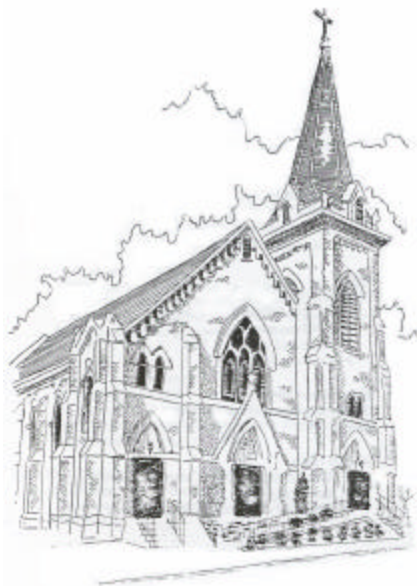


Catholic Church Records and Genealogy



***Kenton County Public Library
502 Scott Blvd.
Covington, KY 41011
(859) 962-4060***

What Are Catholic Church Records?

The center of life for Catholics is the parish church. Here, the Sacraments are received and public worship is conducted. In 1547, the Council of Trent decreed that records be kept for each individual on the parish level. The most common records kept on the parish level include: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.

Baptismal Records Baptismal records typically include the name of the person being baptized, the name of the parents (including the mother's maiden name), the names of the sponsors and the dates of birth and baptism.

Marriage Records This is perhaps the most useful Catholic record for genealogists. Marriage records typically contain the names of the bride and groom, their parents' names (including the mothers' maiden names), the date of marriage and the witnesses' names. Many marriage records also include the date of birth of the bride and groom and the name of the church in which they were baptized.

Burial Records Burial records typically contain the name of the deceased, the deceased age, death and burial dates, a cause of death and the place of burial.

Cemetery Records Catholics traditionally established cemeteries for the burial of their loved ones. The records from Catholic cemeteries vary from place to place. Most cemeteries contain the names of the deceased, the location in the cemetery in which they are laid to rest and the age of the deceased. Some records also give the name of the parish in which the Funeral Mass was conducted.

Hospital Records Catholic hospitals exist throughout the United States. In Northern Kentucky, the primary Catholic Hospital is St. Elizabeth Medical Center. The Kenton County Public Library owns copies of the hospital's admissions records from 1861 to 1947 on microfilm.

Keep In Mind

There were two types of Catholic parishes in the United States: Territorial (parishes that served the English-speaking population) and National (parishes that served a particular ethnic group). All parishes had specific boundaries. All Catholics living within a particular parish boundary were expected to attend that church. (Note: Territorial and National parish boundaries frequently overlapped).

How Can I Determine Which Parish My Ancestor Attended?

To determine which parish your ancestor attended, find their address in a local city directory. Once you have an address, check a local atlas and see which parishes are nearby (Remember, English-Speaking Catholics and Non English-Speaking Catholics typically attended different parishes). Keep in mind that churches have moved over the years and others have closed.

Where Can I find These Records?

Catholic Church records are kept on the parish level. Many parishes and dioceses, however, have microfilmed their records and made them available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and at local public Libraries. The Kenton County Public Library maintains a large collection of Northern Kentucky Catholic Church Records (see the back page of this brochure for details).

Catholic Church Records Available on Microfilm at Kenton County Public Library, Covington

Alexandria, Campbell County
St. Mary 1860-1927

Augusta, Bracken County
St. Augustine 1860-1925

Bellevue, Campbell County
St. Anthony 1889-1924

Brooksville, Bracken County

St. James 1860-1947

Camp Springs, Campbell County

St. Joseph (German) 1843-1924

Carrollton, Carroll County

St. John the Evangelist 1855-1925

Cold Spring, Campbell County

St. Joseph 1874-1924

Covington, Kenton County

Cathedral/St. Mary's 1850-1924

Holy Cross (German) 1891-1924

Mother of God (German) 1842-1924

St. Aloysius (German) 1865-1986

St. Ann 1862-1930

St. Augustine (German) 1870-1924

St. Benedict (German) 1885-1987

St. John the Evangelist (German) 1855-1981

St. Joseph 1856-1970

St. Patrick 1872-1967

Cynthiana, Harrison County

St. Edward 1872-1925

Dayton, Campbell County

St. Bernard/St. Francis (German) 1854-1924

Elsmere/Erlanger

St. Henry 1904-1924

Falmouth, Pendleton County

St. Francis Xavier 1868-1925

Flemingsburg, Fleming County

St. Charles Borromeo 1900-1925

Florence, Boone County

St. Paul 1862-1924

Fort Thomas, Campbell County

St. Thomas 1895-1925

John's Hill/Wilder, Campbell County

St. John the Baptist (German) 1859-1924

Ludlow, Kenton County

St. Boniface (German) 1872-1924

St. James 1887-1924

Mayslick, Mason County

St. Rose of Lima 1885-1925

Maysville, Mason County

St. Patrick 1848-1925

Melbourne, Campbell County

St. Philip 1910-1926

Morningview, Kenton County

St. Mary 1860-1925

Newport, Campbell County

Corpus Christi (German) 1845-1924

Immaculate Conception 1856-1909

St. Stephen, Newport (German) 1855-1924

St. Vincent de Paul 1916-1992

Sandfordtown, Kenton County

Holy Guardian Angels (German) 1867-1994

Stepstone, Campbell County

Immaculate Conception 1858-1912

Twelve Mile/California, Campbell County

Ss. Peter and Paul (German) 1848-1925

Warsaw, Gallatin County

St. Joseph 1862-1925

