





The digitization pilot project began in 2008 with issues dating from 1844 to 1864. Archival copies of microfilmed editions were scanned, uploaded and made available on the library website. The Gumberg then received a \$20,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant to digitize additional years of the *Pittsburgh Catholic*. The grant made it possible to digitize the issues from February 27, 1864 through December 2, 1923. A third batch, which will cover 1924 up to 1950, is in the final stages of processing and will soon be added to the site.

The online version of the *Pittsburgh Catholic* can be accessed at <http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-pc/>

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# Digitizing the *Pittsburgh Catholic*

The *Pittsburgh Catholic* documents regional and national history on a variety of levels. Since it dates back to the early decades of mass Irish and German immigration, the newspaper serves as an important record of the growth of Catholicism in Western Pennsylvania and America as a whole.

Since the *Pittsburgh Catholic* is nearly as old as the Diocese of Pittsburgh, it is a valuable resource for studying the administrative growth of Catholicism in the region. Examples of articles that document that growth include:

- An article from March 29, 1845 that discusses the upcoming dedication of St. Peter's Church in Brownsville, PA. The church was heralded as an attempt to return to the "old Style" of Catholic architecture. The article also describes steamboat trip down the "recently improved" Monongahela River that one would take to attend the dedication.
- An article from August 11, 1849 discusses the need for a new Catholic cemetery near Pittsburgh. It explains that the existing cemetery in the Eighth Ward is already full because of the growing population of Catholics, and that a new and larger tract of land has been made available for purchase.

The newspaper also documents the Catholic perspective on the Pittsburgh community as well as the hostile challenges that the church faced from anti-Catholic nativists (The Know-Nothing Party) in the arena of politics. For example:

- An article from October 5, 1850 that describes in details the arrest of political opponents by nativist Mayor Joe Barker. Barker was vocally anti-Catholic and was actually elected mayor while he was in prison.
- The loss of the Know-Nothings in state elections was covered in a small article in the October 13, 1855 issue. It points out that Allegheny County overwhelmingly rejected the party in favor of the Democratic Party. The article illustrates the speed at which Catholic voters were able to influence elections given that many had arrived less than a decade before.

## Library Standards Dublin Core and LCSH

Title	Pittsburgh Catholic
Date	1805-11-25
Volume/Issue	Vol. 27, No. 40
Publisher	P. F. Boylan, Pittsburgh, PA
Type	Text
Format	PDF from TIFF 300 dpi 8-bit grayscale
Identifier	18051125.pdf
Source	Produced from microfilm of 13.5" x 23" newsprint
Language	English
Rights	All rights reserved.
Subject	Catholic Church--Pennsylvania--Periodicals; Catholic Church--United States--Periodicals; Catholic--Pennsylvania--Periodicals; Pittsburgh (Pa.) Newspapers; Pittsburgh (Pa.)--Periodicals; United States--Pennsylvania--Allegheny--Pittsburgh; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; Fenians
Summary	Includes information about the Fenian's Head Centre, an ancient census from Ireland in 1672, an Episcopal Diocese in Pittsburgh, six states in the South abolishing slavery, and a poem by T. Buchanan Reed entitled "The Closing Scene."

## Technical Details Server and File Format Information

- **Digitization Partner** – Backstage Library Works
- **Digitization Platform** – CONTENTdm
- **Server Details** – Windows 2008 Server VMware  
Duquesne University Data Center
- **File Format** – PDF Compound Object

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This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett.



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