



March 4, 2025

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the season of Lent nears, I would like to ask for your help to prepare a special prayer that will be lifted up across our Archdiocese. During Lent, the Spirit leads us on a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday. Our tradition gives us many resources for this journey, especially the beautiful gift of the Stations of the Cross.

On Friday, March 14th, I am asking every parish in the Archdiocese to pray the Stations of the Cross on behalf of victims of domestic violence, suicide, and gun violence in our community.

In this packet, you will find a suggested prayer guide, but I trust you will find an approach to this prayer service that is suitable for your parish.

Lent is a time to break the chains of destruction that bind us as individuals and as a community. It is a time to pray, give alms, and fast, not just for ourselves, but for the sake of the healing and redemption of all of our brothers and sisters.

As we experience our own weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those in our own community who suffer. By journeying together on the Way of the Cross, we grow in our union with Christ, and in our sensitivity to His presence in all victims of violence.

Come Holy Spirit, lead us into this Lenten desert where we would not dare go alone. Prepare us to receive and proclaim the healing joy of Christ that too often feels beyond our greatest Hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis