

# Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives:

## A brief guide for genealogists

### About Us:

The Office of Archives and Records is the official repository of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. We collect, preserve, and make available the historical records of the offices, missions, parishes, and schools of the Archdiocese. We welcome researchers and we provide access to our collections as permitted by the Code of Canon law, civil law, and conservation considerations. Find collections and guides on our Collections page at <https://www.archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives/research/collections>. Please note that this is not a comprehensive guide to all of the collections in the Archives.

### Sacramental Registers

- Access: Records are open from 1930 and prior.
  - Available on microfilm at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh <http://www.slcl.org/>
  - Available digitally at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>. In the catalog, search the author field for 'Catholic Missouri' to pull up all Catholic Churches in the state of Missouri. You can search 'Catholic Missouri [name of church]' to pull up that churches records. See the how-to video at <https://youtu.be/SGaJvmY0ux0>.
  - If there are gaps that the microfilm doesn't cover, feel free to contact the Archdiocesan Archives. Only archives staff may search and retrieve information from original registers.
- *Types of sacramental registers:*
  - Baptism and Marriage:
    - Best sources of genealogical information
    - Contain name, birth date, parents, godparents/sponsors, and baptismal date.
    - Can also contain birth place, residence/address, other sacramental info like marriage, confirmation, etc.
  - First Communion, Confirmation, Death/Burial:
    - Less common and less biographically complete, but can have useful information.
    - May contain age, residence/address, parentage, confirmation name, cause of death/sickness, place of burial, etc.
- Find an interactive map of all present and historical archdiocesan parishes on our Collections page: <https://www.archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives/research/collections>

### Catholic Cemeteries

- Catholic Cemeteries Office owns **17 of 54** Catholic cemeteries
  - ALL their burials indexed at database at <http://archstl.org/cemeteries/>
- Individual parishes own remaining cemeteries – contact them directly

### Parish Records

- *May contain:* Priest appointments, historical boundaries, photographs, news clippings, parish history booklets, correspondence with Chancery (bulk is 1945-1985), administrative and buildings records (bulk is 1945-1985), special mass programs, artifacts, bulletins, etc.
- Check with us, but don't forget to also contact the open parish for historical information

### Religious Sisters

- Contact the religious order's archives. If you do not know what order the Sister was in, we *might* be able to help depending on how much information you can provide.

Archdiocese of Saint Louis Archives and Records

20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis MO 63119-5738

Phone: 314.792.7020 | Fax: 314.792.7029 | Email: [archives@archstl.org](mailto:archives@archstl.org)

<http://archstl.org/archives>

## Archdiocesan Priest Personnel Records

- *Access:* Complete files are restricted
- *Holdings:* Archdiocesan priests only. If clergy was affiliated with a religious order, like the Jesuits, we will not have a file on him. Contact that religious order's archives directly.
- *May contain:* Vita or Appointment Card, photographs, obituary or memorial card, newspaper clippings

## Archdiocesan School Records

- Grade Books and Rosters
  - *Access:* Records open 1930 and prior. Only city schools. The Archives does not hold all schools' records, nor a complete chronological run per school.
  - *May contain:* Name, birth date or age, address, grades, and absences
- Historical records and photos: Check with us, but don't forget to also contact:
  - The open parish or school
  - The archives of the religious order that taught there
  - Alumni groups online

## Orphanage Records

- *Access:* Information open to researchers December 31, 1930 and prior. All records relating to an adoption fall under **Mo. Ann. Stat. § 453.121 (2011)** and the access restrictions outlined therein. Only archives staff members may search and retrieve information from these records.
- *Holdings:*
  - St. Joseph Home for Boys
  - St. Mary's Female Orphan Asylum
  - St. Ann's Hospital and Foundling Asylum
- *May contain:* Child's name and birth date, date of admittance/separation, parent/guardian(s) releasing the child to the orphanage, family circumstances relating to admittance
- Find a *List of Historical Catholic Orphanages and Child Care Centers* on our Collections page: <https://www.archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives/research/collections>.
- *Researching Orphans and Orphanage Care in St Louis* by Viki Faygal can be purchased at the St. Louis Genealogical Society's online store at <https://stlgs.org/products-and-store>.

## Newspapers

- Digitized Newspapers available ONLINE at <https://www.catholicresearch.org/>
  - Shepherd of the Valley, 1832-1836 and 1850-1854
  - St. Louis Register, 1941-1956 (precursor to St. Louis Review)
- Newspapers on Microfilm
  - St. Louis Review, 1957-present
  - The Catholic News Letter, 1845-1847
  - Pastoral-Blatt, 1866-1925. Our holdings are incomplete.
  - Western Watchman, ran 1869-1933. We hold 1872-1933
  - Church Progress and the Catholic World, 1882-1933
  - The Catholic Herald, 1921-1948
  - Gaps in our news collection are mostly covered by the collections at St. Louis County Library, Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis University and Notre Dame University.

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