

6th Station Church
Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Join us on a mental pilgrimage to Jerusalem to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, our 6th and final station church. Early Christians venerated the holy sites where Jesus suffered His Passion until Emperor Hadrian covered the sites with dirt and pagan temples. Approximately 324 AD, Constantine, Emperor of the Roman Empire sent his mother, Helena, to Jerusalem to find the Holy Sepulchre and the True Cross. When found Constantine had the pagan temples torn down and in 326 AD began building the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Through the centuries the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was burned down by Persians (614 AD), restored, destroyed by Muslims (1009), partially rebuilt. The Crusaders completed reconstruction in 1149 AD.¹

¹[Church of the Holy Sepulchre « See The Holy Land](#)

Entering the Holy Sepulchre turn right and climb the stairway which ascends up the hill to Calvary (Latin)/ Golgotha (Aramaic). The floor levels off at the top, there are several areas which mark four Stations of the Cross: **10th**- Jesus is stripped of His garments; **11th**- Jesus is nailed to the Cross; **12th**- Chapel of the Crucifixion where Jesus died (there is a silver disk under the altar marking where the Cross stood; one can put their hand through the round circle and touch the fractured rock believed to have been caused by an earthquake.) [*Now the centurion and they that were with him watching Jesus, having seen the earthquake, and the things that were done, were sore afraid, saying: Indeed this was the Son of God. Matthew 27:54*]. **13th** - Jesus is taken down from the Cross.



Descending the hill from a different stairway, to the left is the Stone of Anointing where Christ's body was hastily prepared for burial before being carried to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. The Holy Sepulchre is located inside a special structure located under a dome in the middle of the church. [*And Joseph buying fine linen, and taking him down, wrapped him up in the fine linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock. And he rolled a stone to the door of the sepulchre.*



Mark: 15:46] **14th**- Station

Only a few people at a time are allowed into the empty tomb. There are two very small chambers inside. Inside the first chamber is a stone pedestal, believed to be a part of the stone rolled across the opening to close the Sepulchre. The second chamber contains a marble slab upon which the Body of the Savior was laid. [*And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed with a white robe: and they were astonished. Who saith to them: Be not affrighted; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he is risen, he is not here, behold the place where they laid him. Mark 16:5-6]*



Prayer Before A Crucifix

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus, while before Thy face I humbly kneel, and with burning soul pray and beseech Thee to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity, true contrition for my sins and a firm purpose of amendment while I contemplate with great love and tender pity Thy five wounds, pondering over them within me, having in mind the words which David Thy Prophet said of Thee my Jesus: "They **have** pierced my hands and my feet; **I** can count **numbered** all my bones." (Psalm 22:17-18)

Say one Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be for the Catholic Church and the intentions of the Holy Father.

O Lord, by Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.

May the spirit of the holy pilgrims inspire your prayers and reflections. Peace be with you!