

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Rev'd Wesley Owens, Charles Simeon Institute Curate

“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” This piercing question comes as the first line in a classic African-American spiritual, which is commonly sung on Good Friday. “Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?... Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?” In each verse, the speaker addresses us with new queries as though we were eyewitnesses of our Lord’s death. A voice of lamentation rises in response: “Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble...” The lyrics are short and simple, but each word carries a sense of gravitas. There is something about this beautiful hymn that moves beyond passive reflection to active participation. We feel as though we are fellow mourners with the disciples, standing side by side as we look with bitter sadness upon the wounded body of our loving Savior hanging from his cross.

For many of us, when the cross is stripped from its Biblical context, it becomes a homely, mundane object—a sort of ‘decoration’ that blends into the background of our lives. It appears as a pendant around our necks, as an emblem on the covers of our prayerbooks, and as an accessory upon the walls of our homes. But, the cross is no mere decoration. It is an instrument of Roman execution—a sinister mechanism of death, much like a guillotine or an electric chair. If we’re not careful, we can develop a blasé attitude toward the cross, taking our Lord’s sacrificial death for granted and finding ourselves disconnected from the emotional weight of Christ’s suffering on our behalf. Much like a moving song, our method of prayer can be a remedy for this kind of indifference.

From the earliest days of Christianity, disciples of Jesus have ventured to Jerusalem to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. As a focus for prayer, it was common for pilgrims in past centuries to follow the Via Dolorosa or Way of Sorrows, a processional route that traditionally marks Christ’s path to Golgotha as he carried his cross. But, not everyone had the physical means to travel. The Stations of the Cross originated in the Middle Ages as a way for Christian believers, who could not travel to Jerusalem itself, to share in this act of pilgrimage. Popularized by the Franciscans, it spread throughout Europe over the centuries, becoming an integral practice in Western Christian piety, especially during the penitential season of Lent.

The devotion is a form of meditation. It is deeply affective in character—engaging our emotions in the narrative of Christ’s passion. Using our imaginations, we place ourselves in the shoes of our Lord’s disciples and the other onlookers, meditating on Christ’s sufferings as a way of reckoning with our sinfulness, deepening our appreciation for his loving sacrifice, and understanding the costliness of our salvation. Jesus said: “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” In dying, Jesus poured out his life as an offering to the Father. He took the penalty of our sin upon himself so that we might be reconciled to God through him. As we follow the cross in procession and pause at each station, our meditation is guided by excerpts from Scripture as well as a series of prayers that help us direct our attention to Christ in thanksgiving and worship, perhaps most notably the iconic prayer that introduces each station: “We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

This season of Lent, one of our men’s groups, *Brothers in Faith*, has been leading Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6pm in the Cathedral Nave. Please consider joining us on April 8 for our last session before Holy Week, and invite the Lord to deepen your appreciation for his sacrificial love.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

CHARLES SIMEON INSTITUTE | LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY EASTERTIDE SESSION

Wednesdays, 27 April–18 May | 6:15pm–8pm

The Lay School of Theology will offer "*The Faith of the New Testament: God, Gospel, Mission*" during the Easter Season. This four-session class will explore the teaching of Jesus, the letters of Paul, and the distinctive emphases of the four Gospels. This is an ideal introduction to the New Testament for all those who wish to better understand it. The class will be led by Fr. Michael Petty and is part of the LSOT core curriculum. To register, visit StPetersFL.com/register.

NEW WINESKINS CONFERENCE | STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

Join Anglicans from all around the world for this triennial conference next September! St. Peter's has reserved several rooms at Ridgecrest Conference Center to ensure anyone who wants to participate is able to, but space is limited so register for the conference now! To reserve one of the St. Peter's rooms, please contact Kimberly Calhoun via email at myjesus316@hotmail.com

UNDER-RESOURCED: AVODAH DAY IS BACK!

Saturday, 30 April | Please join us for Avodah Day with two locations to choose from this year: Maryland Oaks Crossing (through Good News Outreach) from *11am–2pm* or Ability 1st, beginning at *9am*. We will be spending time with residents at Maryland Oaks Crossing in light landscape and construction projects, a bbq cook-out, games, arts & crafts, and a time of prayer. Through Ability 1st we will be participating in a ramp building project for a local deserving family. We need lots of volunteers, so please register at StPetersFL.com/AvodahDay Contact Missions & Evangelism Under-Resourced Core Captain, Freddy Branham at FBrancham@echotlh.org for more information. Get ready to live out a life of faith simultaneously through work, worship, and service!

LIFE: 40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. The 40 Days for Life 2022 Spring Campaign in Tallahassee began on *Ash Wednesday, 2 March* and continues through *Palm Sunday, 10 April*. The public prayer vigil is held in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility 12 hours each day from 7am to 7pm, during the 40-day campaign.

On *Thursday evening, 7 April*, Fr. Bill Krizner will lead the vigil. Please plan to join us that evening in the parking lot of St. Peter's at *5:15pm* and we can then caravan to the site together. Please visit the 40 Days website, 40daysforlife.com, where you can learn more about the campaign and schedule yourself for times to pray at the vigil site. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Parlato, carolynparlato@yahoo.com.

AVODAH

[A - VA - DAH] *verb*

to live out a life of faith simultaneously through work, worship, and service



DISCIPLESHIP

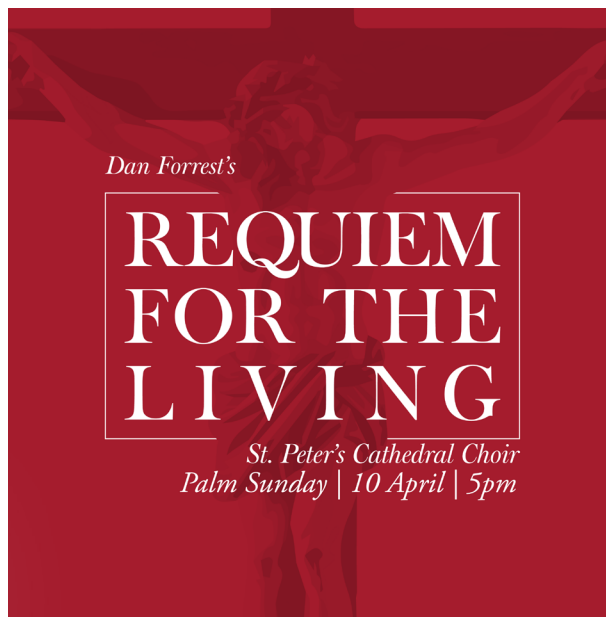
YOUTH PARTY NEXT SUNDAY AFTER THE CATHEDRAL CONCERT | Join us for the next youth party! Come by after the 5pm *Requiem for the Living* concert or at 6:30pm!

SPRING MEN'S COOKOUT

Sunday, 24 April, 5pm | \$10 Suggested Donation
Men, join us for our Spring Cookout on Sunday, April 24th! We'll be here on the Cathedral grounds, over by the Youth House. Register at StPetersFL.com/cookout

HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL | Come, watch and pray with Christ for an hour or more at the Cathedral, which will be open throughout the night beginning after the Maundy Thursday Liturgy (7pm) and ending at the Morning Prayer Liturgy on Good Friday (9am). While sign-up is not required, please consider committing to an hour block, on the roster in the Narthex, to ensure coverage throughout the night. If sign-up for an hour is full, you are still welcome to come at that time.

YOUTH | CAMP ARAMINTA REGISTRATION IS OPEN! | 18-23 July | Rising 4th-12th grade students. Learn more and register at StPetersFL.com/Araminta



LITURGY 101

Wednesday, 6 April, 6:30pm | Liturgy 101 provides the opportunity for the clergy of St. Peter's to explain all the particulars of a typical Sunday worship service in detail. For example, what are people doing before the Gospel reading on their forehead, lips, and heart? Why do the altar coverings change at different times of the year? Plan to attend to find out the answers to these questions, as well as much, much more!
No need to register for Liturgy 101 and childcare is available upon request. Feel free to contact Katie Munroe at Katie@StPetersFL.com with any questions.

CATHEDRAL TOUR

Saturday, 12 March, 10am-11am | From stone to spire, arch to altar, the traditional Gothic architecture of St. Peter's reflects the orthodox truth of Holy Scripture. Take a tour and be inspired!

CARE MINISTRIES: PARISH VISITORS GUILD OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Parish Visitors Guild is a group of parish members who are passionate about reaching out to our members in a variety of ways: encouraging notes; personal visits and phone calls, especially to those in assisted living centers; and even delivering altar flowers to folks at home. This is a great opportunity to offer encouragement to those who truly need it. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Care Ministries Coordinator, Alice Sanderson via email at Alice@StPetersFL.com

MARY & MARTHA GUILD

Monday, 11 April | 9:45am | The Mary Martha Guild will meet at the home of Betsy Champion, 1504 Hickory Avenue. The program will be: 'Words From Parish Ministries: What We Do.' All women are invited to attend.

PARISH LIFE: PHOTO BOOK

We are planning to create a photo book (think yearbook) of Cathedral members to have available sometime this summer. The first step is for all members to make sure you have a photo in DiscipleLife and/or have updated your photo. Go to StPetersFL.com/disciplelife for an instructional video on how to do this yourself!

WORSHIP

VISITING THE CATHEDRAL?

Welcome—we're so glad you're worshipping with us today! Our nursery is available during Sunday morning services for children newborn through Kindergarten. We hope you'll join us on the lawn for coffee & other refreshments between morning services!

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST & CARE MINISTRIES



If you have any pastoral needs or know of someone who needs pastoral care and prayer, please contact Care Ministries Coordinator, Alice Sanderson at Alice@StPetersFL.com

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | *Fridays in Lent, 6pm–6:30pm*

Join us for Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral Nave each Friday in Lent from 6:00pm–6:30pm. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS | *Good Friday | 15 April | 10am*

Join us for a prayer journey for Children on Good Friday. We will walk through the 12 Stations of the Cross around the nave to learn what happened to Jesus when he died, and see how much he loved us. Can't come at 10am? The Stations of the Cross for Children book will be left in the Narthex to use on your own throughout the day on Good Friday.

LAST CALL FOR EASTER LILY AND INSTRUMENTALIST DEDICATIONS

Please consider giving a dedication “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” a loved one or event. Donations can be completed online at StPetersFL.com/Give or through the marked envelopes found in the pews.

ALL DEDICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5PM, FRIDAY, 8 APRIL.

BAPTISM AT THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

The next Baptism is during the Easter Vigil Service, *16 April, at 8:30pm*. Please contact Ellen Culpepper for an application or more information at Ellen@StPetersFL.com.



FINANCIAL MINUTE

Total Operating Budget: \$2,896,155.24 | % Collected YTD: 56.31% | Debt Retired in April: \$11,716.82

For more information about making a pledge, visit StPetersFL.com/Give