

DID YOU KNOW?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—INTRODUCTION

What are Stations of the Cross?

Stations of the Cross are a powerful prayer experience and favorite Lenten practice that allow us to meditate and walk with Jesus as He carried His cross on the day He died (also known as Good Friday).



hours. But as travel to the Holy Land became more difficult, especially during the Crusades, many church buildings and monasteries adapted this spiritual journey by constructing artistic images along their walls of Jesus carrying His cross—beginning with His sentence to death and ending with His burial.

History of the Stations at Saint Brigid Parish

The Stations of the Cross are one of the unique features of our church. Rather than individual scenes, the Stations run into each other, allowing the viewer to more vividly experience Jesus' Way of the Cross. This fresco-style mural with life-sized people and dramatic use of color was created in 1948 by a Benedictine monk named Dom Gregory de Wit, OSB (1892—1978) who was a friend of Father van Veggel, our pastor at the time. Distinct features of Father de Wit's artwork as seen in our Stations include:

- Vibrant colors—attributed to his method of mixing paints
- Contemporary elements—some say he included faces of parish children

WALKING THE WAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—FIRST PANEL

Stations of the Cross Series—Walking the Way

During Lent we will ‘Walk the Way’ through the Stations taking one panel at a time, showing the unique features of the mural. For each Station we will reference the Scriptural origin and provide reflection questions for you to use during your prayer time at home or while attending the Stations of the Cross here as a community.

Stations of the Cross Mural at St. B’s—First Panel (Stations I through IV)

The Stations mural runs from right to left, begins on the north wall closest to the altar, and goes counter-clockwise around the church. Distinct features of Father de Wit’s mural and this first panel include:

- The entire mural emphasizes three types of humanity—the hypocritical type represented by the Pharisees, the ignorant ones who know not what they do, and the truly devout with silver halos.
- Vibrant colors and flowing cloth as seen on the Pharisees in their robes of green, gold, and purple
- Watch the centurion throughout, with his blue helmet, sword, and red robe, as he goes through a conversion of faith—here he is doing his job keeping the peace, unfazed by Jesus.
- In Station I notice Pontius Pilate ‘washing his hands’ as Jesus is taken away.
- In Station II notice the young boy following in contemporary clothing (jeans).
- In Station IV Mother Mary and Mary Magdalene are pressing in trying to get close to Jesus.

	<i>IV</i> Jesus meets His Mother Mary	<i>III</i> Jesus falls the first time	<i>II</i> Jesus is given His cross	<i>I</i> Jesus is condemned to death
Scripture Reference	Not explicit in Gospels but referenced in Luke 2:35-36	Not explicit in Gospels but referenced in Isaiah 53:4-7	John 19:13-17	Matthew 27:15-26 Mark 15:1-15 Luke 23:18-25
Reflection Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have I had to watch a child suffer? • How can I support my family members who are suffering? • Can I ask Mary to console and assist me on this journey? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where have I fallen short or sinned? • Can I accept my weaknesses and allow Jesus to help? • Have I seen others fall and judged or criticized them instead of helping them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What crosses am I carrying this Lent? • How can I accept my crosses so I’m more like Jesus? • How can I lighten the load of others carrying crosses this Lent? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I condemning anyone? • What more can one give than their life? • How can I better understand Jesus’ endless love for me? • How can I love others like that?



IT BEHOVES US TO GLORY IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN WHOM IS OUR SALVATION LIFE AND RESURRECTION

WE ADORE THEE O CHRIST AND WE BLESS THEE BECAUSE BY THY SWEET CROSS THOU HAST REDEEMED THE WORLD

© I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS © THE HORROR OF DEATH FELL UPON ME § BEHOLD I COME TO DO THY WILL © BUT HE DELIVERED JESUS UP TO THEIR WILL

WALKING THE WAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—SECOND PANEL

Stations of the Cross Series—Walking the Way

During Lent we will 'Walk the Way' through the Stations, taking one panel at a time, showing the unique features of the mural. For each Station we will reference the Scriptural origin and provide reflection questions for you to use during your prayer time at home or while attending the Stations of the Cross here as a community.

Stations of the Cross Mural at St. B's—Second Panel (Stations V through VII)

The Stations mural runs from right to left, begins on the north wall closest to the altar, and goes counter-clockwise around the church. Distinct features of Father de Wit's mural and this second panel include:

- The entire mural emphasizes three types of humanity—the hypocritical type represented by the Pharisees, the ignorant ones who know not what they do, and the truly devout with silver halos.
- Vibrant colors and flowing cloth as seen on the Pharisees in their robes of green, gold, and purple
- Watch the centurion throughout, with his blue helmet, sword, and red robe, as he goes through a conversion of faith—In Station VI his head is downcast and in Station VII he is looking away.
- In Station V Simon of Cyrene and others are in contemporary clothing (jeans, shorts, and hat).
- In Station VII we began to see the women who Jesus consoles in Station VIII.

	VII Jesus falls a second time	VI Veronica wipes the face of Jesus	V Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross
Scripture Reference	Not explicit in Gospels but referenced in Psalm 38:6-22	From Catholic Sacred Tradition (comes from Christ; handed down through generations though not in the Bible)	Matthew 27:32 Mark 15:21 Luke 23:26
Reflection Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there something in my life now that I wish were different? Have I asked Jesus to lighten my load? • How can I walk with someone who has fallen? • Jesus' fall was not as significant as was that He got back up. How can I get back up and carry on? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When have I helped someone but received just as much in return? • Can I be more attentive to family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors who may be suffering? • What is some small way that I can help someone? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When has someone offered to help me carry my cross? • When have I chosen my own interests over that of another? • How can I extend kindness to another this Lent?



+ WHEREFORE
GOD ALSO
HATH EXALTED
HIM AND
HATH GIVEN
HIM A NAME
WHICH IS
ABOVE
EVERY NAME

CHRIST
HUMBLED
HIMSELF
AND BECAME
OBEDIENT FOR US
UNTO DEATH
EVEN
TO THE DEATH
OF THE CROSS

☩ HE HAS BEEN BRUISED FOR OUR SINS ☩ LORD DO NOT TURN THY FACE FROM ME ☩ IF ANYONE WILL COME AFTER ME LET HIM TAKE UP HIS CROSS

WALKING THE WAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—THIRD PANEL

Stations of the Cross Series—Walking the Way

During Lent we will 'Walk the Way' through the Stations, taking one panel at a time, showing the unique features of the mural. For each Station we will reference the Scriptural origin and provide reflection questions for you to use during your prayer time at home or while attending the Stations of the Cross here as a community.

Stations of the Cross Mural at St. B's—Third Panel (Stations VII through X)

The Stations mural runs from right to left, begins on the north wall closest to the altar, and goes counter-clockwise around the church. Distinct features of Father de Wit's mural and this third panel include:

- The entire mural emphasizes three types of humanity—the hypocritical type represented by the Pharisees, the ignorant ones who know not what they do, and the truly devout with silver halos.
- Vibrant colors and flowing cloth as seen on the Pharisees in their robes of green, gold, and purple
- Watch the centurion throughout, with his blue helmet and red robe, as he goes through a conversion of faith—In Station IX he continues to look away but in Station X he is sounding the trumpet.
- In Station IX we see Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini (contemporary leaders at the time) as soldiers.
- In Station X we see a contemporary version of the soldiers casting lots for Jesus' clothes by rolling dice and we begin to see Mother Mary and John the beloved disciple who will be with Him in the fourth panel.

	<i>X</i> Jesus is stripped of His garments	<i>IX</i> Jesus falls a third time	<i>VIII</i> Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem
Scripture Reference	Matthew 27:28-30 Mark 15:24 Luke 23:34 John 19:23-24	Not explicit in Gospels but referenced in Psalm 37: 23-24 or Hebrews 4:15-16	Luke 23:27-31
Reflection Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have I, or has someone I love, been stripped of health, wealth, family, dignity, or home? • Is there any pain that I've ever felt that Jesus hasn't experienced Himself? • Have I ever stripped the good name of another through gossip or prejudice? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I know that no sin of mine is greater than Jesus' love for me? • When I'm unable to pick myself up, am I willing to trust in Jesus rather than worry? • Today, how can I walk with someone who has fallen? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is someone that I know that needs comfort? • How can I see my own sins instead of pitying or seeing the faults of others? • Even if I'm tired this week, how can I be present to someone in need?



THUS DO YOU
CONSIDER
YOURSELVES
ALSO AS
DEAD TO SIN
BUT
ALIVE
TO GOD IN
CHRIST JESUS

IF WE HAVE
DIED
WITH CHRIST
WE BELIEVE
THAT
WE SHALL
ALSO LIVE
TOGETHER
WITH CHRIST

⊗ THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONGST THEM ⊗ HE HAS BORNE OUR SINS AND SUFFERED FOR US ⊗ WEEP NOT FOR ME BUT WEEP FOR YOURSELVES

WALKING THE WAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—FOURTH PANEL

Stations of the Cross Series—Walking the Way

During Lent we will 'Walk the Way' through the Stations, taking one panel at a time, showing the unique features of the mural. For each Station we will reference the Scriptural origin and provide reflection questions for you to use during your prayer time at home or while attending the Stations of the Cross here as a community.

Stations of the Cross Mural at St. B's—Fourth Panel (Stations XI through XIV)

The Stations mural runs from right to left, begins on the north wall closest to the altar, and goes counter-clockwise around the church. Distinct features of Father de Wit's mural and this fourth panel include:

- The entire mural emphasizes three types of humanity—the hypocritical type represented by the Pharisees, the ignorant ones who know not what they do, and the truly devout with silver halos.
- Vibrant colors and flowing cloth as seen on the Pharisees in their robes of green, gold, and purple
- Watch the centurion throughout, with his blue helmet, sword, and red robe, as he goes through a conversion of faith—In Station XII he is down on his knees paying homage to Jesus.
- In Station XII notice the serpent and forbidden fruit at Jesus' feet signifying the Garden of Eden where sin came into the world and now Jesus, through His death and Resurrection will conquer sin.
- In Station XII-XIV Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, John the beloved disciple, and Joseph of Arimathea are with Jesus.

	<i>XIV</i> Jesus is buried (laid in the tomb)	<i>XIII</i> Jesus is taken down from the cross	<i>XII</i> Jesus dies on the cross	<i>XI</i> Jesus is crucified (nailed to the cross)
Scripture Reference	Matthew 27:59-61 Mark 15:46-47 Luke 23:54-55 John 19:41-42	Matthew 27:57-58 Mark 15:42-45 Luke 23:50-53 John 19:38-40	Matthew 27:50 Mark 15:33-34 Luke 23:44-46 John 19:28-37	Matthew 27:35 Mark 15:24-25 Luke 23:33-43 John 19:23
Reflection Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy along with feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick/imprisoned, and clothing the naked—what act of mercy can I do for another? • What is one way I can live in the light of Easter vs. the darkness of Good Friday? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I ask Jesus to help me accept friends who go away, children leaving home, or loved ones dying? • Have I failed to place my trust in Jesus, remaining in fear? • Is Jesus asking me to help move myself or someone else from grief to hope? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus, am I willing to accept the time and kind of death you have in store for me? • What is one way I can die to myself so that Jesus can live through me? • Can I try and understand the meaning of the cross in the hope of the Resurrection? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I try and imagine what crucifixion was like for Jesus—Our Lord and Savior? • How can I accept Jesus' dying because of love of me and give that love to others? • Which cross of mine can I lay at the foot of Jesus' cross and ask for acceptance?

