

PROGRAM HISTORY

(Abridged)

Girl's basketball, including a suspension of the sport, at St. Joseph Central Catholic High School can be traced to the 1973 – 74 school year. That original program continued for a decade through the 1982 – 83 school year. At that time, for reasons unknown, perhaps because of the lack of interest, the sport was discontinued. The team picture in the school 1983 yearbook shows only six players. The suspension continued through the winter of 1996 – 1997.

In 1997 the program was reactivated as a JV sport, and continued as such for three seasons or through the 1999 – 2000 school year. In 2000, basketball was upgraded to a varsity status.

The first two years were difficult. Established teams with veteran players used their experience to advantage. Losing records resulted.

A maturing squad posted winning marks in the 2002 – 03 and 2003 – 04 seasons. But then, with the graduation of the restarted program's pioneer players, the 2005 and 2006 seasons again saw losing efforts.

The incoming freshman class of 2006 began a trend reversal that continues to this day. The inaugural trip to the state followed the program's first Sectional and Regional championships in 2007.

The next spring (2008) St Joseph advanced to its first title game. Over the following seven years (2009 – 2015) the Irish would win consecutive titles. An eighth title followed in 2017.

The Lewis goal of being a premier program had been achieved. Now the challenge would be to keep the program at that level. That challenge continues today.