



*The following is the finding aid for the St. Hedwig 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. Hedwig Congregation (Milwaukee, Wis.)  
Records, 1890-1980  
MC 48**

**Volume**  
5.55 cubic feet

**Access**  
Open/unrestricted except for certain records of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and prenuptial files. Consult the archivist for more information.

**Historical Note**

One of the oldest Polish Catholic congregations in Milwaukee, St. Hedwig's had its origins in the 1870 decision of St. Stanislaus Church parishioners to build a new church to serve the forty Polish families living on the East Side of the city. Work began the following year on the new church, which was constructed on three lots on the corner of Brady Street and Franklin Place, at a cost of \$11,000. The first Mass in the new building was celebrated on the feast day of St. Hedwig, October 17, 1871. A parochial school was established within a few years, and a men's groups, St. Adalbert Society, was organized February 1, 1874. During the following several years, a new school and rectory were built. In 1879 a women's organization, the Rosary Society, began holding meetings.

On March 5, 1886, the parish became a corporation, which immediately acted to construct a new church, the present building located at Brady and Racine Streets. Several new parish societies were established during the 1880's and 1890's, as the parish grew rapidly in size. Finally, in 1893 the parish was divided, and St. Casimir Congregation was formed to the north of St. Hedwig's. In 1896, 1921, and 1946, and 1971 St. St. Hedwig's celebrated its silver, golden, diamond, and centennial jubilees or anniversaries. Throughout the twentieth century, St. Hedwig's Church has maintained its vigor, modernizing its physical facilities and updating and renewing its programs and activities. In 2000 St. Hedwig, St. Rita and Holy Rosary merged to become Three Holy Women Parish.

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

The collection mainly consists of parish records and records of several parish societies, with a scattering of miscellaneous items. Parish records include a recent, typewritten biography of the Church's patron saint, St. Hedwig, and several commemorative books and booklets published at the time of the parish's diamond jubilee and centennial anniversaries. Other records are primarily financial in nature, and include check stubs, a listing of donations, printed annual financial reports (sprawozania), and two journals of receipts and disbursements. Together the financial records span the period 1921-1959. Other parish records include printed weekly and biweekly church bulletins; a volume of Mass intentions, recording the disposition of large sums of money willed to the parish for Masses; and three volumes of sick call registers, which list the names and addresses of sick and dying prisoners, and record the names of the attending priests and what ministrations were given to the patient. A record similar to the volume of

Mass intentions is the Zlota Ksiazka Parafii Sw. Iadwigi, 1890, which lists the names of special donors to the Church.

Records of parish societies include two dues books, with members' names, dues paid, an annual financial summary, 1920-1959; and miscellaneous form letters of the Altar Society of St. Hedwig's. The volumes were donated by Anna Gruenwald, president of the Society in 1981. The Altar Society holds an annual meeting and breakfast, and conducts fund-raising rummage sales and raffles; the money is used to purchase furnishings and other articles for the sanctuary.

Records of the Civic and Athletic Association (formerly St. Hedwig Civil Club, and currently St. Hedwig Adults Dedicated to Youth) consist of a constitution, correspondence, financial and membership records, and minutes of the board of directors.

The Holy Name Society, a men's service and social organization, is represented by minutes of meetings, 1941-1955; membership and attendance lists; a cash book, 1949-1959; and fragmentary financial records and monthly reports

Records of the Rosary Society (occasionally listed in the records as Bractwo Rozanca Swietgo or Holy Rosary Confraternity; however the word Holy should not be listed in the correct English title) were presented by Ann Kuchta, vice-president of the Society in 1981. Included are two dues books, 1910-1935; a volume of attendance records, also listing annual dues payments; and a cash book, with members' names, dues, and attendance records.

St. Gabriel's Society of St. Hedwig's Church was organized July 1, 1921, to provide senior (adult) acolytes to serve at Masses. At one time, membership in the Society was sufficiently large to allow for six servers at each Sunday Mass; in the years prior to the Society's closing in 1979, membership and consequently, participation at services declined. The records include annual financial records of the Society, 1933-1952; documents regarding fund-raising events held by the Society such as bazaars and card parties; receipts; fragmentary correspondence; membership and officer's lists; and volumes recording dues, attendance, and receipts and disbursements, 1921-1956. The Society's minute books also record lists of members, schedules showing the assignment of members to various services, and financial summaries, 1921-1944. The records were donated by Roman Czarnecki, one of the last members of the organization.

Records of the Ushers' Society consist of minutes, 1940-1953, a cash book, 1943-1949, and miscellany. Other records of the Ushers' Society, and of other parish societies of St. Hedwig's, are located in the papers of Thaddeus Kucharski.

The records of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, organized February 3, 1914, are numerous and comprehensive. Included are volumes of minutes of meetings, 1914-1965, with treasures' reports; records of home visits made, relief given and aid funds paid, and information regarding the individuals and families involved; and quarterly and annual reports of Society work. More detailed records of home visits, often with correspondence and application forms, are present for many families during the 1930's and 1940's. In addition, there is a volume of membership and attendance records, 1923-1929; a folder of the rules of the Society; fragmentary correspondence; copies of the bulletin of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Central Council; and two sets of minutes of meetings of District No. 4 of the Society. Some of these records are restricted. There is also one folder of annual reports of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 1914-1953, which are not restricted.

Other records in the collection include an undated, unsigned text of a sermon, a theology notebook apparently kept by a priest or seminarian, and a Polish language prayerbook, Chwalmy Pana.

A folder of photographs includes a photo of Church officials and priests, together with representatives of the religious community, and a choir or possibly a confirmation class, taken at the time of St. Hedwig's golden jubilee in 1921; a photo of the church dated May 18, 1933; two photos of Fr. Michael Wenta (pastor of St. Hedwig's from 1912-1935), one with his mother; St. Hedwig's choir (c. 1950), a photo of the dedication of the Church organ in 1949; and a group photo of St. Gabriel's Society members. Other photos have been retained in a collection at St. Hedwig's.

**Box and Folder List** *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders are listed alphabetically within series. "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 1                      | F 1     | Biography of St. Hedwig                                                                          |
| B 1                      | F 2     | Anniversary and commemorative books and booklets, 1939-1946, 1971, 1980                          |
| <i>Parish Records</i>    |         |                                                                                                  |
| B 3                      | F 5     | Miscellaneous parish records                                                                     |
| B 1                      | F 3     | Officers and organizational list, 1980                                                           |
| B 1                      | F 4-11  | Weekly Bulletins, 1940-1943, 1948-1952                                                           |
| B 2                      | F 1-2   | Weekly Bulletins, 1953-1954                                                                      |
| B 2                      | F 3     | Weekly Bulletins, 1980                                                                           |
| <i>Financial Records</i> |         |                                                                                                  |
| B 2                      | F 4-8   | Check stubs, 1951-1954, 1956-1959                                                                |
| B 2                      | F 9     | Donations from Parishioners, 1949                                                                |
| B 2                      | F 10-12 | Financial Reports, 1921, 1923-1936, 1944-1946, 1948-1951, 1953-1954, 1956-1958                   |
| B 6                      |         | Journal of Receipts and Disbursements, 1931-1936 – (volume 6)                                    |
| B 6                      |         | Journal of Receipts and Disbursements, 1939-1948 – (volume 7)                                    |
| B 2                      | F 14    | Mass Intentions, 1948-1951 – (volume 1)                                                          |
| B 2                      | F 13    | Miscellaneous financial records, 1949, 1954                                                      |
| B 3                      | F 1-3   | Sick Call Registers, 1935-1959 – (volumes 2-4)                                                   |
| B 3                      | F 4     | Stewardship Records, c. 1980                                                                     |
| B 6                      |         | <u>Zlota Ksiazka Parafii Sw. Iadwigi w Milwaukee</u> , 1890 – (volume 8)                         |
| <i>Parish Societies</i>  |         |                                                                                                  |
| B 6                      |         | Altar Society, Dues Book, 1920-1945 (volume 9)                                                   |
| B 6                      |         | Altar Society, Dues Book, 1946-1959 (volume 10)                                                  |
| B 3                      | F 6     | Altar Society, Miscellany, 1970-1980                                                             |
| B 3                      | F 7     | Civic and Athletic Association, Constitution, 1943, 1946                                         |
| B 3                      | F 8     | Civic and Athletic Association, Correspondence, 1953                                             |
| B 3                      | F 9     | Civic and Athletic Association, Financial Records, 1946-1947, 1949, 1962-1965                    |
| B 3                      | F 10    | Civic and Athletic Association, Membership lists and rosters, 1943-1953, 1961                    |
| B 3                      | F 11-14 | Civic and Athletic Association, Minutes, 1943-1948                                               |
| B 4                      | F 1     | Civic and Athletic Association, Social Activities, Programs, 1948-1952                           |
| B 4                      | F 2     | Civic and Athletic Association, Youth and Equipment Funds, 1953-1965                             |
| B 6                      |         | Holy Name Society, Cash books, 1949-1959 (volume 11)                                             |
| B 4                      | F 3     | Holy Name Society, membership lists, 1946, 1956, 1959, 1962, n.d.; attendance records, 1946-1947 |
| B 4                      | F 4-6   | Holy Name Society, Minutes, 1941-1955                                                            |

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>                                                                                             |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B 4        | F 7           | Holy Name Society, Miscellaneous Financial Records, 1953-1954, n.d.                                             |
| B 4        | F 8           | Holy Name Society, Monthly Reports, August-December 1962                                                        |
| B 6        |               | Rosary Society, Dues Book, 1910-1921 (volume 12)                                                                |
| B 6        |               | Rosary Society, Dues Book, 1922-1935 (volume 13)                                                                |
| B 6        |               | Rosary Society, Attendance Record, 1945-1972 (volume 14)                                                        |
| B 6        |               | Rosary Society, Cash Book, 1915-1955 (volume 15)                                                                |
| B 4        | F 9           | St. Gabriel's Society, Annual Financial Reports, 1933-1952                                                      |
| B 4        | F 10          | St. Gabriel's Society, Correspondence, 1936-1952                                                                |
| B 4        | F 11          | St. Gabriel's Society, Dues, Attendance, and Cash Book, 1921-1936 (includes volume 16)                          |
| B 4        | F 12          | St. Gabriel's Society, Dues and Cash Book, 1937-1956                                                            |
| B 4        | F 13          | St. Gabriel's Society, Fund-Raising Events, 1933-1936                                                           |
| B 4        | F 14          | St. Gabriel's Society, Jubilee book, 1936                                                                       |
| B 5        | F 1           | St. Gabriel's Society, Members, 1951-1953, n.d.                                                                 |
| B 5        | F 2           | St. Gabriel's Society, Minute Book (volume 17), Lists of members, schedules and financial summaries, 1921-1930  |
| B 5        | F 3           | St. Gabriel's Society, Minute book (volume 18), lists of members, schedules, and financial summaries, 1930-1937 |
| B 5        | F 4           | St. Gabriel's Society, Minutes, lists of members and schedules, 1937-1944                                       |
| B 5        | F 5           | St. Gabriel's Society, Officers and members, 1943                                                               |
| B 5        | F 6           | St. Gabriel's Society, Receipts, 1935-1955                                                                      |
| B 5        | F 7           | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Annual Reports, 1914-1953                                                          |
| B 7        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Feb 1914-April 1918 (volume 21) (restricted)                              |
| B 7        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, April 1918-Jan 1922 (volume 22) (restricted)                              |
| B 7        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Feb 1922-Jan 1924 (volume 23) (restricted)                                |
| B 7        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Feb 1924-Jan 1926 (volume 24) (restricted)                                |
| B 7        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Feb 1926-Jan 1928 (volume 25) (restricted)                                |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Feb 1928-Sept 1929 (volume 26) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1929-Sept 1931 (volume 27) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1931-Sept 1933 (volume 28) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1933-Sept 1935 (volume 29) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1935-Sept 1937 (volume 30) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1937-Sept 1939 (volume 31) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1939-Sept 1941 (volume 32) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1941-Sept 1943 (volume 33) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1943-Sept 1945 (volume 34) (restricted)                               |
| B 8        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1945-Sept 1947 (volume 35) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1947-Sept 1949 (volume 36) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1949-Sept 1951 (volume 37) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1951-Sept 1953 (volume 38) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1953-Sept 1955 (volume 39) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1955-Sept 1957 (volume 40) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1957-Sept 1959 (volume 41) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1959-Sept 1961 (volume 42) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1961-Sept 1963 (volume 43) (restricted)                               |
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes, Oct 1963-Sept 1965 (volume 44) (restricted)                               |

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Folder Title</b>                                                                                              |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B 9        |               | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Membership and Attendance book, 1923-1929 (volume 45)                               |
| B 10       | F 1           | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Bulletin of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Central Council of St. Vincent de Paul, 1941 |
| B 10       | F 2           | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Correspondence and Miscellany, 1927-1944 (restricted)                               |
| B 10       | F 3           | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minutes of meetings of district No. 4, 1940                                         |
| B 10       | F 4-5         | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Records of Home Visits, with Correspondence, Last Names A-Z, 1930-1947 (restricted) |
| B 10       | F 6           | St. Vincent de Paul Society, Rules of the Society                                                                |
| B 6        |               | Ushers' Society, Minute Book, 1940-1947 (volume 19)                                                              |
| B 5        | F 8           | Ushers' Society, Minutes, 1947-1953, and miscellany                                                              |
| B 6        |               | Ushers' Society, Cash book, 1943-1949 (volume 20)                                                                |