



ACCESS TO PARISH SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

As a general policy, sacramental records are considered private records and are not open to public scrutiny. When a legitimate request is made for information from sacramental records on the parish level, someone on the parish staff will do the research and provide the sacramental records requested. Parish staffs may refuse to research sacramental records for unspecific data.

For the purpose of genealogical research, parish archives and the archives of the Diocese of Owensboro follow the recommendation of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists that the example of the U.S. Census Bureau be followed which requires that eighty years lapse before complete records be made available to the public. Records before that date may be made more broadly available to researchers; records after that date should be restricted from use.

The archivist of the Diocese of Owensboro will do only such family research in the sacramental records as may be legally necessary, such as for passport or for social security or inheritance purposes.

