



The following is the finding aid for the St. Mary Parish, Fond du Lac, 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. Mary Congregation (Fond du Lac, Wis.)
Records, 1883-2000
MC 126**

Volume
23.15 cubic feet

Access
Open/Unrestricted, except for some financial, legal; personnel and marriage case files are restricted.

Historical Note

St Mary's was established on November 15, 1865 by Father John C. Perrodin as a parish for the German residents of Fond du Lac. The public support for this new parish was extensive and construction of the church began on in February, 1866; it was completed and blessed by Archbishop John Henni on December 8, 1866. The church incorporated an existing German-Catholic school, in operation since 1857. The church underwent a series of renovations in the following years, including a repair effort in 1878 when the church was struck by lightning and nearly destroyed by fire.

In 1879, there was a period of strife as the Capuchin Order of Friars attempted to create their own competing parish, Sacred Heart, and even began building a church not one block away from St. Mary's. St. Mary's was briefly closed in 1880, but Archbishop Henni ordered it to be re-opened, and the Sacred Heart church closed in 1882. After that, the parish expanded greatly, building a new, larger school in 1887 and a larger church in 1901. A new school building was constructed in 1949, and consolidated with the St. Joseph school in 1978, becoming the St. Mary & Joseph School.

In the year 2000, after 134 years of incorporation, the parish was closed. It was consolidated with the St. Joseph, St. Louis, St. Patrick, St. Peter and Sacred Heart parishes of Fond du Lac to form Holy Family parish.

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

The collection is divided into nine series: Administrative, Building, Financial, Insurance, Legal, Personnel, Publications, School and Marriage Case Files

The Administrative Series contains committee minutes, including the Parish Council, demographic information, census records, status animarum and the parish constitution and bylaws. The Building Series contains administrative documents and communications related to the St. Mary's buildings, architectural documents, appraisals of the building and various photographs. The Financial series contains parish budgets and financial reports, listings of charitable contributions and donations and records from bank accounts. The Insurance series contains documents relating to health and property insurance for St. Mary's, as well as documentation of insurance assessments and workman's comp. The Legal series contains legal documents, including property deeds, abstracts of title, mortgages, waivers and proxies and

wills that concern the former St. Mary's parish. The Personnel series contains year-by-year payroll records for St. Mary's parish, as well as documents related to employment, payroll and pension. The Publications series contains mostly church bulletins and historical books, as well as other assorted documents. The School series contains all documents related to the St. Mary's school, including financial records, administrative documents, building records, personnel documents and photographs of the school.

Provenance

Transferred from St. Mary's Parish on July 17, 2000.

Processing Note

Processed by Donald McLeod, March-April 2014.

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders are listed alphabetically by 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
<i>Series 1: Administrative Records</i>		
B 1	F 1	Annual parish reports, 1943-1997
B 3-13		Census records
B 1	F 2	Annual parish reports, 1943-1997
B 1	F 3	Correspondence, 1895-1991
B 1	F 4	Demographic information, 1917-1997
B 1	F 5	District 8 priest meetings, 1978-1995
B 1	F 6	Fond du Lac Steering Committee, 1996
B 1	F 7	Fond du Lac surveys, 1993
B 1	F 8	General administrative documents, 1883-1998
B 1	F 9	Official Catholic Directory, 1985-1996
B 1	F 10-12	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1901-1979
B 2	F 1-2	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1980-1981, 1988, 1991-1998
B 2	F 3	Pastoral Staff, meeting meetings, 1996
B 2	F 4	Special Committee, meeting minutes, 1968
B 2	F 5	Status Animarium (parish annual reports), 1944-1990
B 2	F 6	Youth Ministry, 1994
<i>Series 2: Building Records</i>		
B 14	F 1	1960 remodeling project, 1958-1960
B 14	F 2	Administrative correspondence, 1944-1991
B 14	F 3-7	Appraisals, 1959-1993
B 15		Appraisals, 1962-1964, 1966-1972
B 16	F 1-6	Appraisals, 1972-1977
B 16	F 7	Architectural specifications, 1949-1991
B 16	F 8	Photographs
<i>Series 3: Financial Records</i>		
B 17	F 1	Bank documents and loans, 1948-1995 (restricted)
B 17	F 2	Bond documents, 1943-1949
B 17	F 3-4	Budgets, 1989-1999 (restricted)
B 17	F 5	Collections, special, 1890-1998 (restricted)

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 17	F 6	Finance committee, 1967-1991
B 17	F 7-16	Financial reports, 1924-1989
B 17	F 17	Major construction projects, 1982-1997
B 18		Pew rental ledgers, 1906-1934
		Pew rental and collections ledgers, 1937-1940
B 17	F 18	Property assessments, 1982-1997
B 18	F 19	Tax exemption documents, 1992-1998
<i>Series 4: Insurance Records</i>		
B 19	F 1	Health insurance
B 19	F 2-4	Property insurance
B 19	F 5	Workman's compensation insurance, 1969-1999
<i>Series 5: Legal Records</i>		
B 20	F 1-4	Abstracts of Title, 1939-1972
B 20	F 5	Bingo licensing, 1984-1995
B 20	F 6	Deeds, 1949-1994
B 20	F 7	Mortgages, 1951-1988
B 20	F 8	Waivers and proxies, 1970-1988
B 20	F 9-17	Wills, bequests, and estate
<i>Series 7: Publications</i>		
B 22-23		Bulletins, 1883-1997
B 23		"More Than Brick and Stone: A History of St. Mary's Parish," 1966 (2 copies)
B 23		St. Mary's Catholic Church 125 th Anniversary Book, 1991
<i>Series 5: Personnel and Payroll</i>		
B 21	F 1	Employment contracts, 1971-1996 (restricted)
B 21	F 2	Compensation documents, 1971-1996 (restricted)
B 21	F 3	Employment records, 1998 (restricted)
B 21	F 4	Job descriptions, 1992-1996 (restricted)
B 21	F 5	Life insurance and pension, 1975-1999 (restricted)
B 21	F 6-26	Payroll, 1963-1998 (restricted)
<i>Series 8: School Records</i>		
B 24	F 1-2	Administrative records, 1969-1997
B 24	F 3	Building information, 1984-1997
B 24	F 4	Financial, 1977-1997
B 24	F 5	Financial aid, 1977-1984 (restricted)
B 24	F 6	Personnel, general information, 1976-1995
B 24	F 7	Photographs
B 24	F 8	Publications, 1939-1987