



The following is the finding aid for the St. Casimir Parish, Milwaukee collection located at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Archives. A finding aid is a catalog tool used in archives that briefly describes the material found in a collection. These records are not available digitally unless otherwise noted. [Genealogists should consult our genealogical resources guide.](#) [Researchers must make an appointment with an archivist to view the material.](#)

**St. Casimir Congregation (Milwaukee, Wis.)
Records, 1894-2003
MC 47**

Volume
18.95 cubic feet

Access
Open/unrestricted except for student records, prenuptial files and certain financial records.

Historical Note

St. Casimir was founded in 1893 when Milwaukee Archbishop Frederick X. Katzer directed Rev. Giles (Idzi) Tarasiewicz to organize a new parish among three hundred families living in the northwest section of St. Hedwig's parish on Milwaukee's East Side. An organizational meeting was held on September 11, 1893, and with \$6,000 donated by St. Hedwig's, the new congregation purchased property on the corner of Clarke and Weil Streets. The first structure, which incorporated a church, school, and convent, was dedicated on November 11, 1894. Church membership grew quickly, and by the end of the first year of existence six hundred families were numbered on the registers; the school likewise increased in size, from 274 pupils at the beginning of the first school year, to 512 at its conclusion.

In 1899, the members of the parish formed a corporation, and purchased land at the corner of Bremen and Weil Streets for construction of a new, larger church building. The present structure was completed in the fall of 1901. St. Casimir's congregation reached its largest size during the early twentieth century, as new immigrants joined the community and the parish. Until World War II the school enrolled as many as 1,300 children annually, with several hundred confirmed each year. Following the war, the parish population began to diminish as people moved to other areas of the city, and later, to suburbs.

St. Casimir has celebrated its silver jubilee in 1919, a postponed golden jubilee in 1945, and on November 16, 1969, a modernized and renovated church was rededicated in honor of the diamond jubilee.

The church continued to grow and prosper until after World War II when many Polish families began moving to the suburbs. The last Polish Mass was said in 1987. In 1976, the school and gym were heavily damaged by a fire. The parish council formed in 1980, and that same year the church was renovated to conform to the Vatican II directives. St. Casimir School closed in 1991 with a graduating class of 10. That fall St. Casimir and St. Mary Czestochowa schools merged to form All Saints Elementary School, located at the St. Mary Czestochowa site. This school closed and merged with Catholic East Elementary in 1997. St. Casimir and St. Mary Czestochowa merged in 2003 to form Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish.

Scope and Content *a brief description of the types of materials in the collection.*

The collection consists primarily of administrative, financial, marriage files, and student records. The records are representative of both the heavily Polish heritage of the parish as well as its place on

Milwaukee's East Side. Underrepresented in this collection is the contribution of the Hispanic population on the parish.

Of particular note are the numerous paragraphs and scrapbooks in the collection. During the parish's centennial year of 1994 the parish put on a number of celebrations including a parish Mass and dinner, a Mass and dinner with Archbishop Weakland, a Mother's Day celebration, a Veteran tribute, a living rosary procession, and a St. Casimir Name Day celebration, and all of these events are commemorated in their own photo album or scrapbook. Some of these were put together for a display at Polish Fest that year. There are also school photographs from nearly every school year from 1927 to 1970, and yearbooks from 1970 to 1990.

Also of note are several dues books from the Rosary Society which list the number of women involved in that group each year. The earliest of these record books are in Polish. The collection also includes anniversary books from each of the anniversaries in 1928, 1945, 1976, and 1994, as well as most of the weekly parish bulletins from 1947 to 1998, and a complete run of parish council meeting minutes from 1979-1996.

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders are listed alphabetically. "B" is an abbreviation for box and "F" is an abbreviation for folder. This list will help the researcher narrow down exactly what folder they want to look at.*

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 3	F 1	25 th Anniversary Book, 1928
B 3	F 2	50 th Anniversary Book, 1945
B 3	F 3	75 th Anniversary Book, 1976
B 3	F 4	100 th Anniversary Book, 1994
B 3	F 6	100 th Anniversary, centennial committee, 1993-1995
B 3	F 7	100 th Anniversary, Polish veteran activities, 1994
B 3	F 5	100 th Anniversary, research materials, 1993-1994
B 17		Archdiocesan Financial Statements, 1945-1965
B 12	F 1	Archdiocesan Financial Statements, 1966-1974
B 17		Architectural plans
B 1	F 2	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1936-1950
B 3	F 8	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1936
B 10		Breitner Niewiast Roznicy, 1915-1945
B 12	F 2	Building, appraisal report, 1987
B 3	F 9	Building, improvements, contracts, and insurance, 1919-1995, n.d.
B 12	F 3	Building, insurance, deeds, and assessments, 1982-1987
B 3	F 10	Building, leases, 1989-1996
B 12	F 4-5	Building, sale of rectory and convent, 1987-2001
B 3	F 11	Casey-10 Fundraisers, 1997
B 1	F 4	Church jubilee albums, 1919, 1945, 1970
B 3	F 13	City assessments, 1990-1992
B 3	F 14	Correspondence, 1915-1957, 1992, n.d.
B 3	F 15	East Side Child & Youth Ministry, 1987-1995
B 3	F 16	Events and programs, 1936-1995
B 11	F 1-4	Financial records, 1987-1999
B 3	F 17-20	Financial reports, 1923-1959
B 1	F 3	Financial reports, 1923-1959
B 12		General ledgers, 1994-1996 (Restricted)

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 3	F 21	Holy Name Society, n.d.
B 1	F 6	Jubilee albums of parish societies, 1940, 1949, 1966
B 1	F 5	Jubilee albums of priests, 1903-1953
B 10		Ksiegza Inwentarza Koscielnego [Book of the Church Inventory], 1894-1907
B 11	F 5	Legal correspondence, 1988-1996 (Restricted)
B 12	F 6	Legal documents, 1918-1939 (Restricted)
B 18		Mass Intention books, 2001-2003
B 15		Memorabilia
B 3	F 22	Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission, 1992-1994
B 1	F 1	Minute book, 1904-1948
B 3	F 23	Neighborhood Participation Association, 1969-1989
B 13		Niermasty Rozauiowe Ledger, 1907-1926
B 3	F 24	Organ, 1994-1996
B 16		Parish census cards, n.d. (Restricted)
B 3	F 25	Parish census forms, blank, 1993-1994
B 21		Parish census forms, 1993-1994 (Restricted)
B 3	F 26	Parish Council, by-laws and constitution, 1998
B 3	F 28-32	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1979-1992
B 4	F 1-7	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1992-1996
B 3	F 27	Parish Council, members and organizational material, 1987-1997
B 4	F 8	Parish Mission, 1949 October 09-23
B 4	F 9	Parish Planning and Collaboration, 1989-1991
B 4	F 10	Pastoral transition materials, 1993
B 11	F 6	Payroll, 1990-1996 (Restricted)
B 4	F 11	Photographs, 100 th Anniversary Celebration at Polishfest, 1994 June
B 4	F 12-13	Photographs, 100 th Anniversary Celebration Mass, 1994 November 13
B 4	F 21-22	Photographs, 100 th Anniversary Celebration Mass, 1994 November 13
B 4	F 14	Photographs, 100 th Anniversary Celebration Mass with Archb. Weakland, 1994
B 4	F 23	Photographs, 100 th Anniversary Celebration Mass with Archb. Weakland, 1994
B 4	F 25	Photographs, Centennial celebration, 1968
B 4	F 15	Photographs, church building, n.d.
B 4	F 24	Photographs, church building, n.d.
B 4	F 16	Photographs, Fr. Gene Jakubek, SJ, 40 th anniversary celebration, 1994
B 4	F 17	Photographs, Holy Name Society Mother's Day, 1994 May 15
B 4	F 26	Photographs, Mass and luncheon, 1994 March 06
B 4	F 27	Photographs, Miscellaneous, circa 1890s-1950s
B 13		Photographs, Miscellaneous, parish organizations, circa 1890s-1940s
B 4	F 28	Photographs, pastors, n.d.
B 4	F 18	Photographs, Rosary Society Living Rosary Procession, 1994
B 4	F 19	Photographs, St. Casimir Name Day, 1994 March 06
B 4	F 20	Photographs, Veteran Tribute, 1994 August 31
B 4	F 29	Polish Archives, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1980-1981
B 4	F 30	Polish National Alliance, 1965
B 4	F 31	Queen's Night Out, 1992-1994
B 6	F 1	Rosary Sodality, dues books, 1952-1977
B 6	F 2	Rosary Sodality, miscellaneous materials, 1966-1996
B 4	F 32	School, accreditation and curriculum, 1985-1989
B 4	F 33	School, All Saints Catholic East School System, 1993-1995
B 5	F 1	School, asbestos report, 1990

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 5	F 2	School, attendance book, 1920s-1930s
B 9		School, attendance book, 1906-1932
B 10		School, attendance book, 1932-1936
B 5	F 3-5	School, class books, 1970-1990
B 5	F 6	School, class reunion, 1981, 1988
B 5	F 7-11	School, class photograph album, 1960-1970
B 14		School, class photographs, 1927-1970
B 5	F 12	School, class photographs (copies), 1913-1991
B 5	F 13	School, graduate lists, 1987-1990
B 5	F 14	School, handbooks, 1982
B 5	F 15	School, miscellaneous, 1987-1990
B 17		School, Moneybook, 1894-1906
B 5	F 16	School, photographs, library, 1944
B 5	F 17	School, photographs, miscellaneous, 1936-1959
B 5	F 18	School, student directories, 1987-1991
B 5	F 19	Scrapbook, 100 th Anniversary Celebrations, 1994
B 5	F 20	Scrapbook, Poland
B 5	F 21	Social Analysis of the Riverwest Neighborhood, n.d.
B 5	F 22	Stamp Collection, Vatican issued St. Casimir stamp, 1984
B 10	F 2	Status Animarum, 1967-1974
B 5	F 23	Status Animarum, 1984-1996
B 3	F 12	St. Casimir 500 th Anniversary, 1984
B 5	F 24	St. Casimir Name Day, 1995
B 5	F 25	Tax exempt reports, 1972-1973
B 5	F 26	Town Hall meetings, 1994
B 5	F 27	Trzecizakon [Third Order] Dues Books, 1899-1948
B 5	F 28	Ushers Society, 1949-1984
B 5	F 29	Waivers and Proxies, 1953-1998
B 10	F 3	Warranty Deeds and mortgage, 1910-1977
B 5	F 30-31	We-8 collaboration, 1985-1992
B 5	F 32	We-8 funding committee, 1992-1993
B 1	F 7-20	Weekly bulletins, 1947, 1957-1972
B 7-8		Weekly bulletins, 1978-1998
B 10	F 4	Wills and bequests, 1954-1995
B 5	F 33	Wladysloaw Jagiello Society, 1962