



The following is the finding aid for the St. Frederick Church, Cudahy 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. Frederick Church (Cudahy, Wis.)

Records, 1896-2004

MC 233

Volume

18.6 c.f.

Access

Open/unrestricted except for prenuptial files, student transcripts, St. Vincent de Paul Society aid files, selected financial records, and personnel records. Restrictions are noted in the box and folder list.

Historical Note

In 1896, only one year after Cudahy, WI was incorporated as a village and nearly 10 years before it would be incorporated as a city, St. Frederick's Church was founded to serve the town's growing German Catholic population. The church, named for Archbishop Frederick Katzer's patron saint, went through many iterations and locations to cope with its growth. First, in 1904 it was moved a few hundred feet from its original spot and rooms for classrooms were added. The church was moved again to its final location in 1908. In 1921 the cornerstone for a new church was laid in the same spot. Again in the 1950s the church underwent a rebuilding project, with the basement church dedicated in 1952, the upper church cornerstone laid in 1958, and the upper church completed and dedicated in 1959.

From 1905 to 1970 the church ran St. Frederick's School. The school closed due to declining enrollment in 1970, but at its height it boasted over 400 students. The school was run by religious sisters, and to accommodate them St. Frederick's owned a convent that was at first connected to the church building and then moved across the street before being sold in the 1980s.

The first pastor of St. Fred's was an Irish priest named George Durnin, who did not last long before being replaced by a German-speaking priest. The two longest-running pastors were Fr. John P. Herbst, who served 1907-1943, and Fr. George N. Orth, who served 1945-1968. In the wake of Vatican II, St. Fred's moved to a "team ministry" formation, with 1970 as the pastoral team's inaugural year. This team expanded into many different commissions all reporting to the pastoral council (founded in 1968). Lay ministry and the role of women were big focuses at St. Frederick's, with multiple women serving in important roles and completing Master's of Divinity degrees at nearby St. Francis Seminary. Social justice was also a large concern of the parish, and its Human Concerns Commission helped sponsor three Laotian refugee families to settle in Wisconsin and a Ugandan foreign exchange student to attend UW-Madison in the 1980s. It also supported workers in the 1987 Patrick Cudahy-Smithfield Foods boycott. The church also had several lively parish organizations, such as the Ladies Guild and a conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Although St. Frederick's celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1996 with much ado, the parish merged with the other Cudahy parishes of St. Joseph and Holy Family to form the Nativity of Our Lord parish in 2000.

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

This collection is divided into 5 series: Administrative, Financial, Historical, Parish Organizations, and Audio-Visual materials.

The Administrative series consists of meeting agendas and minutes, correspondence, reports, audits, and other committee records pertaining to the Pastoral Council and its various commissions. Of note are the bound volumes of the congregational minute books, which contain parish meeting minutes before the parish council existed; annual reports; original documents concerning the founding of the church; and the church's articles of incorporation and by-laws. Please note that some commission names changed over time or became defunct/replaced: The Human Concerns Commission was also known as the Social Justice Commission and the Social Awareness and Action Commission; the Fundraising Committee was once the Activities Commission; the Youth, Religious Education, and Parish Life Commissions eventually fell out of use. Additionally, the Administration Commission combined with the Finance Committee in 1997 and their combined records are kept in the Financial series. Finally, the refugee files contain some records written in the script and language of Lao.

The Financial series contains meeting minutes and agendas and correspondence of the Finance Committee and the combined Administrative and Finance Committee. It also contains finalized budgets, balance sheets and revenue and expense summaries, and some cash receipts and disbursements records for years where other financial records are scant. Also included are proxies and waivers for loans and property repairs and renovations, other property records such as sales, purchases, and repairs/renovations of property, and wills and bequests.

The Historical series contains bulletins (both loose and in bound volumes), newsletters, parishioner membership cards, news clippings, anniversary celebration materials, written parish histories, and objects and memorabilia. Of note is a parish history written in 1971 by parishioner and trustee Michael Joseph Heffron, who was a member of St. Frederick's from its founding until his death. It contains information about the circumstances of St. Fred's founding, the church's various priests and their activities, many of the church organizations and their membership, and it lists all the religious sisters involved with the parish over the years. Also of note is 1905 parish census listing parishioner ethnicities.

The Parish Organizations series includes administrative, financial, and historical records from different parish organizations, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Ladies Guild, the Holy Name Society, the Athletic Committee, and the Home and School Association. One unlabeled ledger appears to be from the Christian Mothers Sodality based on its years of existence and the members listed within.

The Audio-Visual series contains many photographs in various formats documenting parish life, including scrapbooks, slides, prints, film negatives, and photo plates. The photos show parish events, parishioners, priests, personnel, class photos, and shots of the church interior and exterior. The series also includes an audiocassette tape on the June 1997 installation, a two-part video on U-matic tape of a Team Ministry workshop held at Alverno College in 1978, an 8mm film of St. Fred's 1970-1971 programs, and an undated 15-minute long 16mm film titled "Parish programs."

Box and Folder List *This is a list of folders names within the collection. The folders have been arranged alphabetically. “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</i>		
B 1	F 1	100 th Anniversary Planning Committee, minutes, 1994-1995
B 1	F 2	Activities Commission, 1976-1978, 1982-1983
B 1	F 3	Ad Hoc Committee on Building Use, 1985-1987
B 1	F 4	Administration Commission, minutes, 1983-1986
B 1	F 5	Administration Commission, 1986-1992
B 1	F 6	Administration Commission, 1992-1995
B 1	F 7	Administration Commission, 1995-1997
B 21	F 1	Agreement with Richard Kleineder to erect stage, 1911 December 6
B 1	F 8	All Parish Meetings, 1978-1994
B 1	F 9	Annual Reports and Parish Directory, 1920-1929
B 2	F 1	Annual Reports and Parish Directory, 1930-1940
B 2	F 2	Annual Reports and Parish Directory, 1940-1944
B 2	F 3	Annual Reports and Parish Directory, 1944-1949
B 2	F 4	Annual Reports, 1950-1955
B 2	F 5	Annual Reports, 1956-1959
B 2	F 6	Annual Reports, 1960-1963
B 2	F 7	Annual Reports, 1964-1997
B 21	F 2	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1896-1977
B 3	F 1	Building and Grounds Commission, 1976-1985
B 3	F 2	Building and Grounds Committee, 1985-1991
B 3	F 3	Building and Grounds Committee, 1991-1994
B 3	F 4	Building and Grounds Committee, 1994-1996
B 3	F 5	Building and Grounds Committee, 1996-2000
B 3	F 6	Christian Formation Commission, 1982-1990
B 21	F 3	Church Basement, floorplan, circa 1960s
B 4	F 1	Church Buildings, drawings, n.d.
B 23		Census Cards, A-G
B 24		Census Cards, H-Mc
B 25		Census Cards, Me-Sp
B 26		Census Cards, St-Z
B 4	F 2	Correspondence, church establishment, 1896
B 4	F 3	Cudahy Catholic Youth Ministry, 1988-1993
B 4	F 4	Cudahy Catholic Youth Ministry, budgets, 1995-2000
B 4	F 5	Events, circa 1930s
B 4	F 6	Events, Door County Daze, 1997
B 4	F 7	Events, Holiday Bazaar, financial reports, 1987-1995
B 4	F 8	Events, Polka Fest, 1997
B 4	F 9	Fundraising Committee, 1995-1999
B 4	F 10	Human Concerns Committee, 1979-1984
B 4	F 11	Human Concerns Committee, 1984-1986
B 4	F 12	Human Concerns Committee, 1986-1988
B 5	F 1	Human Concerns Commission, 1988-1989
B 5	F 2	Human Concerns Commission, 1989-1990

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 5	F 3	Human Concerns Commission, 1990-1991
B 5	F 4	Human Concerns Commission, 1991-1992
B 5	F 5	Human Concerns Commission, 1992-1993
B 5	F 6	Human Concerns Commission, 1993-1994
B 5	F 7	Human Concerns Commission, Patrick Cudahy-Smithfield Foods Boycott, 1987
B 5	F 8	Human Concerns Commission, Phongsavanh Oueko Family Resettlement, 1980-1982 (partial restricted, consult archivist)
B 5	F 9	Human Concerns Commission, Laotian Refugee Resettlement Families, circa 1980s (partial restricted, consult archivist)
B 5	F 10	Human Concerns Commission, Sanctuary Coordinating Commission, 1983-1985
B 5	F 11	Human Concerns Commission, Foreign Exchange Student, 1980-1981
B 6	F 1	Liturgy and Worship Commission, 1977-1985
B 6	F 2	Liturgy Commission, By-laws, circa 1970s
B 6	F 3	Membership Commission, 1978
B 6	F 4	Membership Committee, 1982-1985
B 6	F 5	Membership Committee, new parishioner lists, 1978-1991
B 6	F 6	Parish Council, constitution and by-laws, 1972-1973
B 6	F 7	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1976-1979
B 6	F 8	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1983-1985
B 6	F 9	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1985-1986
B 6	F 10	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1986-1987
B 6	F 11	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1987-1988
B 7	F 1	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1988-1989
B 7	F 2	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1989-1990
B 7	F 3	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1990-1991
B 7	F 4	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1991-1992
B 7	F 5	Parish Council, meeting minutes, 1992-1998
B 7	F 6	Parish Life Commission, 1982-1983
B 7	F 7	Parish Profile, 1983
B 8	F 1	Parish Retreats, 1984-1988
B 8	F 2	Parish Retreats, 1989-1990
B 8	F 3	Parish Support Increase Program, 1995-1998
B 28		Parishioner Lists, 1994
B 8	F 4	Pastoral Team Meetings, 1977-1978
B 8	F 5	Personnel Committee, meeting minutes, 1978-1983
B 8	F 6	Personnel Committee, meeting minutes, 1983-1998
B 8	F 7	Personnel Service Records, circa 1970s-1980s (restricted)
B 8	F 8	Property Improvement Fund Committee, 1992-1994
B 8	F 9	Public Relations Commission, 1977
B 8	F 10	Religious Education Commission, 1977-1978
B 8	F 11	Small Faith Group Committee, meeting minutes, 1988-1991
B 8	F 12	Small Faith Group Committee, Five Night Mission
B 8	F 13	St. Frederick's Congregation, ballot sheet, 20 January 1924
B 8	F 14	St. Frederick's Congregation, meeting minutes, 1908-1909
B 29		St. Frederick's Congregation, minute book, 1896-1911 (bound volume)
B 29		St. Frederick's Congregation, minute book, 1912-1940 (bound volume)
B 21	F 4	St. Frederick's Congregation, minute book, 1942-1944
B 9	F 1	Stewardship Committee, meeting minutes, 1984-1994
B 9	F 2	Team Meetings [staff meetings], 1992-1994

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 9	F 3	Youth Commission, 1977-1978
B 9	F 4	Year Book and Reference Manual, 1912-1913
<i>Series 2: Financial</i>		
B 9	F 5	Administration Commission and Finance Committee, 1997-1998
B 9	F 6	Administration Commission and Finance Committee, 1998-1999
B 9	F 7	Administration Commission and Finance Committee, 1999-2000
B 9	F 8	Balance Sheets, 1984-1994
B 9	F 9	Balance Sheets, 1994-1999
B 10	F 1	Budgets, 1973-1994
B 10	F 2	Budgets, 1994-1999
B 28		Building Fund, ledger, 1954
B 10	F 3	Campaign for Human Development, funding application, 1978
B 10	F 4	Finance Commission, 1977-1979
B 10	F 5	Finance Committee, 1982-1989
B 10	F 6	Finance Committee, 1989-1992
B 10	F 7	Finance Committee, 1992-1995
B 10	F 8	Finance Committee, 1995-1997
B 21	F 5	Financial Reports, 1912-1919
B 21	F 6	Financial Reports, 1969-1972
B 11	F 1	Financial Statements, 1977-1978
B 11	F 2	Financial Statements, confidential, 1997-2000 (restricted)
B 21	F 7	Financial Statements, confidential, 1919-1920, 1948-1968 (restricted)
B 21	F 8	Five-Year Financial Statement, 1935-1939
B 11	F 3	Investment Summaries, 1987-1997
B 21	F 9	Memorial Tree of Life, ledger, 1996-2000
B 21	F 10	Purchase and sale of 3651 E. Plankinton Ave., 1963, 1974-1975
B 11	F 4	Roof Repair, 1996
B 21	F 11	Sale of Convent (3673 E. Plankinton Ave.), 1980, 1986
B 21	F 12	Sale of Washington County Property, 1994
B 29		Secretary journal, Cash receipts and disbursements, 1957-1973 (bound volume)
B 29		Treasurer's Daybook, 1944-1957 (bound volume)
B 29		Treasurer's journal, Cash receipts and disbursements, 1957-1973 (bound volume)
B 29		Treasurer's Record, 1910-1922 (bound volume)
B 11	F 5	Tuck Pointing, 1992
B 11	F 6	Waiver and Proxies, 1904-1985
B 11	F 7	Wills and bequests, 1966, 1975-1999
B 11	F 8	Wills and bequests, Farrell, William (Rev.) (restricted)
B 11	F 9	Wills and bequests, Little, Hilda (restricted)
B 11	F 10	Wills and bequests, Pyka Estate (restricted)
<i>Series 3: Parish Organizations</i>		
B 29		Athletic Committee ledger, 1948-1950 (bound volume)
B 29		Christian Mothers Sodality, ledger, 1950-1951 (bound volume)
B 11	F 11	Holy Name Society, financial records, 1938-1955
B 29		Holy Name Society, minute book, 1932-1941 (bound volume)
B 29		Home and School Association, record book, 1946-1954 (bound volume)
B 11	F 12	Home and School Association, records, circa 1940s-1950s
B 11	F 13	Ladies Guild, 1966-1990

Box	Folder	Folder Title
B 11	F 14	Ladies Guild, financial records, 1966-1976
B 11	F 15	Ladies Guild, meeting minutes, 1961-1974
B 11	F 16	Ladies Guild, meeting minutes, 1974-1977
B 11	F 17	St. Vincent de Paul Society, aid applications, 1962 (restricted)
B 11	F 18	St. Vincent de Paul Society, adoption/ "twinning" program, 1963-1964
B 11	F 19	St. Vincent de Paul Society, correspondence, 1960s
B 11	F 20	St. Vincent de Paul Society, list of pamphlets, 1952
B 30		St. Vincent de Paul Society, meeting minutes, 1951-1971 (restricted)
<i>Series 4: Historical & Publications</i>		
B 12	F 1	25 th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee), invitation, 1921
B 12	F 2	50 th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee), banquet, 1946
B 12	F 3	75 th Anniversary, booklet, 1971
B 12	F 4	75 th Anniversary, records, 1972
B 21	F 13-15	Bulletins, 1969-1971
B 22	F 1	Bulletins, 1972
B 14		Bulletins, 1973 January 28 – 1978 January 15
B 15		Bulletins, 1978 January 22 – 1982 December 26
B 16		Bulletins, 1983-1987
B 17		Bulletins, 1988-1991
B 18a		Bulletins, 1992-1994
B 18b		Bulletins, 1995-1998
B 12	F 5	Centennial Celebration, alumni Mass guestbook, 1996
B 12	F 6	Centennial Celebration, cookbook, 1996
B 12	F 7	Centennial Celebration, pamphlets and memorabilia, 1996
B 12	F 8	Centennial Celebration, parish history and directory, 1996
B 12	F 9	Centennial Celebration, souvenir telephone directories, 1996
B 27		Centennial Celebration, souvenir t-shirt, 1996
B 12	F 10	Church Blessing, Dedication, and Cornerstone Laying, 1951-1959
B 12	F 11	Church Dedication, memorial booklet, 1959
B 22	F 2	Freddy's Flyer, newsletter, 1970-19789
B 12	F 12	History of St. Frederick Parish, by Michael Joseph Heffron, 1971
B 12	F 13	Informational booklets and resources for parishioners, 1973-1987
B 13	F 1	List of pastors, 2000
B 13	F 2	News clippings
B 13	F 3-5	News clippings, scrapbook, 1987-1991 (3 folders)
B 13	F 6	Newsletters, 1985-1987
B 13	F 7	Newsletters, 1988-1989
B 13	F 8	Newsletters, 1990-1996
B 13	F 9	Parish Census, 1905
B 13	F 10	Parish rosters, 1985-1991
B 13	F 11	Remembrance booklets, 1987-1994
B 13	F 12	School patch
B 27		Shovel, Cornerstone Laying, 1958
B 13	F 13	Worship aids, 1965-2000

Box	Folder	Folder Title
<i>Series 5: Audio-Visual & Photographic Materials</i>		
B 27		Cassette Tape, Installation, St. Frederick's Parish, 1997 June
B 27		Film, Parish Programs (16 mm)
B 27		Film, <i>St. Fred's Programs, 1970-1971</i> (8 mm)
B 27		Film, Team Ministry workshop held at Alverno College, 1978 (U-Matic)
B 19	F 1-2	Photographs, Archdiocesan 150 th Anniversary, Bishops' Visit to Cudahy, 1994
B 19	F 3	Photographs, Blessing of the Animals, 1985 October
B 19	F 4	Photographs, Buildings
B 19	F 5	Photographs, Camping Trip, 1985 July
B 19	F 6	Photographs, Choirs
B 19	F 7	Photographs, Class Photos, 1965-1966
B 19	F 8	Photographs, Class Photos, 1970
B 19	F 9	Photographs, Class Photos, miscellaneous
B 19	F 10	Photographs, Dedication Day
B 28		Photographs, Graduation Class, 1917-1930, 1938, 1948-1955, 1968, 1970
B 19	F 11	Photographs, Head Start Open House, 1994 March 04
B 19	F 12	Photographs, Oil Tank Removal, 1996 July 11
B 19	F 13	Photographs, Parish Activities, circa 1970s-1990s
B 19	F 14	Photographs, Priests and Personnel, circa 1920s-1970s
B 19	F 15	Photographs, Procession, circa 1950s
B 19	F 16	Photographs, Think Spring Dance, 1977
B 20	F 1-2	Scrapbook, Centennial Celebration, 1996
B 20	F 3-4	Scrapbook, New Church Dedications and Ceremonies, 1950-1958 (2 copies)
B 28		Slides, parish activities
<i>Preuptial Files & Student Transcripts (restricted)</i>		
B 31-35		Preuptial Files, A-Z (restricted)
B 36-37		Student Transcripts, A-Z (restricted)