

Alumnae Gather for Annual Reunion St. Joseph Academy, Tipton

Sisters, associates, and alumnae of the former St. Joseph Academy in Tipton gathered on June 14, 2025, to remember, reminisce and celebrate their alma mater. The reunion took place at St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center on Division Road in Tipton, a place that holds special meaning as it is the former home and ministry center of our sisters from the founding community of Tipton.

St. Joseph Academy was open from 1892 to 1972 and with the exception of a few years, sisters, staff, and friends have gathered for annual reunions for more than 100 years.

If you are an alumna of or have a connection to St. Joseph Academy in Tipton and would like to connect, you are invited to join their Facebook page at St. Joseph Academy - Tipton, Indiana. ●

Mark Your Calendar!

If you are or know someone who is an alumna of the former St. Joseph Academy in Tipton, please join us at this year's reunion!

2026 SJA Tipton Alumnae Reunion

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Mass at 11:00 a.m., Lunch at noon

St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center

1440 Division Road, Tipton

To learn more, contact **Twyla Arnold** at **765.551.9584** or scan QR code here →

If you can't make it this year, please plan to join us in June, 2027!



Attendees of last year's St. Joseph Academy, Tipton, alumnae reunion gather in the chapel after Mass. Far right is Father David Huemmer, Chaplain and Spiritual Director of St. Joseph Retreat Center in Tipton, who presided over the Mass.



Sister Jane Frances Mannion visits with alumna Karen Thrine Metzger at the reunion.



Alumnae Martina Quillan and Carolyn Perry, who is also an associate, catch up after Mass.



Jubilee

2026

The following sisters from our founding community of Tipton are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.

Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating from around the Congregation this year!

Sister Karen Van De Walle, CSJ

(formerly Sister Miriam)

60 Years



Sister Karen entered religious life September 7, 1961, from St. Matthew Parish in South Bend, Indiana. She taught in Indiana parochial schools for several years before focusing her teaching ministry on art. She taught art at St. Patrick in Kokomo and at St. Joseph Academy in Tipton. She went on to teach at St.-Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute and at Cathedral High School and the Indianapolis Art League, both in Indianapolis.

In 1981, Sister Karen blended her love of clay work with spiritual direction when she began The Potter's House in the Broad Ripple neighborhood of Indianapolis, where she met and worked with people from all over the world who share her passion for the spirituality of art. Sister Karen also served two terms on the Leadership Team of the founding community of Tipton. Currently, Sister Karen resides at St. Joseph Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where she continues to create the beautiful and functional pottery for which she is so well known.

Sister Wanda Wetli, CSJ

(formerly Sister Frances)

60 Years



Sister Wanda entered religious life September 7, 1961, from St. Mary's Parish in Dunnington, Indiana. She began her teaching ministry in 1964 and for almost 20 years shared her gifts between three parochial schools in Indiana: St. Matthew in South Bend, St. John the Baptist in Tipton, and St. Patrick in Kokomo. For several years, she also served as campus minister at Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis.

Sister Wanda began a retreat ministry, Little Noddfa Spirituality Center in Tipton, after completing studies in Chicago and two years of spiritual direction/retreat ministry at Noddfa in North Wales. She also served on the Leadership Team of the founding community of Tipton and as Formation Director. Sister Wanda currently lives at our Nazareth Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she continues to offer spiritual direction and is active in prison ministry.

To view biographies of all our 2026 Jubilarians, visit CSJoseph.org/our-sisters/jubilarians

Sister Updates



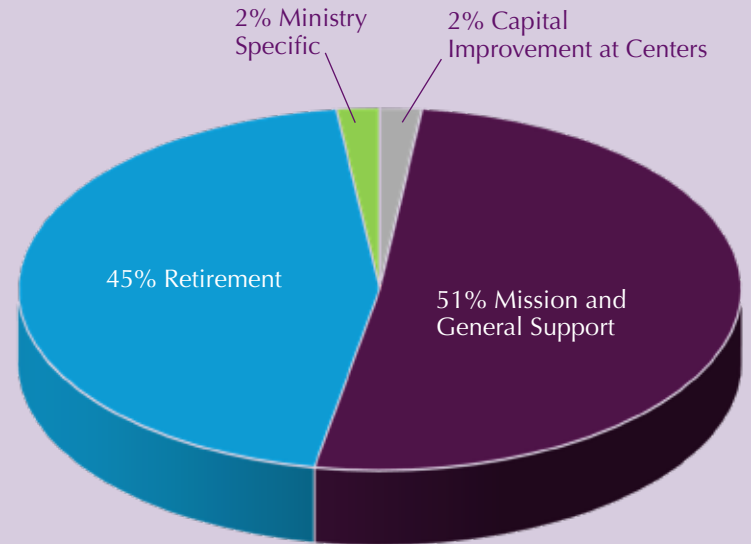
Two sisters from our founding community of Tipton are part of a prison ministry that formed at our Nazareth center in Kalamazoo, Michigan – **Sisters Jeanne Marie Greenen** (seated, far left) and **Wanda Wetli** (standing, second from right). Originally launched in 1986, the prison ministry provides for the spiritual needs of incarcerated people and includes Bible study, Holy Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, support for families, and more. These services are available to male and female incarcerated people regardless of their religious affiliation. ●



Sisters at our Mount St. Joseph center in Wheeling, W.Va., enjoy baking for various events and holidays, including the feast day of our patron, Saint Joseph, celebrated each year on March 19. The sisters baked breads and sweets for their annual St. Joseph Day table which, after being blessed by a priest, were then delivered to a local church to be given to folks who come for the evening meal. From left are Sisters Alicia Marie Weiskircher, Rosie Coughlin who is from our founding community of Tipton, and Mary Clark. ●

In Gratitude...

Your gifts of support are a blessing – thank you for partnering with us in mission and for helping us provide for our retired sisters. Here is how we used your charitable contributions from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025:



For Your Consideration...

● Qualified Charitable Distribution

Did you know that you can direct unneeded required minimum distributions (RMDs) to us through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA? If you don't need the income, or the taxes it may incur, ask your advisor about a QCD.

● Donor Advised Fund

If you have a donor advised fund (DAF), please consider including us in your grant recommendations this year. We welcome DAF gifts!

● Leave a Legacy of Love

You can continue to partner with us in our mission of unifying love and service even after your lifetime by including the congregation in your plans. A planned gift may also reduce your estate taxes. Request our Legacy of Love brochure today.

To Learn More, contact Melissa Haley O'Leary at moleary@csjoseph.org or 216-688-3474

The Congregation of St. Joseph cannot give you financial or tax advice, so please consult with a financial or tax advisor before making any financial decisions.

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Spotlight Photo



^ *Throwback photo*

Sisters in Tipton enjoy an evening of recreation playing Scrabble together at the Motherhouse, circa 1950s.

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Hosted by Sisters
Erin McDonald, CSJ
and Colleen Gibson, SSJ