

DID YOU KNOW?

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross (sometimes referred to as the Way of the Cross) is among the most popular devotions in the Catholic Church. A prayerful meditation on the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, the Stations can be prayed anytime of the year, alone or in a group. There is no prescribed way to pray the Stations, and many versions of prayers and meditations for each of the traditional fourteen scenes can be found in bookstores and online. Praying the Stations is especially popular on Fridays during Lent.

The Stations grew out of the ancient practice of pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where it is still possible to walk where Jesus walked during his visible lifetime. Of course, not everyone can afford to travel to Jerusalem. So the Stations, erected in or around a parish church, provide an opportunity to “walk with Jesus” much closer to home.

The striking murals depicting the Stations of the Cross at Saint Brigid Parish were painted in 1948 by a Dutch artist and Benedictine monk named Gregory De Wit, OSB. Legend has it that some of the faces in the scenes are modeled after parishioners. Many people have also found images of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini among the Lord’s torturers. The young boys at the Fifth Station provoke many questions and invite reflection. The Roman Centurion is another striking figure to follow through the panels from the Condemnation to the Crucifixion. He is a different person when he reaches the Cross with Jesus and invites us to a similar conversion.

Pray Stations of the Cross at St. B’s on Friday, April 12 at 4 or 6 pm, and stay for dinner after. Everyone is encouraged to walk together with Jesus on His way to the cross.

