

## **Research Guide to Dioceses in Michigan**

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Each state in the United States is divided into one or more dioceses or archdioceses. While practicing Catholics are basically familiar with the different dioceses in Michigan, out of state residents may not be familiar with the breakdown. Each diocese or archdiocese sets its own policies regarding access to old parish records, therefore, we are providing the following breakdown and links to help people determine where they should start their research.

As a general rule, parish records contain more information than those required for early civil records. Michigan's civil records started in 1867 for births and deaths, marriage records started in 1868. You can search Michigan's civil records from [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) or at the FamilySearch.

- Gateway to Michigan records at FamilySearch:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list?page=1&countryId=17>
- Search screen at Family Search: <https://familysearch.org/search>

Please keep the following in mind when contacting parishes for information regarding your ancestors:

- The administrative personnel of most parishes are extremely busy and often do not have the time to search for records regarding your ancestors.
- If you contact a parish office via e-mail to request a copy of a parish record, please offer to send them a check for their time and costs; if you send them a letter, please send them a check to cover their time and costs.
- Most parishes will not allow individuals to view the actual parish records because they need to preserve these records.
- Many parish records were originally kept in Latin or French; therefore, parish administrative personnel be able to translate the records for you.
- Prior to being made into a parish, records were often kept by a visiting priest. Some couples travelled long distances to be married in the nearest church or to have their children baptized rather than waiting for a visiting priest. Therefore, you should start your search with the city or town where your ancestor lived. If a parish was not open at the time your ancestor was married or baptized, select a nearby parish to try to find one that was open at the time or the marriage or baptism took place.
- Some public libraries have created an index of some sort for parish records, check the library's catalog.
- Parish records may be restricted due to privacy issues.

Map of Michigan Archdiocese and Dioceses: [http://www.micatholic.org/assets/files/misc/diocese\\_map-large.pdf](http://www.micatholic.org/assets/files/misc/diocese_map-large.pdf)

### **Archdiocese of Detroit:**

- Microfilms of all parishes in the Archdioceses of Detroit are held at the Burton Collection of the Detroit Public library
- The original records and a sometimes faulty transcription of St. Anne's records are available from [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) in the Drouin Collection. Individuals can access the Ancestry at many public libraries as well as through Family History Centers of the LDS ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).
- Sacramental Records page: <http://www.aod.org/parishes/sacramental-records/>.
- Information on further research: <http://www.aod.org/parishes/sacramental-records/further-research/>
- Request for a search from a closed parish: <https://www.tfaforms.com/225028>. There is a \$10 fee for each record request.

**Diocese of Gaylord:**

- Map of parishes: <http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org/inside/parishes-69/> . When you click on a city name, you see the name/names of the parishes and the date that the parish was started. Some parishes also maintain a parish website that may provide a short history of the parish.
- Policies regarding the Archives: <http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org/inside/archives-44/> ; you can also download a form requesting a search of the sacramental records: <http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org/inside/archival-research-request-form-64/>

**Diocese of Grand Rapids:**

- List of parishes: <http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/parishes/Pages/parishes.aspx>
- PDF map of parishes: [http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/Documents/Diocesan\\_Map\\_ParishLocations\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/Documents/Diocesan_Map_ParishLocations_2013.pdf)
- Contact information for the archives: [http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/diocese/About\\_Diocese/Pages/Archives.aspx](http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org/diocese/About_Diocese/Pages/Archives.aspx)

**Diocese of Kalamazoo:**

- Map of parishes: <http://www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=33&search=parish>. When you click on the map, you will see the name of the parish, click on “view details” for additional information regarding the parish and a link to the parish website if available.

**Diocese of Lansing:**

- List of parishes: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/parishes>
- Archives and policies regarding access to records: <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/archives>

**Diocese of Marquette (the Upper Peninsula):**

- Map of parishes in the Diocese/Upper Peninsula: <http://dioceseofmarquette.org/newmap.php>
- Diocesan policies regarding parish records/ See pages 9-11 for information regarding accessing records for genealogical purposes: <http://dioceseofmarquette.org/UserFiles/File/PolicyManuals/DiocesanPolicies/Liturgical/PML-161GuidelinseConcerningSacramentalRecords.pdf>
- Link to Ste. Anne’s on Mackinac Island: <http://www.steanneschurch.org/home.htm>. The gift shop sells a CD containing the original records from 1695-1888, as well a transcription of the first register. The gift shop is only open during the tourist season. The direct link to the gift shop: <http://www.steanneschurch.org/giftshop.htm>

**Diocese of Saginaw:**

- List of parishes grouped by county. Click on the county to see a list of parishes: <http://www.saginaw.org/catholic-schools/parishes-by-county/>