SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to Mary's Gardens, presented by the University of Dayton Libraries. This guide will take you through the three floors of the exhibit and provide insight on each display. Please return the guide before exiting the building so that it is available for other visitors.

Mary Gardens are filled with flowers and plants whose names describe an aspect of Mary's life, her appearance, or her virtues. Below is a selection of flowers or plants found in the live garden (see a separate sheet for a complete list).

Bellflower
Campanula glomerata 'Superba'
Our Lady's Nightcap

Bleeding Heart
Dicentra spectabilis
Mary's Heart

Foxglove
Digitalis purpurea 'Excelsior Hybrids'
Our Lady's Gloves

Baby's Breath
Gypsophila 'Festival Star'
Our Lady's Veil

Daylily
Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns'
St. Joseph's Lily; Named for Mary's husband, Joseph, who is often depicted with a lily in his hand.

Purpose Lavender
Lavandula a. ‘Kielapro’
Mary's Drying Plant: The legend associated with lavender and sometimes other sweet-smelling bushes tells that after Mary had washed Jesus's clothes, she laid them across lavender bushes to dry. When the sun and wind had dried them, they smelled clean and fresh, also having given the lavender bush its signature fragrance.

Shrub Rose
Rosa x Radrazz (Red)
Mary's Sorrow and the Blood of Christ: The rose symbolizes Mary as the Queen of Heaven and is one of the most common flower associations with Mary in addition to the lily. The thorns remind us of the crown of thorns Jesus wore, and the red rose represents Mary's sorrow at the crucifixion.

Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Early Bird Gold'
Golden Jerusalem

Arborvitae
Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald Green'
Tree of Life: Mary is represented as the Tree of Life because she gave birth to Jesus, the lasting fruit of her womb.

The seating area adjacent to the garden features an overview of John S. Stokes Jr. and the Mary's Gardens movement. To introduce Stokes's social justice interests, a viewing area showing archived episodes is available.
In the Marian Library Gallery, you will find 24 newly commissioned paintings by Cincinnati artist Holly Schapker that feature Mary flowers in relationship to scenes from Mary's life. Several paintings pay homage to well-known masterpieces.

In the artist's words, "Flowers are a beautiful symbol of the 'divine feminine,' and there are numerous kinds that have generated delightful legends throughout the centuries regarding Mary's life story and mysteries."

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and on scheduled tour dates.

The University of Dayton Libraries would like to thank the team at Grunder Landscaping for meticulously following John S. Stokes Jr.'s guidelines in the design and installation of this beautiful Mary Garden. Months of careful planning went into this project.

Visit go.udayton.edu/marysgardens for garden guides, plant lists and other resources.