



The following is the finding aid for the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, West Allis 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.](#)

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Congregation (West Allis, Wis.)
Records, 1934-1998
MC 103**

Volume

3.1 Cubic Feet, 2 Plaques, and 8 Ledgers

Access

Open/unrestricted except for the marriage files and some financial records.

Historical Note

In the early 1930s, a group of Italians in West Allis formed Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society through the leadership of Mr. Joseph LaBabera. This group petitioned Archbishop Samuel Stritch for a church of their own so that the needs of their Italian speaking community would be met. The Archbishop authorized a feasibility study which concluded that the group could not finance, erect, or maintain a church on their own.

The group then rented a building on 63rd and Lapham Boulevard for one year and Father George Delia served as their priest. In 1937, arrangements were made with Holy Assumption parish for the Italians to use the lower church and the group was assigned Father Albert Meyer.

In 1938, Mr. Joseph LaBabera began gathering funds for a new church. A site was purchased and the building began without the Archbishop's approval. In 1939, before completion, the Archbishop learned what had occurred and because the procedure was contrary to Canon Law, resolution meetings were held. The church was turned over to the Archdiocese and a priest would be sent to the church at completion. Until completion, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida were asked to take up residence near the church and provide religious instruction for children and since then the sisters have been an integral part of the parish.

On 21 September 1939, Father Raymond Leng was named the first administrator and the parish began its official existence. On 12 October 1946, Archbishop Kiley made the church a mission to St. Rita's Parish (which was an Italian parish on Milwaukee's east side). On 15 April 1948 Father Salvatore Tagliavia was assigned as resident administrator and in 1954 a house across from the church was purchased as a rectory and parish office. On 14 September 1956 Father Albert Valentino became Administrator and remained until his death in February 1991. Father James Posanski was the final administrator, beginning on 13 May 1991.

On Palm Sunday of 1992, the Korean Community began to have masses at Our Lady of Mount Carmel on alternating Sundays with Father Tom Trepanier and then on Pentecost Sunday of 1993, they began weekly Masses with Father John Mace.

In 1998, Our Lady of Mount Carmel closed as part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's consolidation plan. The final Mass was celebrated on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 12 July 1998.

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

This collection contains the records of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish and its parish societies.

The first series contains administrative records including general ledgers from 1939-1998, parish council and steering committee minutes, donor plaques, disbursement reports, tax exemption records, and the parish closing. The second series contains the bulletin collection with ten bound volumes from 1956-1996, unbound bulletins from 1988-1990 and 1997-1998. The third series contains the marriage records of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The fourth series contains records from parish organizations and activities including records from the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, and the Holy Name Society.

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
<i>Series 1: Administrative</i>		
B 2	F 3	Certificates, Blank, 1934, 1942
B 4		Council and Steering Committee Minutes, 1991-1996
B 2	F 5	Financial Records, Disbursement Batch Reports, 1991-1993
B 2	F 6	Financial Records, Miscellaneous, 1989-1998
B 2	F 7	Financial Records, Tax Exemption Records, 1993-1998
		General Ledgers, 8 Bound Volumes, 1939-1993 (restricted)
B 2	F 8-10	General Ledgers, 1992-1995 (restricted)
B 3	F 1-3	General Ledgers, 1995-1998 (restricted)
B 3	F 5	Miscellaneous, 1992-1997, n.d.
B 3	F 6	Parish Closing, 1998
		Plaques, Donors for the Outdoor Shrine and Special Donors, 1992, n.d.
<i>Series 2: Bulletins</i>		
B 1		Bulletins, 1956-1996
B 2	F 1-2	Bulletins, 1988-1998
<i>Series 4 - Organizations and Activities</i>		
B 2	F 4	Confraternity of Christian Mothers, 1963-1964, 1989
B 3	F 4	Holy Name Society, 1959-1992, n.d.
B 3	F 5	Miscellaneous, 1992-1997, n.d.
B 4		Holy Name Society General Ledger, Documents, 1935-1993, n.d.