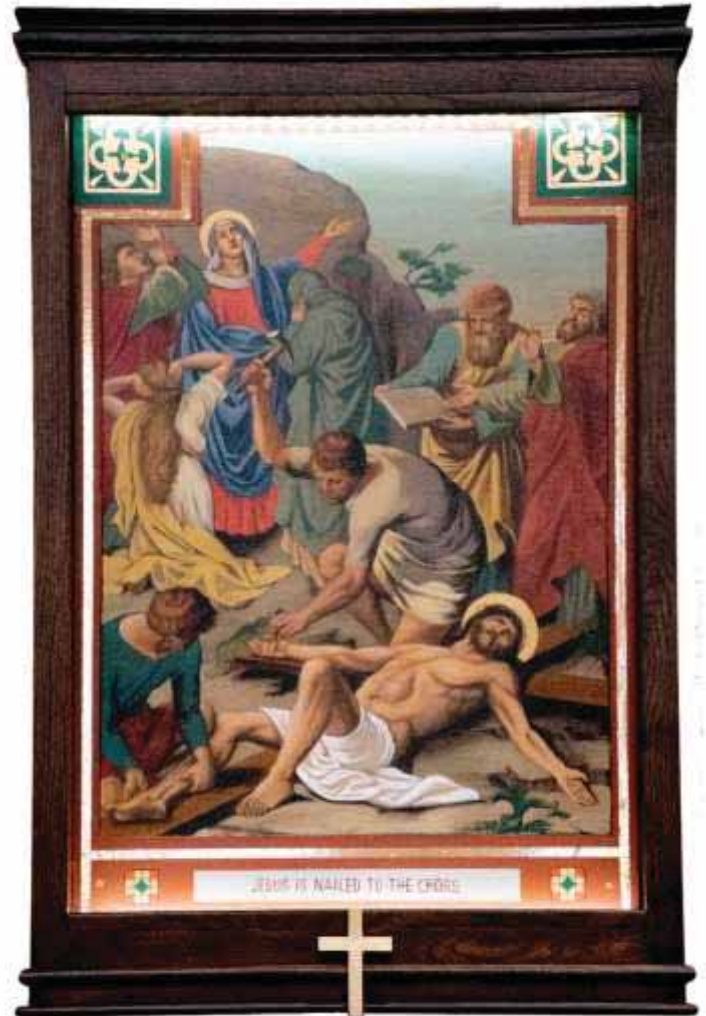
Some have felt death in the loss of being in the presence of family and friends, or in a death of their ability to sustain their families, as they have lost employment, or a death of their mental wellbeing because of distancing, isolation and despair. Many children are still unable to attend school in person and this along with the increase in addictions and domestic abuse add to the pain of many families.

Life as we knew it a year ago has changed all over the world. Help us to find assurance in you. You have promised that we are not alone.

ALL: May all understand this and recognize your presence. Watch over all of them. Unite them. Holy Spirit, may they see Christ in each other.

Silence

Glory Be



THE TWELFTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

(Kneel if you are able)

LEADER:

Lord,
your death was a pain-filled sacrifice.

You died for each one of us.

Unselfish, humble, perfect and complete was
your surrender.

Your death freed us from the pain of eternal
separation from you.

We pray for those in our world, nation, state
and community who have died from or will
succumb to the coronavirus.

ALL: We pray that all the souls of the faithful
departed, through your mercy and goodness,
be united with you. Holy Spirit, may they be at
rest in the knowledge of their worth.

Silence

Glory Be

(Stand)



THE THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, your body was removed from the cross and your mother was there to accept your broken and lifeless body.

Her grief, sorrow and confusion may have been coupled with fear and anger.

Yet she had hope. She knew you and she loved you and was filled with hope.

She was unsure what that hope consisted of, and yet she was sure you would not leave us alone and abandoned.

As people become sick with this unknown virus, we grieve for those who die. Too often the families of those who have died in the past year were not able to gather in prayer together. In some parts of the world people had to be buried in mass graves as the pandemic swarmed. We live in a time of sadness and confusion, a time of fear and anger. Many live in mistrust and depression.

We look to your mother, Our Blessed Mother, as a model of hope in the face of the unknown. Watch over us. Mary, our Mother, please pray for us.

ALL: Holy Spirit, help us to find hope in the darkest of times, because we know we are never abandoned, especially during these times of great need.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, your body was put to rest in a new tomb given to your mother for your burial.

This was the moment of complete separation for you and her.

We pray for those in our world, nation, state and local community who feel or will feel complete separation because of this virus.

We must separate ourselves in social distancing. We separate ourselves from those who are sick. We stay six feet away from anyone not from our own homes.

Separation may be frightening and lonely, but it can also be a blessed time for healing.

We pray for those who have no place where they may be kept safe and cared for, especially those who are homeless.

We also pray for those who reside and work in shelters. And we pray for all those who feel complete separation in this world because of death.

ALL: Holy Spirit, please make your presence known to us in a special way when we feel alone.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FIFTEENTH STATION THE RESURRECTION

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because,
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

LEADER: Lord, humanity could not imagine the joy and the wonder you were going to give us in your Resurrection from the dead.

You are a God of the unexpected!

We could never even begin to foresee or imagine what you had in store for all people across the world and across all time.

Your resurrection is the ultimate hope, the ultimate healing, the ultimate salvation for all.

May we turn to you not only in this time of the needs of the present, but also in the joy of the coming future when the cloud before us has been cleared. Help us then to have a better understanding of not only each other but how you guided, loved, healed and journeyed with us in constant companionship, never leaving us and always hearing our prayers and cries.

Your resurrection speaks of hope and of what is yet to come.

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Gruss and all bishops, our clergy, all in ministry, for our parishes and all who walk this journey of the ever changing known unknown with us.

We pray in thanksgiving for vaccines and treatments. May we unite in the near future to share in the wonder of your glory, shining through it all and bringing us to the other side.

ALL: Watch over us. Holy Spirit, enliven our faith and help us not give up.

Silence

Glory Be Our Father

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen





Maribeth Hopps is a lifelong Catholic and a member of All Saints Parish. She is a Lay Minister of the Diocese of Saginaw. She is passionate about ministry to people with disabilities and coordinator of Praying Our Faith Ministry in the Bay City area. She is also the mother of one of our youngest priests, Fr. Marc Hopps.

The images of the Stations of the Cross are located inside the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. They are original to the Church and were restored during the Cathedral restoration in 2017.



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