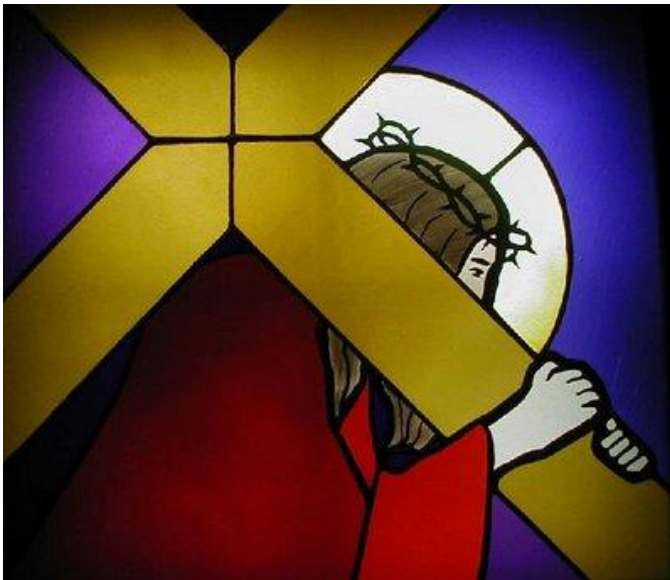


## Stations of The Cross

In early Christian times, people started visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (*the church that was built around the cave-tomb where Jesus was buried*) as an act of piety (great religious devotion).

The trips to the Middle East were very dangerous and very expensive, and many times the trips would last as long as two years! So the Christians decided that this was not very feasible, so various church organizations decided to build copies (*not exact replicas, each built according to its culture's style*) so that it would be easier for people to get the 'spiritual benefit' of the trip to the Holy Land." About the Fourteenth Century, the Franciscans started the practice of placing wooden crosses in the parish churches everywhere. Usually there were **fourteen, each representing a "station" or important moment in the Passion.** The idea, then as now, was that you could simply go to your parish church and meditate on each of the stations, so you didn't have to go all the way to Jerusalem. In 1731 Pope Clement XII Corsini fixed the number of stations at 14.

**The Stations of the Cross is not a Mass. It is a guided devotional gathering where we focus on the Passion of Christ (*what Jesus went through from the time He went to Mount Gethsemane to His burial in the tomb*).** In doing this we remind ourselves of the struggle, torture, humiliation, and great sacrifice Jesus went through and that **"His sacrifice was an act of atonement --- making us one again with God by the power of divine mercy extending to us the Father's forgiveness of our sins."** Jesus, Son of God, was sent by the Father to restore the harmony between Himself and humanity that had been disrupted by sin.



*Announced before each of the  
14 Stations of the Cross*

**Leader:** *We adore you O Christ and we  
bless you.*

**Group:** *Because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.*

**1st Station:** Jesus is Condemned to Death

**2nd Station:** Jesus Accepts the Cross

**3rd Station:** Jesus Falls the First Time

**4th Station:** Jesus Meets His Mother

**5th Station:** Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus

**6th Station:** Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

**7th Station:** Jesus Falls a Second Time

**8th Station:** Jesus Speaks to the Women

**9th Station:** Jesus Falls a Third Time

**10th Station:** Jesus is Stripped of His  
Garments

**11th Station:** Jesus is Nailed to His Cross

**12th Station:** Jesus Christ Dies on the Cross

**13th Station:** Jesus is Taken down for the  
Cross

**14th Station:** Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

**Jesus is Risen** – Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

<http://www.ourcatholicfaith.org/stations/history.html>

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