The Mission of St. Joseph’s

We are passionate healers dedicated to honoring the Sacred in our sisters and brothers.

Our Core Values

In the spirit of good Stewardship, we heal by practicing: Compassion through our kindness, concern and genuine caring; Reverence in honoring the dignity of the human spirit; Excellence by expecting the best of ourselves and others; Integrity by being and speaking the truth.

St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center
Celebrating 145 Years
### A Higher Level of Care

In April 1869, five Franciscan sisters purchased an old dance hall and saloon for $12,000. The sisters purchased the buildings on the far left and far right and later constructed the three-story structure in the center to join the two. With 15 beds, St. Joseph’s—Syracuse’s first hospital—opened for patients on May 6, 1869.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Francis come to Syracuse to teach immigrant children</td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>Sisters open St. Joseph’s Hospital—Syracuse’s first hospital—on Prospect Hill</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s becomes first teaching hospital in Syracuse</td>
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<td>1872</td>
<td>New York state’s first incorporation of St. Joseph’s; the hospital charter provides that “in the admittance and treatment of patients, no distinction shall ever be made because of theological belief, nationality or color”</td>
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<td>1878</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Hospital Aid Society forms (forerunner to board of directors)</td>
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<td>1884</td>
<td>Women’s auxiliary forms; St. Joseph’s expands to 120 beds</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>A four-story pavilion (far left) was added to St. Joseph’s in 1897 to accommodate advances in surgery. It had three operating rooms. One of these was an amphitheater used for the clinical instruction of medical students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Two wings built, adding 75 beds</td>
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Re-incorporation in New York state as an institution “established and maintained for the purpose of caring for disabled and indigent persons of the city of Syracuse, irrespective of creed, race or color”
Mother Marianne Cope granted students at the College of Medicine at Syracuse University clinical instruction privileges in 1872, thus establishing St. Joseph’s as the first teaching hospital in Syracuse.

Interns assist surgeons during this 1897 operation.

In the year ending Oct. 1, 1900, St. Joseph’s treated 1,225 patients, only 565 of whom were able to pay. “It has ever been, and ever will be, the policy of St. Joseph’s Hospital to receive those sick and in need of care, irrespective of their ability to pay,” said that year’s annual report.

In 1915, St. Joseph’s unveiled Syracuse’s first motor ambulance.

In 1915, St. Joseph’s Women’s Auxiliary hold a sewing session in 1951. Sewing sessions dated back to the 1870s when the Ladies’ Aid Society was formed. The Ladies’ Aid Society functioned until 1887. The auxiliary was established in 1888.

Members of St. Joseph’s Women’s Auxiliary hold a sewing session in 1951. Sewing sessions dated back to the 1870s when the Ladies’ Aid Society was formed. The Ladies’ Aid Society functioned until 1887. The auxiliary was established in 1888.

Sister Marie Therese Nicholson, OSF, is photographed in 1940 reading to a pediatric patient.

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St. Francis Hall built for student nurses

Four-story surgical pavilion opens; bed capacity increases to 125; hospital chapel dedicated

Training school for nurses opens

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First radiograph (X-ray) at St. Joseph’s

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New 240-bed hospital building opens

Romanesque chapel opens

Volunteer program introduced

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A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE

In 1958, St. Joseph’s performs the first successful open heart surgery in Central New York; Monsignor Toomey cardio-pulmonary laboratory set up on fifth floor.

First intensive care unit opens; Marian Hall (school of nursing) opens

St. Joseph’s Family Practice Residency Program accredited and outpatient primary care center opens

James Abbott appointed first lay administrator

First hemodialysis treatment at St. Joseph’s

First male nursing students accepted; intensive care unit splits into medical ICU and surgical ICU

100th anniversary; name changed to St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center

In 1958, St. Joseph’s performs the first successful open heart surgery in Central New York on 10-year-old Sharon Melfi.

In 1966, a young candy stripe cuts electrocardiogram tapes that will be added to patient charts.

St. Joseph’s administra- tor Sister Patricia Ann Mulherin prepares to break ground for St. Joseph’s $20-million expansion in June 1972. The project included an emergency department suite, enlarged outpatient department and patient beds.

Nurses take a minute to look over items—including magazines (Sports Illustrated), toys (Howdy Doody) and candy bars (Oh Henry!)—for sale in St. Joseph’s first gift shop. The current gift shop is located in approximately the same spot.

Gift shop opens

In 1967, a young candy stripe cuts electrocardio-gram tapes that will be added to patient charts.
F.B. Smith hemodialysis unit opens; 140-bed wing opens; new facilities for radiology, laboratory, ambulatory care unit and emergency services


School of nursing begins two-year associate degree program; Birth Place opens

100th anniversary of auxiliary; State Street wing with 170 replacement beds opens

St. Joseph’s maternal Child Health Center opened in 1992, providing outpatient obstetric and pediatric care. At that time, Onondaga County had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country.

St. Joseph’s performs first directional coronary atherectomy procedure in Central New York

First computer system at St. Joseph’s

St. Joseph’s Certified Home Care Agency opens; clinical ladder program for nurses established

North Surgery Center opens; Franciscan Management Services incorporated

Outpatient pediatric services expands and moves to new Maternal Child Health Center on Prospect Ave., Syracuse

Established in 1986, the Birth Place is for low-risk mothers who want to deliver their babies in a homelike atmosphere with minimal medical intervention. Born in March 1989, Emily Salvaterra, the Birth Place’s 500th baby, was welcomed by her sister.
Part of a $22-million project that included renovated and expanded operating room and labor/delivery/recovery suites, the hospital’s new laboratory opened in 1993.

125th anniversary; labor/delivery/recovery suite expanded and renovated; St. Joseph’s opens its first family medicine satellite, the Westside Family Health Center, 216 Seymour St., Syracuse

New York State Department of Health finds St. Joseph’s is New York state's top hospital for successful coronary artery bypass surgery based on mortality rates of patients between Jan. 1, 1994, and Dec. 31, 1994

On-site MRI services begin at St. Joseph’s in 2000. The equipment featured a shortened platform to help patients who were claustrophobic as well as virtual vision that allowed patients to watch TV and movies through a headset.

Area’s first mall-based health screening/information center, St. Joseph’s Wellness Place, opens in Great Northern Mall, Clay

Electrophysiology lab—used to diagnose and treat cardiac arrhythmias—opens

St. Joseph’s School of Nursing celebrates 100th anniversary; neonatal intensive care nursery moves adjacent to labor/delivery/recovery, the Birth Place and postpartum

More than a year in the planning and making, St. Joseph’s quilters crafted a piece to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph’s School of Nursing in 1998.

First Central New York hospital to perform endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm using technology approved by FDA just months before St. Joseph’s School of Nursing begins new weekend program, the only one of its kind in the community

Northeast Surgery Center, the only hospital-based, outpatient surgery center in the area providing overnight recovery on-site, opens in Fayetteville
With the largest dialysis program outside of the metropolitan New York City area, St. Joseph’s opened a 30-station regional dialysis center on James St., Syracuse, in 2001.

Surgical services adds daVinci® robotic surgical system, providing surgeons 3-D visualization and the ability to move surgical instruments at angles impossible for a human hand.

St. Joseph’s College of Nursing and Le Moyne College collaborate to offer Dual Degree Partnership in Nursing.

Palliative care unit opens to care for those with life-threatening illnesses who chose a palliative approach, emphasizing quality of life, rather than curative treatment.

Renovated cardiac catheterization laboratory opens; St. Joseph’s lab performs more angioplasties and catheterizations than any other in Central New York, treating more than 5,000 patients in 2003 alone.

St. Joseph’s School of Nursing changes its name to St. Joseph’s College of Nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center.

St. Joseph’s unveils its long-range plan to build the hospital of the future and invest in its North Side neighborhood: phase 1 includes a new Medical Office Center/parking garage, skybridge and renovated hospital lobby; phase 2 includes a new emergency department, emergency mental health services and private patient rooms.

Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine opens at Northeast Medical Center, Fayetteville.

St. Joseph’s completes phase 1 of its facility master plan that includes an expanded lobby and entrance; Journey to Excellence initiative, based on the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Program, begins.

New family medicine center and expanded dental office open in former Physicians Office Building; state-of-the-art outpatient medical imaging center opens in Medical Office Center.

Pharmacy installs robot that selects medications using a bar code that identifies the proper drug and dose.

Telemedicine allows cardiologists at St. Joseph’s to consult with physicians at Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown.

One of only 60 such hospitals in the nation, St. Joseph’s is designated a Magnet for Nursing Excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.


St. Joseph’s cardiologists Gary Walford, MD, and Alessandro Giambartolomei, MD, review images transmitted to St. Joseph’s cardiovascular lab using telemedicine technology, which became available in 2001.

St. Joseph’s main entrance is transformed as part of the hospital’s multiple-phase, long-range plan to build the hospital of the future. A new skybridge, Medical Office Center/parking garage, entrance, lobby and conference center were completed in 2007.

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Work begins on phase 2 of facility master plan: phase 2A—emergency services building (including emergency mental health), kitchen, data center and green space; phase 2B—patient tower with private rooms, surgical suite, corridor to North Side businesses, green space

Auxiliary pledges $1 million to *Generations of Compassion* - *Healing* - *Innovation* capital campaign, which will help fund the hospital’s expansion as part of the facility master plan

The Sisters of St. Francis, founders of St. Joseph’s Hospital, celebrate the 150th anniversary of their arrival in Syracuse

Kathryn H. Ruscitto becomes St. Joseph’s first lay female president
Vascular surgery program named no. 1 in New York state by HealthGrades

St. Joseph’s principal founder, Marianne Cope, declared a saint

Ralph & Christina Nappi Emergency Services Building opens; ground broken for phase 2B of facility master plan (patient tower with private rooms, surgical suite, corridor to North Side businesses, green space)

Auxiliary President Pamela Speech announces the organization’s $1 million gift to the *Generations* capital campaign at the ceremonial phase 2 groundbreaking held Dec. 21, 2009, as St. Joseph’s President Theodore Pasinski looks on. The Auxiliary had also pledged $1 million toward phase 1 of the facility master plan.