

GOOD FRIDAY
LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS
April 18, 2025
11:00 AM

One of the most popular traditions among Hispanic Catholics in the United States is the “Via Crucis Viviente,” or the living Stations of the Cross, celebrated on Good Friday.

It is a reenactment of Jesus’ final hours and his journey to Calvary, as described in the prayers and reflections of the Stations of the Cross. This tradition emphasizes the suffering of Christ and offers an opportunity to bring our own sufferings to the foot of the cross, allowing us to reap spiritual rewards as we celebrate his resurrection on Easter.

The living Stations of the Cross are celebrated in Latin America and other countries, such as Spain, Italy, and the Philippines. Since 2016, we have kept this tradition alive here at Saint Thomas the Apostle.

Our parish welcomes all parishioners to participate in this tradition, celebrating the universality of the Catholic faith. The prayers and reflections for the reenactment of the Stations are conducted in Spanish, but a handout is available in English for those who wish to follow along.

What makes our living Stations of the Cross a profoundly moving experience is witnessing the re-creation of Jesus’

last moments unfold before us, serving as a reminder of the suffering and pain he endured on his way to the cross for our salvation.

They will visualize the bloody sweat on Jesus' tunic, the crown of thorns on his forehead, they will see him fall three times while Roman soldiers' scourge and mock him on the way to his crucifixion.

As the scenes unfold and the procession follows, a prayer leader will recite in Spanish the prayers corresponding to each of the 14 stations. The somber and reverent atmosphere invites silent self-reflection.

As they share in the suffering of Christ, they will also bring to the cross their own sufferings, whether it is an illness, loneliness, family separations, an uncertain immigrant situation or family troubles. On that day, none of their crosses seem as heavy as the one Jesus carried to Calvary.

As we continue the celebration of the Paschal triduum on Good Friday, we unite ourselves to Jesus and accompany him on the way to Calvary, looking forward to celebrating once again with a deeper joy and renewed hope and faith his rising on Easter Sunday.