Genealogical FAQ’s

What area does the Brooklyn Diocese cover?
The Diocese of Brooklyn currently consists of Kings County (Brooklyn) and Queens County (Queens) only.

If you are seeking information on an ancestor who lived in Manhattan, the Bronx or Staten Island, please contact the Archdiocese of New York:

Rev. Michael P. Morris
Archivist
Archdiocese of New York Archives
St. Joseph’s Seminary
201 Seminary Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10704
(914) 476-6333
michael.morris@archny.org

If you are seeking information on an ancestor who lived in Nassau or Suffolk Counties, please contact:

Mrs. Jean Walsh
Archivist
Diocese of Rockville Centre
P.O. Box 9023
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023
(631) 423-0491
archives@drvc.org

Where can I find sacramental records?
The sacramental records of the Diocese of Brooklyn have not been centralized. This means that you must contact the appropriate parish to obtain a sacramental record, supplying them with the name and date you want them to check. To contact the appropriate parish you will need to determine their address during the time period you are interested in.

What records do parishes have?
Canon law requires every parish to permanently keep records of baptism, confirmation and marriage. Many parishes retain records of first communion, but not all, since it is not required by canon law. While some parishes kept records of sick calls and funerals, this was not always the case.

What information can I find in these records?
1. Baptismal records contain the following information: the name of the person being baptized, his or her date of birth, date of baptism, parents’ names, sponsors, and priest officiating.
2. First Communion records list the name of the communicant and the date.
3. Confirmation records list the date, the name of the person being confirmed, the sponsor, and the presiding bishop.
4. Marriage records list the bride and groom, date of wedding, witnesses, and priest officiating.

I don’t know where my ancestor lived in Brooklyn. What should I do?
To determine a place of residence, I suggest that you try the following:

1. Search the Vital records (birth, marriage, death) at the NYC Municipal Archives
2. Search the Brooklyn City Directories found at the Municipal Archives or the Public
   Library.
3. Search for census records at the National Archives Regional Office (www.archives.gov).
4. These records can also be searched at the nearest Mormon Family History Center
   (www.familysearch.org)

From the above sources you should be able to determine where the individuals lived at the time
you are researching. If you need more help in determining the appropriate parish, contact us.

**What Parish did my ancestors live in?**

During the 1800’s and 1900’s two types of parishes were erected: *national parishes* and *territorial parishes*. National parishes were founded for Catholics of a specific nationality: e.g., German, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Spanish-speaking. Territorial parishes were the predominant type, covering a specific geographical area. Irish Catholics and others without a specific national church would have attended the territorial parish whose boundaries they lived within. During the twentieth century, parishes were specifically founded for African-Americans. Rather than founding parishes for new ethnic groups, parishes offer Mass in their language (some parishes have Mass in five languages!). Unless otherwise noted, the parishes listed below were territorial parishes.

**Brooklyn Parishes**

9. Holy Cross, Flatbush (1852) Records at parish.
   Records at St. Michael-St. Malachy.
24. Annunciation of the BVM, Williamsburg (1863). Started as a German parish, became a
    Lithuanian parish by 1914. Records at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Williamsburg.
    Closed 1888. Records at Archives.
27. St. Stephen, Carroll Gardens (1866). Renamed Sacred Hearts of Jesus Mary and St.
    Stephen in 1941. Records at parish.
29. All Saints, Williamsburg (1868). Started as a German parish. Records at parish.
30. Our Lady of Victory, Bedford-Stuyvesant (1868). Merged with St. Peter Claver and Holy
    Records at Archives.
32. St. Augustine, Park Slope (1870). Records at parish.
    Records at Archives.
    St. Martin De Porres.
35. Sacred Heart, Fort Greene (1871). Merged with St. Michael-St. Edward and St. Lucy-
    St. Patrick as Mary of Nazareth, 2011. Records at parish.
36. St. Leonard of Port Maurice, Bushwick (1871). Started as a German parish. Closed in
    at St. Martin of Tours, Bushwick.
    Records at St. Anthony-St. Alphonsus, Greenpoint.
39. St. Cecilia, Greenpoint (1874). Merged with St. Francis of Paola and St. Nicholas as
40. St. Teresa of Avila, Prospect Heights (1874).
41. Transfiguration, Williamsburg (1874). Records at parish.
42. St. Michael, Bay Ridge (1874). Records at parish.
43. St. Rose of Lima, Parkville (1874). Records at parish.
    at Our Lady of Czenstochowa-St. Casimir, Bush Terminal.
    St. Paul and St. Agnes.
46. Holy Name, Windsor Terrace (1878). Records at parish.
47. St. John’s Chapel, Fort Greene (1878). Records at Queen of All Saints, Fort Greene.
48. Holy Family, Park Slope (1880). Started as a German parish. Merged with St. Thomas
50. St. Ambrose, Bedford-Stuyvesant (1883). Closed in 1978. Records at Our Lady of
    Montserrat-St. Ambrose, Bedford-Stuyvesant.
    Records at parish.
52. Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Carroll Gardens (1884). Started as an Italian parish.
    Closed in 1941. Records at Sacred Hearts of Jesus Mary and St. Stephen, Carroll
    Gardens.
53. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bushwick (1886). Merged with St. John the Baptist,
57. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Williamsburg (1887). Records at parish.
61. St. Finbar, Bath Beach (1889). Records at parish.
63. St. Mary Mother of Jesus, Bensonhurst (1889). Records at parish.
64. Our Lady of Sorrows, Bushwick (1889). Started as a German parish. Closed in 1942. Records at St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, Bushwick.
70. Our Lady of Angels, Bay Ridge (1891). Records at parish.
71. St. Frances De Chantal, Borough Park (1892). Records at parish.
75. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kensington (1894). Records at parish.
76. Holy Family, Flatlands (1895). Records at parish.
78. SS. Simon & Jude, Gravesend (1897). Records at parish.
83. Our Lady of Solace, Coney Island (1901). Records at parish.
95. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bensonhurst (1906). Records at parish.
107. Our Lady of Refuge, Flatbush (1911). Records at parish.
110. Queen of All Saints, Fort Greene (1913). Records at parish.
111. St. Athanasius, Bensonhurst (1913). Records at parish.
116. St. Margaret Mary, Manhattan Beach (1920).
118. St. Ephrem, Dyker Heights (1921). Records at parish.
120. St. Anselm, Bay Ridge (1922). Records at parish.
121. St. Edmund, Sheepshead Bay (1922). Records at parish.
123. St. Sylvester, City Line (1923). Records at parish.
130. Mary Gate of Heaven, Mill Basin (1927). Records at parish.
146. Mary of Nazareth, 2008. Merger of Sacred Heart, St. Michael the Archangel-St. Edward

**Queens Parishes**
1. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Long Island City (1841). Records at parish.
17. Presentation of the BVM, Jamaica (1886). Started as a German parish. Records at parish.
23. SS. Joachim & Anne, Queens Village (1896). Started as a German parish. Records at parish.
30. St. Francis De Sales, Belle Harbor (1906). Records at parish.
34. Transfiguration, Maspeth (1908). Started as an Italian parish. Records at parish.
42. St. Andrew Avellino, Flushing (1914). Records at parish.
43. St. Anastasia, Douglaston (1915). Records at parish.
44. St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Jamaica (1917). Records at parish.
45. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Ridgewood (1917). Records at parish.
46. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Forest Hills (1917). Records at parish.
51. Our Lady of the Cenacle, Richmond Hill (1922).
57. Immaculate Conception, Jamaica Estates (1924). Records at parish.
58. Immaculate Conception, Long Island City (1924). Records at parish.
59. Our Lady of Grace, Howard Beach (1924). Records at parish.
60. Our Lady of Lourdes, Queens Village (1924). Records at parish.
63. Mary’s Nativity, Flushing (1926). Records at parish.
64. Resurrection-Aascension, Rego Park (1926). Records at parish.
68. St. Teresa of Avila, South Ozone Park (1929). Records at parish.
70. Sacred Heart, East Glendale (1929). Started as a German parish. Records at parish.
73. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Bayside (1930). Records at parish.
75. St. Pascal Baylon, St. Albans (1930). Records at parish.
77. Christ the King, Springfield Gardens (1933). Records at parish.
93. Queen of Angels, Sunnyside (1953). Records at parish.
96. Our Lady of Hope, Middle Village (1960). Records at parish.
102. Blessed Trinity, 2008
103. Our Lady of Light, 2008

Eastern Rite Parishes
2. Virgin Mary Melkite Catholic Church, Park Slope. (www.melkite.org)
5. St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ozone Park (www.stamforddio.org).

Chapels
St. Frances Cabrini Chapel, Carroll Gardens.
Closed 1996.
Records at Sacred Hearts of Jesus Mary and St. Stephen.

St. Augustine Yu Chin-Gil Chapel
2115 61st Street
Brooklyn, NY 11204
(718) 259-5424

Our Lady of China Chapel
54-09 92nd Street
Elmhurst, NY 11373
(718) 699-1929
olcnys@aol.com
www.olc.falhweb.com

Our Lady of the Skies Chapel
John F. Kennedy International Airport
Terminal #4—Fourth Floor
Jamaica, NY 11430
(718) 656-5348

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel
103-56 52nd Avenue
Corona, NY 11368
(For information please contact St. Leo, Corona)

St. Raphael's Korean Martyrs Apostolate
35-20 Greenpoint Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 729-2220

**How do I make a records request?**
If the records are at a parish, contact that parish directly. Contact information is available *through the parishes section of our diocesan website*.

For the Chancery please contact:

R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn
Office of the Chancery
75 Greene Avenue—P.O. Box C
Brooklyn, NY 11202
(718) 399-5900

If the records are at the Archives, please contact:

R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn
Office of the Archivist
310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 965-7300

Before researching your request, we ask that you send a donation of at least $25.00 to defray the cost of researching your request. Please make your check or money order payable to “R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn” and mail it to the address given above.
Where can I find Orphanage Records?
The Diocesan Archives does not possess any orphanage records. Childcare institutions still in operation are St. Vincent Home (founded 1869), Guardian Angel Home (1899), and St. John’s Home (founded 1868 in Brooklyn, moved to Rockaway Beach in 1937). For St. John’s see www.stjohnsresidence.org, for St. Vincent’s see www.svs.org, and for Guardian Angel see www.mercyfirst.com.

Orphanages were run mainly by women’s religious communities. Some parishes had their own orphanages, while many convents included accommodations for a dozen or so orphans. For many years, the Sisters of St. Dominic were active in German parishes, so German-American genealogists should contact that community’s archive. Other communities active in this field were the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy and the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. For further information please contact their community archives:

Archivist, Sisters of Mercy
273 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
(718) 622-5750
www.mercymidatlantic.org

Archivist, Sisters of St. Dominic
555 Albany Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701
(631) 842-6000
www.amityvilleop.org

Archivist, Sisters of Charity
Mt. St. Vincent-on-Hudson
6301 Riverdale Ave.
Bronx, NY 10471-9930
(718) 543-4898
www.scny.org

Archivist, Sisters of St. Joseph
St. Joseph’s Convent
1725 Brentwood Road
Brentwood, NY 11717
(631) 273-4531
www.sistersofstjosephbrentwoodny.org

Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn
135 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201-4212
(718) 858-8217
www.franciscanbrothers.org

Where can I find Cemetery Records?
The Diocesan Archives does not possess any cemetery records. Please consult the web site for the Catholic Cemeteries Office (www.cathcemetery-bklyn.org).

Which cemeteries were used by Brooklyn Catholics?
Catholics were buried in three kinds of cemeteries: parish cemeteries, diocesan cemeteries, secular or multidenominational cemeteries in graves that have been blessed.
Parish Cemeteries (with dates of usage)
1. St. James Cathedral (1823 - 1849)
2. Most Holy Trinity (1841-present)
3. St. Paul, Cobble Hill (1838-?)
4. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Astoria (1843-?)
5. St. Monica, Jamaica (no dates listed)
6. St. Mary Star of the Sea, Far Rockaway (cemetery in Lawrence, no dates listed)

Diocesan Cemeteries (with dates of usage)
1. Holy Cross, Flatbush (1849-present)
2. St. John, Middle Village (1880-present)
3. Mount St. Mary, Flushing (1862-present)
4. St. Charles/Resurrection Cemeteries, Farmingdale (unknown)
5. Trinity Cemetery, Amityville (unknown)

Please Note:
Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, was established in 1849, before the Brooklyn Diocese was formed. It remains the property of the Archdiocese of New York. Record inquiries should be sent to:

Catholic Cemeteries Office
Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 371-1000
www.archny.org

For cemeteries in the Rockville Centre Diocese please contact:

Office of Catholic Cemeteries
P.O. Box 182
Westbury, NY 11590
phone: (516) 334-7990
www.holyroodcemetery.org

How do I Contact Other Diocesan Archives?
Not every diocesan archives has a website, but the best way to find out is to check the diocesan website first. A good way to find diocesan websites is by going to the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.nccbuscc.org).