



The Chapel of the Sorrowful Mother



Ascension
Via Christi



History of the chapel

The chapel was dedicated on Oct. 15, 1947, by The Most Rev. Mark Carroll, DD, Bishop of Wichita. After outgrowing two smaller chapels built in 1898 and 1909, the current chapel was commissioned. Its Romanesque architecture reflects the style common in Italy in the 10th to 12th centuries. It is said Saint Francis of Assisi himself would feel at home here.



Mother and Son

This Pietà-like sculpture, just inside the corridor leading to the chapel, captures Mary holding her Son for the last time.

The Chapel of the Sorrowful Mother is the physical and spiritual heart of Ascension Via Christi St. Francis. Built in the style of an 11th-century church, it stands in sharp contrast to the modern white walls that rise above it on every side. Patients and loved ones are welcome to come and pray for the sick, find solace from their troubles, and give thanks for recovery.



Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are the inspiration for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. This shrine, located near the entrance of the chapel, features pictorial representations of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, to whom the chapel is dedicated.

A chaplet dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary originated in the 13th century. For each of the Seven Sorrows, the Our Father is said once, and the Hail Mary is said seven times. At the end, say the Hail Mary three more times in honor of the Tears of Our Sorrowful Mother, followed by:

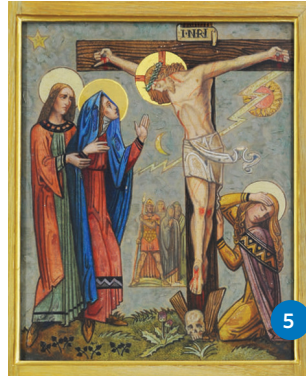
Verse: Pray for us, O most Sorrowful Virgin.

Response: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we now implore, both for the present and for the hour of our death, the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose holy soul was pierced at the time of Thy Passion by a sword of grief. Grant us this favor, O Savior of the world, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary



1 The Prophecy of Simeon
(Luke 2:34-35)

2 The Flight into Egypt
(Matthew 2:13)

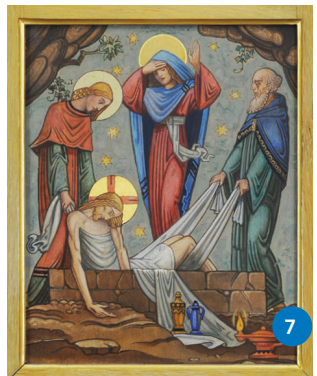
3 The loss of the child Jesus in the Temple
(Luke 2:43-47)

4 Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary

5 Jesus dies on the cross
(John 19:25-30)

6 Mary receives the body of Jesus in her arms
(Matthew 27:57-61)

7 The body of Jesus is placed in the tomb
(John 19:40-42)





Mass is celebrated in the Chapel of the Sorrowful Mother.



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Altar and sanctuary

1 The high altar is constructed of domestic and foreign marble, richly adorned with carved ornaments, mosaics and sculptures. The white Italian marble figures that rise above the altar depict the crucified Jesus, His mother, Mary, and John, the beloved disciple.

2 The mosaic mural known as the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" covers the sanctuary's domed ceiling. Made in Italy, this glass and marble mural was a gift of the hospital's medical staff in 1965.

3 4 On either side of the curving sanctuary wall are statues of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

5 6 On the outside edges of the front of the chapel are shrines of Mary, the virgin mother, and Saint Joseph, her spouse.





Stations of the Cross

Along each side wall of the chapel are the Stations of the Cross, depicting 14 scenes of Jesus' suffering from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion.



Organ

Located in the choir loft, the chapel's orchestral-style organ features 11 rows of pipes and was designed and built in 1948 by Wicks Organ Co. of Illinois. It was refurbished and had computerized features added in 1995.



Relics of the saints

Located by the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother are two bronze relic cases. These relics have been declared by the Catholic Church as sacred remains of 32 saints. Each relic has a signed and sealed document stating the authenticity of the relic and its origin.



Stained-glass windows

Windows on the left side of the chapel:

The first tier represents the Symbols of the Joyful Mysteries.

The second tier is the symbols of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The third tier addresses the Virgin in her role as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The bottom tier is the Ave Maria or Hail Mary.



The windows on the right (west) are the Epistle side and go from the front of the chapel toward the back.

The first tier symbolizes the aspects of Catholic teachings.

The second tier is Outstanding Saints of the Church.

The third tier is the Sacraments.

The fourth tier: Primeval History, how God created Heaven and Earth.



Ascension Via Christi

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Ascension Via Christi St. Francis

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