



First Cathedral of St. Paul

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives

Information for genealogical researchers

The Archdiocesan Archives contains microfilm copies of sacramental records (Baptism, Marriage, Death) for most parishes in the Minnesota counties of Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Rice, Scott, Washington, and Wright. The Archives also has some burial records for the metropolitan Catholic Cemeteries of Calvary (St. Paul), St. Mary's and St. Anthony (Minneapolis), and some rural churches.

Parishes do not respond to requests for genealogical information, nor are sacramental certificates issued for that purpose.

** Those interested in Stillwater area genealogy may want to check out the Washington County Historical Society at <http://www.wchsmn.org/>

General questions can also be directed to the Warden's House Museum located at 602 Main St. N, Stillwater MN

phone: 651.439.5956 Email: information@wchsmn.org

Requesting copies of Sacramental Records

Requesting Sacramental Certificates

All requests for Sacramental Certificates (official documents attesting to a sacrament having been conferred) created since January 1, 1917, should go to the **parish** that holds the sacramental record book. In the case of parishes that have merged, the records reside with the receiving parish. A list of the location of records for merged parishes can be found in **pdf format** in the Related Content section below. Sacramental records are issued for the purpose of establishing that a sacrament has been conferred or not conferred. They are not issued for the purpose of genealogical research. The requester must be an authorized recipient.

Authorized recipients include:

- The individual named in the record (if over age 18 or an emancipated minor)
- A parent or legal guardian of the individual (if the individual is under 18)
- Officials of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, other dioceses, or of parishes of the Archdiocese or of other Roman Catholic Dioceses.

- Other parties as designated or permitted by court order, subpoena, summons, or state or federal statute.

Parishes do not respond to requests for genealogical information, nor are sacramental certificates issued for that purpose.

Requesting Genealogical Information

The archives of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis house microfilm copies of baptism, marriage, and death records for most parishes in the counties of Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Le Sueur, Rice, Scott, Washington, and Wright. We do not, as a rule, have copies of first communion, confirmation, or burial records.

Sacramental records are not public records. However, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis recognizes that sacramental records have value to family historians and we therefore make nearly 100 years' worth of sacramental records available to genealogists as a service of the Archdiocese. **Records created before January 1, 1917 are available for genealogy research, except in cases where particular records are restricted by canon law.** To protect confidentiality, all genealogical research is done by archives staff. No genealogical research is done by parishes. We cannot accommodate on-site researchers. If the sacramental record you are looking for is located in the Archdiocesan archives, you will receive a scanned copy of the register entry.

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis offers a fee-based genealogy research service. **The cost is \$30 for up to three searches.** This fee covers the cost of staff time to search our records, and supports the ongoing microfilming of sacramental records. You are responsible for this fee whether or not staff locate the record you are seeking. You may pay online via credit card at the time your order is placed. We no longer accept cash or personal checks.

In order to process your request we must have three pieces of information: Name of the person you are searching for, the parish where the sacrament was conferred, and the approximate date of the sacrament. Because there is no index to all of the names in all of our sacramental registers, we must know in which parish's registers to locate the record. If you do not know where the sacrament was conferred **please refer to this [FAQ section](#)** for research tips.

[Click here to submit a Genealogical Research Request.](#)

You may send inquiries to the Archivist at this address:

Archdiocesan Archivist
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Email: archives@archspm.org
651-291-4485
