



Stations of the Cross in JERUSALEM

The meaning of the Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross is not a work of knowledge. It is essentially a devotional exercise, a means which WE can use to make contact with God, to adore Him, to thank Him, to increase our love for Him. Devotion to the sufferings of Christ, is particularly recommended for all who wish to live *“upon the model of that charity which Christ showed to us when he gave himself up on our behalf.”* (Eph 6,2)

The Passion took place in a specific spot. It is obviously important to know its geographical and physical layout. This includes changes the Holy Land has undergone since Gospel times - buildings and churches that have risen over the actual spots, which could add to the confusion experienced by pilgrims.

The road followed by Jesus to his death has not escaped the changes of history; so we will not yield to the temptation of making stones the supreme arbiter in this matter. After all, it is by following the Way of the Cross that pilgrims have understood what the carrying of the cross was really like, through streets where crowds of people, often impassible, sometimes curious, still gather in front of the shops. The closing of the Moslem shops – every Friday for their holy day – may be a help to piety, has taken from the Friday procession the teeming crowds that were customary before 1967.

What really matters is to follow Christ on the Way of the Cross of his Passion, as humble companions.

The Fourteen Stations

“Via Dolorosa” or *“Via Crucis”* designates a stretch of road between Fortress Antonia and Golgotha, along which Jesus walked bowed under the weight of the Cross. The name dates from the 16th century, but the custom of retracing Jesus’ steps to Golgotha began in the early centuries of Christianity. According to tradition Fortress Antonia and the Praetorium nearby were sites where Jesus was brought before Pilate. The fortress, stood near the north-west corner of the Jewish Temple, was the starting point for Jesus’ walk toward Calvary, which at that time was outside the city walls.

The Stations 10 to 14 are located inside the Holy Sepulchre Basilica. Every Friday afternoon, the Franciscans, who have been the Custodians of the Holy Places since the 13th century, lead a pious procession winding through the streets of Old City of Jerusalem following in the footsteps of the suffering Christ.

From Fr. Raymond’s Desk

I am glad to tell you all that our Pastor, Father Michael, dropped in this past Friday afternoon to drop off and pick up some items that he might need during his time of recuperating at St. Alfred Rectory in St. Catharines. I was glad that I had the opportunity to spend some time together. He is looking better but still very tired and weak.

Friday evening, in the Diocesan weekly update to all the parishes and clergy, our Bishop Gerard Bergie shared some news as well:

“I am pleased to inform you that Father Michael Basque has been discharged from the Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital. He is now residing at St. Alfred rectory where he will continue to recover over the next few months. I am grateful to Monsignor Hugh Gibson for his generosity in welcoming Father Michael and for providing him with a fraternal environment where he will continue his healing.”

Let us make sure that we keep Fr. Michael in our prayers.

From around the Diocese

► **Diocesan Respect for Life Mass** – The *Respect Life Committee* invites everyone to join Bishop G. Bergie at the celebration to be held at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria in St. Catharines on Wednesday **25th March** at 7:00 pm - the Feast of the Annunciation. Reception to follow.

► **LENTEN VINEYARD** - Here is the link to the issue of the Vineyard for Lenten: <https://www.saintcd.com/diocesan-directory/the-vineyard>

Parish Income Tax Receipts

The Tax receipts for 2025 are available at the main entrance of the church after all Masses. They are in alphabetical order for your convenience – all you need to remember is **YOUR NAME!!!** Thank you.

Development and Peace

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and sharing. For Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, it is an opportunity to call on your generosity in solidarity with our sister and brothers in the Global South. This Lent, join us On Track for Justice, walking hand in hand with communities in the Global South that are mobilizing so that their rights and the environment may be respected. This collection will take place March 21/22. Please be generous.

Station of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening during Lent starting at **6:00 PM** followed with Mass at **6:30 PM**.

Catholic Women’s League News

► **CWL FUNDRAISER** - The Parish CWL still has Tomato Sauce for sale. Please contact Mary at 905-834-9520 or Alba at 905-835-5337. Cost is \$9:00.

► **APPLE PIE SALE** - Parish C.W.L. is having an Apple Pie Sale. Cost is \$ 13.00 each or 2 for \$25.00. Orders for pies can be called in anytime. Pick up is scheduled for the weekend of 28-29 March after the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass and the Sunday 9:00 am Mass. To order a pie call Mary at 905-834-9520 or Alba at 905-835-5337.

Please order early so you won’t be disappointed.

► **CWL 68th Annual Members Convention** - The Annual Meeting of Members of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada will be held at the St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church, 91 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines on **Tuesday, 21st April 2026**. What a delight it will be to gather once again in faith and fellowship to participate in the Mass, conduct CWL business, and listen the to guest speakers: in the morning - Joanne Heritz, PhD., and in the afternoon, His Excellency, Bishop Gerard Bergie.

Kindly note that the Registration deadline will be Wednesday, 1st April 2026. Please contact Mary at 905-834-9520 to register. We look forward to seeing members from each of the Councils at the Convention.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us.

► **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY** - The Diocesan CWL will be a hosting a Leadership Development Day on Saturday, 28 March, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at St. Alexander Parish hall in Fonthill. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with Sisters in the League from across the Diocese. You will gain insight on potential leadership roles and how they function. Your attendance does not mean that you wish to take on a role in the near future but you may be inspired to consider one when the time is right for you.

Weekly Collection

Feb 28/Mar 1	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,125.00
	Repairs	\$ 525.00
March 7/8	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,275.00



Saturday, 14 March **4:00 PM**
† Francesco Spada *by the Spada family*

Sunday, 15 March **9:00 AM**
For the Needs of all Parishioners

Monday, 16 March **No Mass**

Tuesday, 17 March **6:30 PM**
† Tonelli family *by Joe*

Wednesday, 18 March **8:00 AM**
† Larry Bodis *by Josephine Trasatti*

Thursday, 19 March **8:00 AM**
† Piersante Barbarossa *by Anna Maria Rossi*

Friday, 20 March
Stations of the Cross **6:00 PM**

† Fernanda DiNobile *by Paula Nigro* **6:30 PM**

Saturday, 21 March **4:00 PM**
† Rose Mallia *by Gordon & Carmen Burrison*

Sunday, 22 March **9:00 AM**
For the Needs of all Parishioners

Monday, 23 March **No Mass**

Tuesday, 24 March **6:30 PM**
† Ugo D’Onofrio *by Nunziatina D’Onofrio & family*

Wednesday, 25 March **8:00 AM**
† Ivo Cairo *by Alba Farkas*

Thursday, 26 March **8:00 AM**
† Henry Nan *by Mary Nan*

Friday, 27 March
Stations of the Cross **6:00 PM**
† Patrizio Mattiazzo *by Mary Dancy* **6:30 PM**

Saturday, 28 March **4:00 PM**
† Marino, Palmino & Yvette Polverari *by Joe*

Sunday, 29 March **9:00 AM**
For the needs of all Parishioners

Good Friday Collection for Holy Land

The Good Friday Collection helps to maintain the Church of the Holy Land by providing educational, pastoral and social support. At the request of the Holy See, this Pontifical Collection will take place during the Good Friday celebration on 3rd pril 2026.