



## A Whole New World of Catholic Records

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*Catholic records can be found in a wide variety of sources: major online providers, like Findmypast, FamilySearch, Ancestry, and MyHeritage, diocesan sites, state and university archives, independent country-wide portals and repertoires. More and more record sets are being digitized and placed online. With simplified access for sacramental records, be sure to investigate related topics, like Catholic cemeteries, schools, and parish histories, to enhance your ancestors' story.*

### Resources

1. Alzo, Lisa A. "The Three R's of Researching Roman Catholic Church Records." *Archives.com*. 14 May 2013. (<http://www.archives.com/experts/alzo-lisa/researching-roman-catholic-church-records.html>).
2. *American Ancestors*, "Guide to Language and Terminology in Catholic Records" ([www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)).
3. *American Catholic Historical Society* ([www.amchs.org](http://www.amchs.org)) books, directories, periodicals, manuscripts, parish histories, photographs, and artifacts relating to American Catholic history.
4. *Catholic News Archive* (<https://thecatholicnewsarchive.org>) text-searchable collection of four national and nine diocesan newspapers.
5. *Catholic Research Resources Alliance*, Catholic Newspapers Program (CNP), 200+ newspapers in the US and Canada listed by location and diocese with links (<https://crra.memberclicks.net/catholic-newspapers-online>).
6. *FamilySearch*. "Latin Genealogical Word List" ([https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List)).
7. Findlen, George L. "Resolving Duplicate Catholic Parish Registers," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (December 2012): 267-278.
8. \_\_\_\_\_. "The 1917 Code of Canon Law: A Resource for Understanding Catholic Church Registers," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 93 (June 2005): 126-147.
9. Galles, Duane L. C. M. "Roman Catholic Church Records and the Genealogist." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 74 (December 1986): 271-78.
10. Humling, Virginia, compiler. *U.S. Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide for Family Historians*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 1995. Digital version available on FamilySearch.

## Maple Stars and Stripes Podcast

11. O'Connor, Thomas H., editor. *Two Centuries of Faith: The Influence of Catholicism in Boston, 1808-2008*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2009.
12. O'Toole, James M. "Catholic Church Records: A Genealogical and Historical Resource," *Register* 132 (1978): 251-63.
13. *Parishes Online* ([www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)), listing of all current US parishes.
14. Peters, Edward N., editor. *The 1917 or Pio-Benedictine Code of Canon Law: in English Translation with Extensive Scholarly Apparatus*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2001.
15. Powell, Dae. "Roman Catholic Church Records," GENTREK. (<http://www.shoestringgenealogy.com/article/Catholic.pdf>).
16. Salinas, Lisa Toth. *Finding Roots in Catholic Records*. Legacy Family Tree webinar, 2017. Subscription. Highly recommended, an excellent introduction to Catholic records.
17. *The Ancestor Hunt*, Historical U.S. and Canada Free Online Catholic Newspapers (<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/historic-us-and-canada-free-online-catholic-newspapers>) newspapers in the Catholic Newspaper Program, adds 56 links, and sorts by state.
18. *The Hierarchy of the Catholic Church* (<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org>), very helpful source, Catholic Church by country, by diocese, with history of changing boundaries, also includes Eastern Rite Churches.
19. *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, "Diocesan Locator" (<http://www.usccb.org>), search by zip code or state, with links to diocesan websites.
20. *University of Notre Dame*, "Parish Histories Collection" (<http://archives.nd.edu/findaids/ead/xml/phc.xml>), 1300 histories of parishes in the Midwest and Ohio River Valley.

## Online Catholic Records Chart

Records include baptisms, marriages, and burials in sizeable collections. Some countries are listed with regions/states rather than dioceses; these are noted with an asterisk (\*). Check the FamilySearch wiki page for that country's Catholic church records. Diocesan archives will sometimes be listed. Catholic records will occasionally be found in church records that include all denominations.

AmAn – *AmericanAncestors (NEHGS)* Index only – no associated images  
 FMP – *Findmypast* Image only – no index, browse only  
 FS – *FamilySearch* B – baptisms, M – marriages  
 NYG&B – *New York Genealogical & Biographical Society*  
*Various* is used when coverage is known to be incomplete, but gaps are not identified.

Geography	Country	Diocese/Locality	Where	Notes
North America	United States	Baltimore, MD	FMP	
		Belleville, IL	FS catalog	Image only
		Boise, ID	FS catalog	
		Boston, MA	AmAnc Ancestry	Image only, free Index in process Links to AmAnc
		Chicago, IL	FMP FS	
		Cincinnati, OH	FMP	
		Colorado Springs, CO	Ancestry	
		Milwaukee, WI	Ancestry	Burial index
		Moniteau County, MO	FMP	Marriages
		New Orleans, LA	Archdiocese site	1712-1816
		New York, NY	FMP NYG&B	No burials Links to FMP
		Philadelphia, PA	FMP	No burials
		Springfield, IL	Ancestry	NEW Oct 8
		Toledo, OH	Ancestry FMP FS catalog	Image only Image only
		Wilmington, DE	Ancestry FS catalog	Burial index only < 1868, some parishes >1868

Geography	Country	Diocese	Where	Notes
North America cont'd	United States	San Juan, PR	FS	Image only
		St. Louis, MO	SL Genealogy Society site	Index only: Baptisms <1840, marriages<1876,
		St. Thomas, USVI	FS catalog	
		French parishes in Alabama Arkansas Illinois Indiana Louisiana Maine Massachusetts Michigan Missouri New York Pennsylvania	Ancestry	Drouin collection
		Spanish Florida	See Slavesocieties.org	
		Canada*	All  Nova Scotia Ontario Quebec Saskatchewan Acadia Edmunston, NB	Institut Drouin Ancestry FS  MyHeritage

Geography	Country	Diocese	Where	Notes
Europe	France	Allier, Alpes-Maritime, Marne, Oise, Saone & Loire, Upper Brittany* Quimper/Léon, Coutances/d'Avranches	Ancestry  FS	Also see French departmental archives.

## Tips for Catholic Records

- Many providers are in the process of adding records, images, and/or indexes. Check their sites regularly to keep up to date.
- The first US diocese, Baltimore, was formed in 1784, and consisted of one church. The U.S. Catholic Church today includes 32 archdioceses, 145 dioceses and the Archdiocese for Military Services. Some areas have undergone many jurisdictional changes. Use the Catholic Hierarchy site ([www.catholic-hierarchy.org](http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org)) to help determine in which diocese an event took place.
- Many ethnic groups attended national parishes in the US. City directories will often identify the ethnic group when listing the Catholic churches. Some dioceses also identify the ethnic affiliation of parishes.
- Keep in mind that sacramental Catholic records are private institutional records. There is no public right to the records.
- Do not contact a parish the week before Easter or Christmas when they are especially busy. It is wise to call or email before mailing a request.
- Request a copy of the original record, if possible. A transcript or extract may have errors.
- It is customary to make a small donation to the parish/diocese for their efforts in locating and providing the record.



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*Research, Reveal, Relate*