



The following is the finding aid for the St. Patrick Congregation, Milwaukee, Wis., 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. Patrick Congregation (Milwaukee, Wis.)

Records, 1875-1985 [bulk 1918-1976]

MC 98

Volume

8.30 cubic feet

Access

Open/unrestricted except for St. Vincent de Paul Society records.

Administrative Note

St. Patrick Catholic Church was organized in 1876 by Archbishop John Henni to fulfill the need of ministering to the influx of Irish and other English-speaking residents on Milwaukee's south side. The church is located on the corner of West Washington and South 7th Streets in the Walker's Point neighborhood of Milwaukee. The first pastor was Fr. John Vahey who served from 1876 to 1880. He erected a combination church and school building for \$20,000. He was followed by Fr. George L. Willard, who was assigned from 1880 to 1881. When Fr. Hiram F. Fairbanks arrived in 1881 the financial and spiritual needs of the community continued to grow, and once the parish debt was retired on the original church in 1892, he solicited subscriptions from parishioners to fund a new separate church, sisters convent, and school. Chicago architect James Egan designed the new church in 1893. The excitement was short lived as the depression of 1893 that hit the United States came to the Milwaukee area. This delayed the completion of the construction by two years. The church was officially dedicated by Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer on May 19, 1895.

The original decorations of the church were designed, free hand, by Witold J. Liskowiak of Liskowiak Studios in 1951 and restored in 1976. The statue of the Blessed Mother and Child was carved from carrara marble by the Italian sculptor Gaetano Trentanova.

Parish membership began at around 500 families when the church was first organized but dropped to around 300 by 1920 due to parishioners being pushed to the suburbs of Milwaukee. When Fr. Francis J. Pettit was assigned to the parish during that same year, he was able to get membership back up to 500 before resigning for health reasons, in 1947.

St. Patrick's Church school opened in 1876, with the students being initially taught by two lay women. For the next several years, religious sisters from the Sisters of Notre Dame, Dominicans, and Sisters of St. Agnes taught. Beginning in 1883, three Sisters of Mercy arrived from Europe to begin their 90 plus years of service to the students of the school. Student enrollment increased rapidly from 120 in 1885 to 265 in 1895. By 1920 this number had risen to 387 pupils. By 1969, low enrollment and the number of Sisters of Mercy teaching declining, the school closed and merged with St. Wenceslaus School.

Spanish-speaking parishioners began attending St. Patrick's in the mid-1960s, with the first Mass in Spanish held on Thanksgiving Day in 1969. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) began staffing St. Patrick's beginning in 1982 and nearby Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2006. Both parishes are still active as of September 2021.

The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and designated a Landmark of Milwaukee in 1975. In time for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the church in 1976.

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

The St. Patrick's Congregation collection contains records relating to the administrative and parish life of the church from 1875 to 1985. The collection contains architectural drawings of the rectory and church, financial ledgers, yearbooks, and photographs of parish activities, priests and sisters who served, interior and exterior views of the church, and parishioners. This collection also includes numerous minute and attendance ledger books of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ushers' Society, Young Ladies Sodality, and Holy Name Society. Of interest is the minute book for the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin from 1886 to 1897, three Latin language documents, and listing of parishioners who served in World War I.

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged 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	Agreement, Tyrolese Art Glass Company, 1894
B 1	F 2	Altar Society and St. Ann Society, 1877-1915
B 3	F 1	Anniversary, 50 th holy cards and Mass invitation, 1926
B 3	F 2	Anniversary, 75 th booklet, 1951
B 3	F 3	Anniversary, 100 th , 1976
B 3	F 4-5	Apostleship of Prayer League, Account ledger, 1916-1944
B 3	F 6	Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, Affiliation application, March 7, 1952
B 1	F 3	Architecture, James J. Egan architect agreement, 1893 and 1895
B 1	F 4	Architecture, Deeds and floor plans of church (photocopies), no date
B 1	F 7	Architecture, Albert Hauer and Son, Inc. painting estimate, Sept. 19, 1960
B 3	F 8	Architecture, Emil J. Lehmann lighting agreement and receipts, 1947-1948
B 3	F 9	Architecture, Liskowiak Studios decoration contract and details, 1950-1951
B 3	F 10	Architecture, Liskowiak Studios sanctuary and altar remodel agreement and proxy, 1966
B 3	F 11	Architecture, Proxies for assorted church property improvements, 1926, 1936, 1947, 1952, 1960
B 1	F 5	Architecture, Rectory specifications for materials, circa 1895
B 14	F 2	Architecture, Rectory remodel blueprints by Uehling and Linde, 1901
B 9		Architecture, School and meeting hall remodel specifications for materials, no date (rolled)
B 1	F 6	Architecture, Sisters of Mercy convent specifications for materials, no date
B 10	F 4	Bond, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Oct. 15, 1895
B 9		Building, Sisters of Mercy convent floor plan blueprints by Burst and Phillip, no date (rolled)
B 14	F 4	Building, St. Patrick's Church altar remodeling blueprints by Liskowiak Studios, 1966
B 9		Building, St. Patrick's Church basement floor plan blueprint by John A. Poohlman, July 15, 1922 (rolled)

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 9		Building, St. Patrick's Church decoration blueprints by Burst and Phillip, no date (rolled)
B 9		Building, St. Patrick's Church rectory new dining room floor plan blueprint by Burst and Phillip, no date (rolled)
B 14	F 3	Building, St. Patrick's Church rectory entry remodel for Fr. Robert Kelly, no date
B 3	F 12	Bulletin, March 2, 1975 (2 copies)
B 1	F 7	Catholic Family Life Insurance, Mortgage, 1960 and 1976
B 3	F 13	Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Constitution and bylaws, 1943
B 1	F 8	Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Correspondence, 1945-1947, no date
B 1	F 9	Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Branch No. 50 (Milwaukee) minutes, 1886-1897
B 3	F 14	Donors' list, St. Patrick's New Church, September 1896 (2 copies)
B 10	F 1	Etching, St. Patrick's Church by George New, no date
B 3	F 15	Financial, Cash book, 1944-1949
B 1	F 10	Financial, Fr. Hiram Fairbanks receipts, 1880-1881
B 1	F 11	Financial, Festival and fair account ledger, 1895-1902
B 3	F 16	Financial, John Janssen documents in 1944-1949 parish account ledger, 1950, 1956
B 3	F 17	Financial, Lot subscription ledger, circa 1894
B 13		Financial, Parish account ledger, 1876-1882
B 12		Financial, Parish account ledger, 1944-1949
B 12		Financial, Parish account ledger, 1949-1951
B 12		Financial, Parish account ledger, 1955-1958
B 14	F 1	Financial, Pew rent diagrams (2 items), 1928, 1931
B 13		Financial, Pew rent ledger, 1894
B 11		Financial, Pew rent ledger, 1904-1908
B 1	F 13	Financial, Pew rent books (2 items), no date
B 3	F 18	Financial, Pipe organ subscriptions, circa 1895
B 13		Financial, School fund subscriptions ledger, 1918-1919
B 3	F 19	Financial, William Schuelke Organ Company pipe organ rebuilding and modernization, 1951
B 3	F 20	Financial, Sisters of Mercy convent subscriptions ledger, 1919-1920
B 1	F 12	Financial, Subscription names and Fr. Hiram Fairbanks rectory inventory, 1875-1894
B 2	F 1	Financial, First National Bank of Ripon, WI, loan correspondence, 1947-1951
B 2	F 2	Financial, Financial reports, 1912-1937, 1972, 1974
B 10	F 2	Financial, Financial reports, 1919-1934, 1939, 1950
B 2	F 3	Financial, Receipts and disbursements, 1883-1912
B 11		Financial, Receipts and disbursements, 1929-1938
B 11		Financial, Receipts and disbursements, 1938-1944
B 3	F 21	History, Narrative and list of pastors and Sisters of Mercy who served parish, 1933, no date
B 3	F 22	Holy Name Society, Attendance ledger, 1907-1918
B 4	F 1	Holy Name Society, Attendance ledger, 1919-1924
B 4	F 2	Holy Name Society, Attendance ledger, 1925-1927
B 4	F 3	Holy Name Society, Council of Catholic Men affiliation certificate, 1959
B 4	F 4	Holy Name Society, "Charter Day" anniversary, November 13, 1949
B 4	F 5	Holy Name Society, John B. McCabe member medal and letter from daughter, circa 1906, no date
B 4	F 6	Holy Name Society, Minutes, 1906-1918
B 4	F 7	Junior Holy Name Society, Fr. Thomas F. Berry announcements, 1932, no date

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 4	F 8	Knights of Columbus, WI State Council membership and 23 rd annual convention delegates, 1923-1924
B 10	F 6	Latin, by Ludovicus Theissling, O.P. document, 1923
B 10	F 7	Latin, Indulgence documents (2 items), Sept. 1883
B 2	F 4	Legal, Abstract of title for Lots 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 Block 20, Walker's Point Addition, 1960-1961
B 2	F 5	Legal, Abstract of title for Lots 8, 10, 12 Block 20, Walker's Point Addition, 1895
B 2	F 6	Legal, Plat survey of 702 West Scott Street (Milwaukee), May 27, 1939
B 4	F 9	Legal, Will monetary disbursement and church loan correspondence, 1952, 1956, 1959
B 4	F 10	Loan, Marshall and Ilsley Bank, no date
B 2	F 7	Minutes, Joint special meeting of the Board of Directors, September 16, 1936
B 2	F 8	Mission, St. Anthony Mission letter (Zambia) from Fr. Reginald Kellogg, OFM Conv., Jan. 11, 1968
B 2	F 9	National Register of Historic Places and Landmark of Milwaukee, 1973-1975
B 2	F 10	Newspaper clippings, 1949-1952, 1976-1978, 1988
B 4	F 11	Organization, Religious education program (English and Spanish), 1973
B 4	F 12	Photographs, Alabare retreat, Feb. 23, 1985
B 4	F 13	Photographs, Altar servers, Feb. 1985
B 4	F 14	Photographs, Auction, March 1985
B 4	F 15	Photographs, Baptisms by Fr. Robert Glisch, no date
B 4	F 16	Photographs, Bread [Ministry], circa 1985
B 4	F 17	Photographs, Cleaning of statues, circa 1985
B 4	F 18	Photographs, Easter, 1985
B 4	F 19	Photographs, Festival, July 1985
B 4	F 20	Photographs, First Communion with Fr. Kenneth Derfus, May 1976
B 4	F 21	Photographs, Interior and exterior of church and rectory (from Centennial booklet), 1957, 1979, no date
B 4	F 22	Photographs, Jones brothers in World War II and Sisters of Mercy with unidentified young women, circa 1942
B 4	F 23	Photographs, Fr. Robert Kelly 25 th anniversary of priesthood, 1953
B 4	F 24	Photographs, Nativity, circa 1985
B 4	F 25	Photographs, Novier [?] (Spanish), no date
B 5	F 1	Photographs, Parish retreat, January 26, 1985
B 5	F 2	Photographs, Parish softball team (Spanish), no date
B 5	F 3	Photographs, Parishioners (from Centennial booklet), 1913, 1976, no date
B 5	F 4	Photographs, Priests who served at St. Patrick's (from Centennial booklet), no date
B 10	F 3	Photographs, School class graduation, 1920
B 5	F 5	Photographs, School class graduation, 1940 and 1950
B 5	F 6	Photographs, School group portraits contact sheets and negatives, no date
B 5	F 7	Photographs, Sisters of Mercy (from Centennial booklet), 1914, 1963-1973, no date
B 5	F 8	Photographs, Staff picnic by lake, circa 1985
B 5	F 9	Photographs, Unidentified identification of photographs lists, no date
B 5	F 10	Priests, Fr. Robert Kelly from Ray re: [subject unknown] letter, Dec. 14, 1932
B 5	F 11-12	Priests, Fr. Robert Kelly Modernism in Catholic Church course work, 1928
B 5	F 13	Priests, Fr. John Morrissey steel engraving, no date
B 5	F 14	Priests, Fr. Francis J. Pettit, 1927-1932
B 5	F 15	Profile, St. Patrick's Church by Fr. Kenneth Derfus, 1978, no date

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 5	F 16	Sacred Heart League, Membership and minutes, 1916-1952
B 9		School, Floor plan blueprint by John A. Poohlman, July 15, 1922 (rolled)
B 9		School, Hand drawn floor plan of 1 st and 2 nd floor with remodel, no date (rolled)
B 9		School, Floor plan blueprints for remodel by Uehling and Linde, no date (rolled)
B 5	F 17	School, Sisters of Mercy agreement to supply teachers, Sept. 1, 1927
B 5	F 18	School, Our Lady of Mercy academy history, 1923 (2 copies)
B 5	F 19	School, Play programs, 1935 and 1937
B 11		Slides, St. Patrick's Church Centennial anniversary Mass and activities, 1976
B 5	F 20	St. Patrick Day celebration programs and sheet music, 1906, 1908, 1965, no date
B 5	F 21	St. Rose's Sodality, Attendance ledger, 1927-1929
B 5	F 22	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Assorted papers, 1962-1963 (restricted)
B 8	F 1	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1925-1928 (restricted)
B 5	F 23	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Loose documents from 1925-1928 minute book, 1926-1927 (restricted)
B 8	F 2	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1928-1930 (restricted)
B 5	F 24	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Loose documents from 1928-1930 minute book, 1929-1930 (restricted)
B 8	F 3	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1933-1935 (restricted)
B 8	F 4	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1935-1937 (restricted)
B 6	F 1	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Loose documents from 1935-1937 minute book, 1936-1937 (restricted)
B 8	F 5	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1937-1939 (restricted)
B 2	F 11	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Loose documents from 1937-1939 minute book, 1937-1938 (restricted)
B 8	F 6	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1946-1947 (restricted)
B 8	F 7	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1947-1949 (restricted)
B 8	F 8	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1949-1951 (restricted)
B 8	F 9	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1951-1953 (restricted)
B 8	F 10	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1953-1955 (restricted)
B 8	F 11	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1955-1957 (restricted)
B 8	F 12	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Minute and record book, 1957-1959 (restricted)
B 6	F 2	Trustees, Minutes, 1935-1944
B 6	F 3	Ushers' Society, Constitution and by laws, Oct. 10, 1944
B 6	F 4	Ushers' Society, Ministry schedule, no date
B 6	F 5	Ushers' Society, Minutes, 1931-1936
B 6	F 6	Ushers' Society, Minutes, 1951-1961
B 6	F 7	Ushers' Society, Minutes, 1953-1964
B 6	F 8	Window Restoration Campaign, Brochure and committee list, no date
B 2	F 12	World War I, Parishioners in service, circa 1918
B 10	F 5	World War I, Parishioners in service with addresses, circa 1918
B 6	F 9	Yearbook, 1937-1939
B 6	F 10	Yearbook, 1939-1940
B 6	F 11	Yearbook, 1940-1941
B 6	F 12	Yearbook, 1941-1943
B 7	B 1	Yearbook, 1943-1945
B 7	B 2	Yearbook, 1945-1946
B 7	B 3	Yearbook, 1953-1955
B 7	B 4	Yearbook, 1955-1957
B 7	B 5	Yearbook, 1957-1960

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 7	B 6	Yearbook, 1960-1963
B 7	B 7	Yearbook, 1964-1967
B 7	B 8	Young Ladies' Sodality, Treasurer receipts and disbursements, 1911-1921
B 7	B 9	Young Ladies' Sodality, Minutes, membership, and officers ledger, 1919-1928