

## The Crucifixion Scene

The Chapel's centerpiece recalls the words of Isaiah 53:4-5, "It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured . . . by his stripes we were healed."

Christ our Savior took all things on himself so that the entire human experience would be redeemed.

Mary, Health of the Sick, as she is sometimes venerated, experienced personally that perfect healing is not always possible in this world. Still, as Mother of Our Lord and as Mother of all the Faithful, the sick flock to her seeking her motherly love and intercession.

St. John the Apostle received on Calvary the charge of caring for Jesus' mother as she entered old age. For this reason, St. John is seen as the patron of caregivers.

St. Mary Magdalene, devoted friend of the Lord even unto death, can be seen as a symbol of constancy, and constancy in friendship can be very important to those suffering from sickness or pain.

## Stained Glass Windows

*On the left* is the bronze snake that Moses mounted on a wooden pole per God's instruction. When the Israelites were beset by snakes in the desert, their bite wounds were healed by looking at it (Num 21:4-9). In a conversation with Nicodemus (Jn 3:14-16), Jesus refers to the image of Moses' snake on a pole when describing the healing that would result from his impending crucifixion. The snake on a pole now serves as part of the logo of modern emergency medical services.

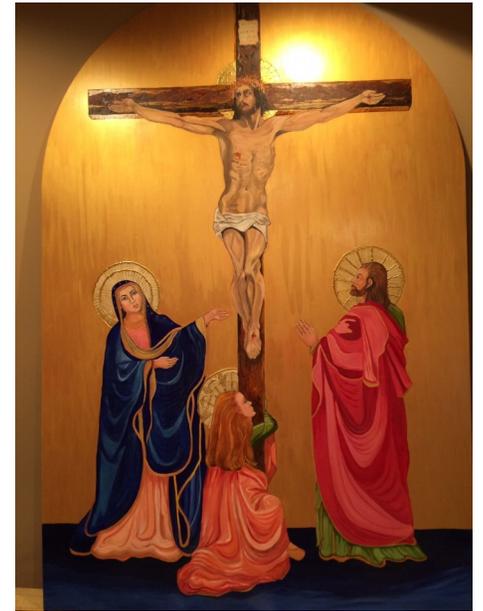
*On the right* is a stethoscope with a heart rhythm in the background, symbols not from the Bible but from modern medicine. God's gift of modern medicine, while almost seemingly commonplace, testifies to the enduring nature of God's healing will and to the capacity of humankind to work with that divine grace.

## HOLY SPIRIT HEALING CHAPEL

Open: 7:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m.

Located at the end of the Colonnade  
just outside the Church.

The Church of the Holy Spirit  
3345 Lexington Road Louisville, KY 40206



## Holy Spirit Healing Chapel

Holy Spirit Church has set aside this intimate space for prayer in time of illness. Those who are sick and those who care for them should be the subject of the prayer offered here. Whether you yourself are ill, you are a caregiver, or you love someone in these situations, please feel welcome in this space. May your mediation here and the holy images surrounding you provide assurance of the many ways God reaches out to those in need.

## *Images within the healing Chapel*

### St. Agatha of Sicily (Breast Cancer & Rape Victims)

Born in Palermo, St. Agatha was martyred in AD 251 during the persecution of Decius. A high-ranking Roman official demanded that St. Agatha marry him. The brave fifteen-year-old refused to abandon her faith and her vow of virginity. He ordered her to be thrown into a brothel where she was brutally tortured and repeatedly raped. Among the tortures she endured was the removal of her breasts with pincers. St. Agatha eventually died due to the cruel attacks inflicted on her.

### St. Catherine of Siena (Miscarriages)

During an outbreak of the plague, St. Catherine was born in Siena, Italy, on March 25, 1347. She was the twenty-fifth child born to her mother. Half of her siblings did not survive childhood, including her twin who died in infancy. St. Catherine was extremely devoted to her family and refused to marry. Although she preferred a quiet, secluded life in her family home, St. Catherine experienced a mystical vision at age 21. In that vision, Christ directed her to go out into the world and care for the poor and sick. She cared for both the physically and spiritually afflicted, and she called all Christians, especially the Church hierarchy, to repent of their sins and dedicate their lives to God. In addition to her acts of charity, St. Catherine was instrumental in restoring the papacy to Rome from Avignon.

### St. Damien of Molokai (Leprosy & Skin Diseases)

St. Damien was a 19<sup>th</sup> century Belgian religious who was ordered to Hawaii by his superior. He arrived in Hawaii in 1864. Two years later, Hawaii established a leper colony. At that time, those with leprosy were considered highly contagious and were left to fend for themselves in the lawless colony. St. Damien began to serve the colony in 1873, living among the lepers and providing medical and spiritual care. His was supposed to be a temporary assignment, but St. Damien became so attached to the people and his work that he requested to stay. Although leprosy is not highly contagious, some people are susceptible to it. In 1885, St. Damien himself was diagnosed with the disease, but he continued his work at the colony, deriving his strength from devotion to the Rosary and the Eucharist. St. Damien succumbed to the disease in April 1889.

### St. Dymphna (Mental Illness, Neurological Disorders & Incest)

St. Dymphna was a 7<sup>th</sup> century Irish princess. After the death of her mother, Dymphna's father suffered severe mental illness. Dymphna had to flee to Belgium in order to avoid her father's inappropriate intentions. However, due to her charitable works in Belgium, her father discovered her hiding place and demanded she return to Ireland. When she refused, he himself beheaded her. Dymphna is said to have been only fifteen when she died.

### St. James the Greater, Apostle (Arthritis & Joint Diseases)

St. James the Greater was one of the first disciples and the brother of St. John. Along with his brother and Peter, James witnessed the Transfiguration. After the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, James spread the Gospel across the Roman Empire, especially in Spain. Eventually returning to Jerusalem, he suffered decapitation and thus became the first apostle to suffer martyrdom. It is said that on the way to his execution, James came upon man crippled by arthritis. In compassion, the apostle cured the man even as he made the journey to his own death.

### St. Lucy of Syracuse (Eye Diseases & Vision Loss)

St. Lucy was martyred during the Diocletian persecutions of the 4th century. Accounts of her life say the young saint preferred devoting her life to Christ to marrying her suitor. Lucy even convinced her mother to donate her dowry money to the poor. In anger, the rejected suitor reported Lucy to the authorities for her Christian faith. Lucy then warned the suitor that he would be punished by God. This warning further inflamed the Roman authorities who ordered her guards to gouge out her eyes. Lucy endured this and other brutal tortures until she finally succumbed to death. When her friends were preparing her body for burial, they discovered her missing eyes had been restored.

### St. Maximilian Kolbe (Drug Addiction)

St. Maximilian Kolbe was a 20<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan friar from Poland who had a lifelong devotion to Mary. He founded near Warsaw a monastery that promoted

devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In February 1941, the Nazi Gestapo closed the monastery and arrested Kolbe with four others. Kolbe was confined to Auschwitz and frequently tortured. Upon hearing a young father cry out when he was chosen as one of ten to be executed, Kolbe volunteered to take the man's place in the group. After he survived two weeks without food or water, the guards ended Kolbe's life with a lethal injection of carbolic acid.

### St. Peregrine Laziosi (Cancer & AIDS)

St. Peregrine was a 13<sup>th</sup> century mendicant friar who founded a monastery of the Order of Servites in his native Forlì, Italy. At the age of sixty, he developed cancer in his leg. Doctors determined Peregrine's life could only be saved by amputating the leg. The night before the surgery, St. Peregrine spent time in prayer before a fresco of the crucifixion and resolved to put the matter totally into God's hands. That very night he received a vision of Jesus descending from the cross and touching his cancerous leg. The following morning doctors discovered that the leg had been miraculously healed.

### St. Raphael the Archangel (All Healing)

The archangel Raphael plays a central role in the Old Testament Book of Tobit. He serves as a guide for Tobias, the son of Tobit, and leads Tobias to meet Sarah, the woman who would become his wife. Before the wedding, Raphael, using the heart and liver of a fish, drives a demon from Sarah that would have doomed the union. Later, using a poultice made of fish gall, Raphael heals the eyes of Tobit from blinding cataracts. While not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, Raphael is often considered the unnamed angel of the Lord who, in some translations of John 5: 1-9, stirs the healing waters of the Pool of Bethesda. Because of these stories, Raphael is called on as patron of apothecaries, the blind, bodily ills, all healing, druggists, eye problems, mental illness, nurses, pharmacists, and physicians. The name "Raphael" means "health of God" in Hebrew.