

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Fonds
1886**

ARCAE - 122

Prepared by Lea M. de la Paz, February 2019

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Fonds

1886

1 cm of textual records.

Administrative History:

In 1887, Father Christophe Tissier, omi, was appointed to organize a parish on the reserve at Winterburn. In 1888, a house-chapel was built. It was blessed and dedicated to St. John the Evangelist on January 4, 1892.

Most of the priests who were in charge of this Mission were Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

In 1900, Father Valentin Vegreville built the first church.

In 1928, Father Patrick Beaudry erected a larger church which was blessed by Archbishop Henry Joseph O'Leary on June 21, 1931 and dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, as requested by the benefactress, Eileen Gibson.

In the summer of 1951, the Indigenous people asked to have the church moved to a more central location. This took place in February 1952. Rev. F. Gamache built a new rectory at the new church site. The old church site was sold to Mr. Robert C. Johnson.

In September 1958, a new church was built and construction was completed in March 1961. Coadjutor Archbishop Anthony Jordan, omi, blessed the new church on June 4, 1961 and dedicated it to Our Lady of Mercy. This church was totally destroyed by fire on November 5, 1990 and all the parish records were lost.

On July 8, 1992, sod was turned for the new church. Construction was started in August, 1992 and completed in February, 1993. On June 20, 1993, the new church was solemnly blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil.

Scope and Content: Fonds consists of a two-page combined Baptism, Marriage and Burial register, 1886.

Archival/Custodial History:

The records formed part of the holdings of Archives of the Oblates of Missionary Immaculate (OMI) that were housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

When the Provincial Archives of Alberta was negotiating the donation/acquisition of all OMI Lacombe Canada records, it became very clear to the Oblates that they did not consider the sacramental registers to be Oblate records. Hence the decision by both OMI Lacombe Canada and the Provincial Archives to facilitate their return to the appropriate dioceses.

The registers of parishes within the present jurisdiction of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton were obtained from OMI Lacombe Canada on June 28, 2017.

Accession No.	Box-file	File description	Dates
2019/482	1 of 1	Winterburn Baptisms, Marriages, Burials	1886