



The following is the finding aid for the St. Elizabeth 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. Elizabeth Congregation (Milwaukee, Wis.)
Records, 1903-1993
MC 133**

Volume
26.20 cubic feet

Access
Open/unrestricted except for certain financial records, marriage case files, and minutes of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Consult the archivist for more details.

Historical Note
In the early 1880s the Capuchin Fathers at St. Francis of Assisi recognized the need for another church in the area, but because of the scarcity of priests in the Province the idea was abandoned. A petition was made again to Archbishop Heiss in 1890, but again the project was rejected due to a lack of priests. Finally, in 1902 Archbishop Katzer approved the idea and the Province purchased a lot on 2nd and Burleigh. The parish was named for St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and was chosen because of her devotion to the poor. The first building, a combination church and school, was completed in June of 1902. The new, permanent church was built in 1907. The church was designed to accommodate the parish's growth; however another addition was needed by 1914.

The parish continued to grow throughout the first half of the century, but during the 1960s St. Elizabeth witnessed a rampant exodus from the parish. Racial tensions at the parish were high, and each year at least a hundred families would move out. But it was the closure of the parish school in 1969 that was, for many, the final blow. That year over 1,000 parishioners left the parish. All of the parish societies died, with the exception of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Christian Mothers. During the 1970s the parish was able to achieve a degree of stability and the parish began to reach out more to the neighborhood. They began to organize more lay ministry and interfaith programs. In the 1980s the church had to be abandoned because the roof was leaking so severely. All of the pews were moved into the gym.

St. Elizabeth school opened in September of 1902 with about 120 children taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Several additions were put on the original building, and in 1926 a new school was built in the Lombard Romanesque style. This building would also serve as the parish hall and social center. The old school was turned into the Archdiocese's first Diocesan High School. The school moved in 1930 and would later become Messmer High School. The parish school closed in 1969 and was converted into a community school.

St. Elizabeth officially closed on October 31, 1994. Most of the parishioners of St. Boniface, St. Elizabeth, and St. Gall would join the newly created St. Martin de Porres parish.

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 1	F 1	Account Book, 1903-1918
B 1	F 2	Advancement Society, 1920-1925
B 1	F 3	Announcements, 1917-1919
B 1	F 4	Announcements, 1919-1921
B 1	F 5	Announcements, 1921-1923
B 1	F 6	Announcements, 1925-1926
B 1	F 7	Announcements, 1928-1932
B 2	F 1	Announcements, 1958-1963
B 2	F 2	Announcements, Dec 1975-1977
B 2	F 3	Bi-Parish Committee, 1984-1991
B 2	F 4	Bi-parish Financial Records, 1991-1993
B 2	F 5	Black Catholics, 9-22-77
B 2	F 6	Building Memorials, 1949-1965
B 18	F 1	Bulletins, 1958
B 18	F 2	Bulletins, 1959
B 18	F 3	Bulletins, 1960
B 18	F 4	Bulletins, 1961
B 18	F 5	Bulletins, 1962
B 18	F 6	Bulletins, 1963
B 18	F 7	Bulletins, 1964
B 18	F 8	Bulletins, 1965
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1966
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1967
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1968
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1969
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1970
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1971
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1972
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, Nov 1973-Oct 1974
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, Nov 1974-Oct 1975
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, Nov 1975-Oct 1976
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, Nov 1976-Oct 1977
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, Oct 1977-Dec 1978
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1979
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1980
B 19		Bulletins, Bound, 1981
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1982
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1983
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1984
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1985
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1986
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1987
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1988
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1989
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1990
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1991

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 20		Bulletins, Bound, 1992
B 2	F 7	Capuchin Canonical Visitation Reports, 1919-1948
B 2	F 8	Capuchin Centenary, 12-30-57
B 38-40		Card files, parishioners who moved
B 41-42		Card files, parishioners
B 38-40		Card files, street files
B 2	F 9	Celebrations of Cultures, 1989-1991
B 2	F 10	Central City Congress
B 35-37		Census cards
B 2	F 11	Christian Mothers
B 2	F 12	Convent Purchase from School Sisters of Notre Dame
B 2	F 13	Correspondence
B 2	F 14	Correspondence, Legal
B 3	F 1	Debts, Capital
B 3	F 2	Debt Drive 1920-1923
B 3	F 3	Finance, 1981-1986 (restricted)
B 3	F 4	Finance, Budgets, 1985-1990 (restricted)
B 3	F 5	Financial Records of Social Center, 1946-1955
B 3	F 6	Financial Reports to Archdiocese, 1944-1969 (restricted)
B 3	F 7	Financial Reports to Archdiocese, 1969-1972 (restricted)
B 3	F 8	Financial Reports to Congregation, 1905-1968 (various years)
B 3	F 9	Finance, Salaries of Friars and Sisters 1965-1978 (various years) (restricted)
B 3	F 10	Good News, 1985-1993
B 4	F 11	Harambee School
B 4	F 12	History, 25 th , 50 th , 75 th Anniversaries
B 4	F 13	History of Parish
B 4	F 14	Holy Name Correspondence, 1938-1971
B 4	F 15	Holy Name Minutes, Dec 1917- Sep 1926
B 4	F 16	Holy Name Minutes, Jun 1938-May 1946
B 5	F 1	Holy Name Minutes, May 1953-Jun 1965
B 5	F 2	Holy Name Newsletter, 1947-1965
B 5	F 3	Holy Name Officers, 1955-59, undated
B 5	F 4	Holy Name Treasurer's Reports, 1953-1961
B 5	F 5	Holy Name Executive Board Minutes, 1961-1965
B 5	F 6	Homeowners Boundaries
B 5	F 7	Insurance, 1960s
B 6	F 1	Insurance, 1970-1992
B 6	F 2	Inventory, Sacristy 1902-1957
B 6	F 3	Liturgy, Music and Devotions
B 6	F 4	Liturgy, Feast of St Elizabeth
B 6	F 5	Liturgy, Holy Week, 1985-1993, undated
B 6	F 6	Liturgy, Palm Sunday
B 6	F 7	Living Word
B 6	F 8	Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men Convention, 1962
B 6	F 9	Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men Monthly reports, 1961-1964
B 6	F 10	Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men Publications, Jan-May 1965
B 6	F 11	New Friary Construction, 1956-1958
B 7	F 1	Parish Committee Minutes
B 7	F 2	Pre-Parish Council Planning Group
B 7	F 3	Parish Council Constitution & Bylaws

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 7	F 4	Parish Council Installation & Retreats
B 7	F 5	Parish Council profiles
B 7	F 6	Parish Council Minutes, 1969
B 7	F 7-13	Parish Council Minutes, 1980-1987
B 7		Parish Council Minutes, 1982
B 8	F 1-6	Parish Council Minutes, 1988-1993
B 8	F 7	Parish Directory 1967, 1969, undated
B 8	F 8	Parish Meetings, 1987-1992
B 8	F 9	Personnel Policies
B 8	F 10	Photographs, Baptism
B 8	F 11	Photographs, Buildings and Renovations
B 8	F 12	Photographs, Celebration of Cultures
B 8	F 13	Photographs, Confirmation
B 8	F 14	Photographs, First Communion
B 9	F 1	Photographs, Harmabee School
B 9	F 2	Photographs, Miscellaneous
B 9	F 3	Photographs, Palm Sunday
B 9	F 4	Photographs, Parish Events
B 9	F 5	Photographs, Parish Retreat, 1985
B 9	F 6	Photographs, Rededication Anniversary, 1984
B 9	F 7	Photographs, Roof Raising & Rededication, 1983
B 9	F 8	Property appraisals
B 9	F 9	Property deeds & mortgages
B 9	F 10	Property, title abstracts
B 10	F 1	Properties, trailer, gym, credit union
B 10	F 2	Property, transfer to archdiocese, 1991
B 10	F 3	Relic authentications, 1912
B 10	F 4	Relic authentications, 1928
B 10	F 5	Renovation committee
B 10	F 6	Revival, 1989
B 10	F 7	Revival, 1990
B 10	F 8	Revival, 1991
B 10	F 9	Revival, 1992
B 10	F 10	St. Conrad House, Cream City lease
B 10	F 11	School construction, 1925
B 10	F 12	Shade Tree
B 10	F 13	Status Animarum (parish annual report), 1944-1962 (not a full run)
B 10	F 14	Synod March, 1987
B 10	F 15	Vestry Record Book, 1913-1918
B 11		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1913-1929 (5 volumes) (restricted)
B 12		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1929-1939 (5 volumes) (restricted)
B 13		St Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1939-1949 (5 volumes) (restricted)
B 14		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1949-1961 (6 volumes) (restricted)
B 15		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1961-1973 (7 volumes) (restricted)
B 16		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1973-1980 (6 volumes) (restricted)
B 17		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, 1981-1987 (6 volumes) (restricted)
B 17		St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes, Miscellaneous (restricted)