1920 – Opened as Mount St. Joseph on-the-Ohio September 14 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; one of Ohio’s first Catholic colleges for women, it had 20 students and 11 faculty members.

1920s – Curriculum provided a strong Liberal Arts core along with popular majors in Education (est. in 1921) and Nursing (est. 1926).

1932 – Received accreditation from North Central, a membership it has consistently maintained to the present day.

1933 – Sister Maria Corona Molloy named the first dean; served in this position until 1959; served as president until her retirement in 1967.

1935 – First intercollegiate basketball game with Nazareth, Kentucky; regular intercollegiate volleyball and basketball competition begun in 1968.

1938 – Journalism Department hosted Catholic School Press Association meeting precipitated by the effort of the award-winning student newspaper, The Seton Journal. The paper, produced by the Journalism Department under the direction of Sister Margaret Agnes Brand, was a staple of the College scene for many years.

1942-45 – World War II put plans for a new campus on hold; introduction of Trimester program helped to graduate students faster to join the war effort job force; post-War, College students assisted with relief programs for European refugees.

1960 – Official groundbreaking for the new campus March 19; opened in the fall of 1962 on a 75-acre tract with nine buildings constructed around a central quad. The chapel and statuary on campus designed by College art students under the direction of Sister Augusta Zimmer, chair of the Art Department.

1960s-70s – Religious Studies Institutes and Futurology Institutes attracted internationally known speakers and audiences from around the country, including Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Mother Teresa.
1960s-70s – New departments and programs, such as Continuing Education, Liberal Studies, and Weekend College, were created as enrollment grew to 1,500; 1978 Master of Arts in Education the first graduate degree offered.

1986 – Became coeducational; dropped “on-the-Ohio” from its name.

1989 – Announced the formation of an intercollegiate football program.


1992-93 – Cultural Immersion courses combined coursework and personal reflection, involving travel to sites where people from different cultures live and work; part of promoting continuing outreach to people of other cultures and those in need; service Learning classes offered.


2000 – First local college to begin a universal computing requirement to support a new general education curriculum; launched MERLIN, a new wireless technology on campus.

2004 – Opening of Sports Complex and Schueler Field.

2005 – First doctoral degree program in Physical Therapy begun.

2008 – Sister Francis Marie Thraillkill, OSU, retires after 20 years as president; she is succeeded by Dr. Tony Aretz; becomes first local college to plant a sustainable green roof on the Library.

2010 – Athletic Hall of Fame begun with inaugural honors to legendary coaches and teachers Kay Corcoran, Jean Dowel and Pat Shibinski.

2014 – The “College” became Mount St. Joseph University on July 1 to reflect the depth and breadth of programming to the doctoral level.

2020 – Centennial.