



The following is the finding aid for the St. Louis 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. Louis Congregation (Fond du Lac, Wis.)
Records, 1875-2000
MC 124**

Volume

14.9 cubic feet

Access

Open/unrestricted except for certain Administrative, Financial and Marriage records. Consult Archivist for details.

Historical Note

St. Louis parish was the first Catholic Church established in Fond du Lac, WI. It was built in 1847 by Father Bonduel. The chapel was named after Louis IX, the King of France due to the large influx of French missionaries in the area. The first pastor of St. Louis was Father Casper Rehrl. The rectory was added in 1854. Rev. J.C. Perrodin came to St. Louis in 1860 and formed the “Society of St. Louis” which was an organization with the goal of constructing an all-French parish. Perrodin eventually spearheaded the construction of a new church in 1868. The first mass in the new church was held in the partially completed basement on December 25, 1870. The brick rectory was built in 1874, and the characteristic twin steeples were completed in 1891.

In 1917, Archbishop Messmer announced St. Louis would be served by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Shortly after, in 1920, all sermons were set to be spoken in English. On December 28, 1938 the brick rectory burned and was destroyed, but the church had minimal damage. The new rectory was built of stone soon after. Later, Father Wilfrid Upson, OMI oversaw the establishment of St. Louis’s Parish Council which began in October 1969. St. Louis’s partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate ended in 1986. At this time, Father Jerome Wagner came to the parish and would remain until the parish’s closing. Around this time Fond du Lac began to see a rising Spanish-speaking population and St. Louis’s Hispanic Ministry began in 1997.

The first St. Louis school was built in 1880-81. A second school was started in 1895 by Father Boucher. The school’s students were taught by French nuns for a year, then teaching positions were taken over by the Sisters of St. Agnes. In 1947 it was announced that all high-school students from the parish would attend St. Mary’s Springs High School. Elementary students stayed at St. Louis. Father Tardif began a campaign to build a new school in 1953. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Morissette, OMI in 1955, who saw the rest of the project through, and the school was completed in 1958. Eventually in 1992, St. Louis school became part of the F.A.C.E.S. consolidation.

St. Louis consolidated with the other Fond du Lac Catholic parishes and closed in 2000. It became part of the new Holy Family parish of Fond du Lac.

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

This collection is organized into six series: Administrative, Financial, Historical, Organizations, School, and Marriage Prenuptial files. The Administrative series consists of by-laws, bulletins, correspondence, Parish Council records, Trustee records, rosters, and parish planning records. The Financial series include budgets, financial statements, fundraising and stewardship records, property records and general ledgers. The Historical series consists of photographs, news clippings, scrapbooks, and parish directories and anniversary booklets. The Organizations series includes records from various groups which include: Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, Evangelization, FOCUS, Heritage Club, Ecumenism, St. Vincent de Paul, Loaves and Fishes, and the Archie Green Memorial. The Schools series is made up of FACES (Fond du Lac Area Catholic Education System), school building, teachers union, St. Mary's Springs-related records, the St. Louis/St. Patrick merger, enrollment and boundaries, school board, by-laws, consortium, and school finances. Marriage Prenuptial files are restricted.

Accession 20 08 19 contains duplicate Parish Council meeting minutes with added subcommittee meeting records and related documents.

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 5	F 1	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, n.d.
B 3	F 1-4	Bequests
B 1-2		Bulletins, 1940-1942, 1982-1999
B 5	F 2	Calendar and Mass intencion book, 1948, 1950
B 5	F 3	Correspondence, archbishops, 1957-1998
B 6	F 1	Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1967-1999
B 5	F 4	Correspondence, parishioners, 1918, 1970-1991
B 5	F 5-7	Correspondence and newsletters, 1992-2000
B 6	F 2	Health department reports, 1982, 1990
B 6	F 3	Liturgy, mass booklets, 1980s-1990s
B 6	F 4	Parish Council, constitution and bylaws, n.d.
B 6	F 5	Parish Council, correspondence, 1976-2000
B 6	F 6	Parish Council, elections, 1971-2000
B 6	F 7	Parish Council, liturgy committee, 1983-1993
B 6	F 8-10	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1969-1986
B 7	F 1-3	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1986-2000
B 28	F 2-10	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1969-1990
B 7	F 4	Parish Council, public relations committee, 1975-1987
B 7	F 5	Parish membership lists, 1988-1997
B 7	F 6	Parish planning, 1979-1995
B 4	F 1-2	Parish Trustees, minute book, original and typed copy, 1905-1976
B 7	F 7	Religious Education, parent information booklets, 1988-1999
B 7	F 8	Religious Education, parent newsletters, 1981-1993
B 8	F 1	Religious Education, parent newsletters, 1994-2000
B 8	F 2	Religious Education, teacher newsletters, 1988-1998
B 8	F 3	Sacraments, baptism instructions and information, n.d.
B 8	F 4	Sacraments, confirmation programs, 1984-2000

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 8	F 5	Sacraments, first communion programs, 1965-2000
B 8	F 6	Sacraments, first reconciliation programs, 1973-2000
B 8	F 7	Sisters of St. Agnes, 1969-1985
<i>Series 2: Financial Records</i>		
B 8	F 8	Annual Reports, 1935-1957
B 9	F 1	Annual Reports, 1958-1962
B 10	F 1-2	Annual Reports, 1963-1999
B 11	F 1-3	Balance Sheets, 1987-1998 (restricted)
B 10	F 3	Benefactors of the Stained Glass Windows, n.d.
B 11	F 4	Budgets, 1992-1999 (restricted)
B 11	F 5	Contributions, 1990, 1992, 1998 (restricted)
B 28	F 1	Financial reports, miscellaneous, 1969-1990
B 9	F 2	Fundraising, bingo reports, 1978-1991
B 9	F 3	Fundraising, lucky calendars, 1993-1996
B 9	F 4	Fundraising, parish festival, 1976-1999
B 9	F 5	Fundraising, various events
B 12		General ledgers, 1981-1986 (restricted)
B 11	F 6-11	General ledgers, 1988-1998 (restricted)
B 11	F 12	Insurance, certificates of insurance, 1976-2000
B 11	F 13	Insurance, Fotis Benefits Insurance Co. - long term disability
B 11	F 14	Insurance, Heritage policy, 1977-1982
B 11	F 15	Insurance, liability insurance policies, 1953-1976
B 11	F 16	Insurance, long term disability claims, n.d.
B 11	F 17	Insurance, property insurance, 1962-1980
B 11	F 18	Insurance, property insurance claims, 1977-1986
B 11	F 19	Insurance, Wisconsin Employers Association, Inc., n.d.
B 11	F 20	Insurance, workman's compensation insurance, n.d.
B 10	F 4	Parish development campaign, 1961
B 9	F 6	Parish Organizations, financial reports, 1969-1973 (restricted)
B 13		Payroll, 1970-1999 (restricted)
B 11	F 21-23	Property, appraisals, 1956-1978
B 10	F 5	Property, convent, n.d.
B 11	F 24	Property, mortgage records, n.d.
B 11	F 25	Property, proxies, 1936-1996
B 10	F 6	Status Animarum, financial reports, 1944-1971 (restricted)
B 9	F 7	Stewardship, home visit program, 1996-1997
B 9	F 8	Stewardship programs, 1989-1998
B 9	F 9	Tax exempt information, 1962-1983
<i>Series 3: Historical Records</i>		
B 14	F 1	150 th Anniversary, Archdiocese, Fond du Lac celebrations, 1993
B 14	F 2	150 th Anniversary, Fond du Lac area Catholicism, 1996-1998
B 14	F 3	Anniversary/Jubilee booklets, 1947, 1970, 1998
B 14	F 4	Calendar, 1996
B 14	F 5	Centennial, 1970
B 17	F 1	Centennial Tiles, 1947
B 14	F 6-7	Directories, 1987, 1992, 1995
B 14	F 8	General parish histories, n.d.

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 14	F 9	Historical landmark designation, 1974-1996
B 14	F 10	News clippings, n.d.
B 14	F 11	Newsletters, <i>The St. Louis Crier</i> , 1987-1993
B 14	F 12	Oblates of Mary Immaculate, farewell dinner, 1986
B 14	F 13	Quasquicentennial, 1995
B 15	F 1-2	Photographs, anniversary display, n.d.
B 15	F 3	Photographs, building, exterior, n.d.
B 15	F 4	Photographs, building, interior, n.d.
B 15	F 5	Photographs, building, school, n.d.
B 15	F 6	Photographs, centennial celebration, 1947
B 15	F 7	Photographs, directory templates, n.d.
B 15	F 8	Photographs, First Communion, n.d.
B 17	F 2	Photographs, First Communion (oversized), n.d.
B 15	F 9	Photographs, graduation, n.d.
B 15	F 10	Photographs, Jim Reinke's Oblation, 1975
B 15	F 11	Photographs, negatives, n.d.
B 16	F 1	Photographs, parish picnic, 1975
B 16	F 2	Photographs, parish reunion, 1975
B 16	F 3-5	Photographs, people, n.d.
B 16	F 6-7	Photographs, potluck, 1974-1975
B 16	F 8	Photographs, priests, n.d.
B 16	F 9	Photographs, school construction, n.d.
B 16	F 10	Photographs, school people, n.d.
B 16	F 11	Photographs, special events, n.d.
B 16	F 12	Scrapbook, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) at St. Louis, n.d.
B 16	F 13	Scrapbook, parish history, n.d.
<i>Series 4: Parish Organizations</i>		
B 18	F 1	Activities Committee, events, 1985-1986
B 18	F 2	Administrative Services Committee, meeting minutes, 1987-1996
B 19	F 1	Archie and Clara Green Memorial Fund, administration, 1982-1991 (restricted)
B 19	F 2	Archie and Clara Green Memorial Fund, student aid, 1984-1994 (restricted)
B 18	F 3	Archie and Clara Green Memorial Fund, meeting minutes, 1984-1989
B 19	F 3	Archie and Clara Green Memorial Fund, trust account, 1983-1990 (restricted)
B 18	F 4	Christian Formation Committee, meeting minutes, 1987-1999
B 18	F 5	Family Ministry, general information, 1996-1997
B 18	F 6	Fond du Lac Area Clergy Association, meeting minutes, 1985-1991
B 18	F 7	Fond du Lac Area Congregation United and Strong (FOCUS), 1992-1995
B 18	F 8	Heritage Club, reports, 1980-1984
B 18	F 9	Human Concerns Committee, meeting minutes, 1985-2000
B 18	F 10	Inter-Parish Vocational Council, 1965-1998
B 18	F 11	Loaves and Fish Program, 1991-1998
B 18	F 12	Parish Festival Committee, newsletters, 1987-1999
B 18	F 13	Property and Maintenance Committee, meeting minutes, 1985-1987
B 18	F 14	Societe St. Jean Baptiste, constitution, 1875 (French)
B 18	F 15	Societe St. Louis de Secours Mutuels, constitution, 1873 (French)
B 18	F 16	St. Vincent de Paul Society, annual reports, 1982-1999
B 18	F 17	Valuing Your Sexuality Program, general information, 1988
B 18	F 18	Youth Ministry, newsletters, 1996-1997

Box	Folder	Folder Title
<i>Series 5: School Records</i>		
B 20	F 1	Administrative records
B 20	F 2	Board, bylaws
B 20	F 3-4	Board, meeting minutes, 1982-1990
B 20	F 5	Boundaries
B 20	F 6	Building, correspondence, 1945-1958
B 20	F 7	Building, financial, 1957-1959
B 20	F 8	Building, property information
B 20	F 9	Collaboration study, 1985-1986
B 20	F 10	Consolidation, correspondence, 1985-1993
B 20	F 11	Consolidation, recommendations and models
B 20	F 12	Consolidation, surveys and research
B 21	F 1	Consolidation Task Force, meeting minutes, 1990-1991
B 21	F 2	Consortium, administration, 1973-1978
B 21	F 3	Consortium, correspondence, 1974-1878
B 21	F 4	Consortium, meeting minutes, 1975-1979
B 21	F 5	Correspondence, 1984-1992
B 21	F 6	Enrollment, 1983-1997
B 21	F 7	FACES (Fond du Lac Area Catholic Education System), administration
B 21	F 8	FACES, board meeting minutes, 1991-1998
B 22	F 1	FACES, correspondence, 1992-1999
B 22	F 2	FACES, events, 1994-1996
B 22	F 3	FACES, financial, 1992-1998
B 22	F 4	FACES, newsletters, 1992-1999
B 22	F 5	Financial records, 1967-1992
B 22	F 6	Shared Time, 1965
B 22	F 7	St. Louis School, general information before merger, 1956-1958
B 22	F 8	St. Louis School and St. Patrick School merger, 1969-1973
B 22	F 9	St. Mary Springs High School, parishioner child enrollment, 1954-1992
B 22	F 10	St. Mary Springs High School, petition, 1963-1969
B 22	F 11	St. Mary Springs High School – subsidies
B 22	F 12	Teacher Union, 1973-1974