

Finding Catholic Church Records in Ohio

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Introduction to Catholic Church Records

Many Catholic church records exist for Ohio, but few are online or microfilmed. These can be excellent substitute sources for vital records that do not exist or have been lost. Once you know who has the records, make arrangements to view or get copies of your ancestor's entries. Be prepared to pay for copy costs and a donation for their time if they don't charge for research. Local genealogical and historical societies often know about churches and their collections. Some may have copies of their records. Make sure to contact them for help.

Is my ancestor Catholic?

There are many records that provide clues to help you determine if your ancestor was Catholic. Some of the records include:

- Family papers
- Newspaper announcements
- Obituaries
- School records (especially if they went to a Catholic school)
- Cemetery records
- Records of extended family members

What records do I need?

The Catholic church is excellent at recording events that occur in their church. Many of these sacrament records have useful information for those researching their ancestors. The following are the most useful for genealogists:

- Baptisms - often occurs soon after birth, watch for the godparents, they are often related
- Communion - usually occurs in 3rd grade (when the child is about 8 or 9)
- Confirmation - usually occurs when the child is between 13 to 16 years old
- Marriage - sponsors / witnesses (if listed) are often family or close friends
- Burial

Catholic Sacrament Records

- What records are restricted by privacy law?
- What records are online?
- Is there a cost to get copies of the records?
- Are there any published indexes?

Finding Catholic Church Records

Many Ohio Catholic Church exist, but most are not online. Once you identify the diocese where your ancestor attended, you will need to determine the church your ancestor attended to more easily obtain copies of the records. Records are often organized by the parish within the diocese. Without knowing their parish, it will be much more difficult to get a copy of the record.

Check with your local genealogical and / or historical society to see if they have created any indexes for the Catholic parishes in their area. The Hamilton County Genealogical Society has created many indexes for the baptism and burials which are available in book form. These indexes are so helpful and save so much time finding the original record.

Where can I find Ohio Catholic church records?

- On site locally at the local diocese / archdiocese
- Ohio History Connection
- Find My Past
- Ancestry.com
- My Heritage
- FamilySearch

Finding Online Collections

For Catholic records, you will need to determine which archdiocese covers your area and contact their archive for copies of the records.

Ohio Dioceses <https://ohiocathconf.org/about/ohio-dioceses>

- **Archdiocese of Cincinnati:** Adams, Auglaize, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and Warren Counties. The Catholic Records in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are available and cover many of the southern Ohio counties, but research requests costs \$25 for 4 sacrament records. <https://catholicaoc.org/offices/archives>
- **Diocese of Cleveland:** Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit, and Wayne Counties. Records at the Archives of the Diocese of Cleveland. <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/chancellor/archives>
- **Diocese of Columbus:** Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hardin, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Union, and Vinton Counties. Records at <https://columbuscatholic.org/catholic-record-society>
- **Diocese of Steubenville:** Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties. Records at <https://diosteub.org/archives-and-records>
- **Diocese of Toledo:** Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot Counties. Records at <https://toledodiocese.org/page/archives>
- **Diocese of Youngstown:** Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, and Trumbull. Records kept at Kent State University. <https://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/catholic-diocese-youngstown-ohio-records>

Ohio History Connect has many church records <https://ohiohistory.libguides.com/c.php?g=925760&p=6672335>

Find-My-Past also has Roman Catholic Parish records for Cincinnati and Toledo:

- Toledo
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ohio-diocese-of-toledo-catholic-parish-records-1796-2004-image-browse>
- Cincinnati Baptisms
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/cincinnati-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms>
- Cincinnati Burials
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/cincinnati-roman-catholic-parish-burials>
- Cincinnati Marriages
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/cincinnati-roman-catholic-parish-marriages>
- Cincinnati Congregational Records
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/cincinnati-roman-catholic-parish-congregational-records>
- Cincinnati Parish Browse
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/cincinnati-roman-catholic-parish-browse>

Ancestry.com

- Diocese of Toledo Catholic Records <https://ancestry.com/search/collections/60099/>