

DeKalb History Center

St. Thomas More

Scope and content: The St. Thomas More records were transferred from another archive, unknown at this time. The collection includes correspondence, a set of papers documenting church members who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, and a large scrapbook covering 1940 to 1958.

Provenance: Unknown, perhaps a transfer from another archive, temp. ACC # FITS.539.

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Reproductions of photographs and permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; St. Thomas More Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2012.

Size: Six folders and a large scrapbook.

Organizational History of the St. Thomas More Church: Catholic parishioners began trying to organize a parish in DeKalb County in 1940. American Legion Post 66 granted free permission to the church to hold services in their hall, located in a barn behind the Scott home on Sycamore Street. Today the Decatur Library is on this spot. The first service there was held on March 30, 1941. An alter society for fund raising was formed after the service. Easter mass was held in the Decatur High School auditorium. Reverend Father Thomas L. Finn was appointed the first pastor and served until 1945, when Reverend Father Thomas I. Sheehan. Sunday school classes were organized in September 1941. Larger crowds facilitated renting the Decatur Woman's Club for more space. In April 1946, lots on Ponce de Leon Avenue were purchased for \$20,800.00 from funds raised by parishioners and the church was built to the plans of architect Henry Daggitt and Son of Philadelphia. The first service was held on April 6, 1950. In 1991 a new activity building and school renovation took place.

Description: The Thomas More collection contains a large scrapbook covering the years 1940-1958, and various documents including greeting cards, correspondence and reports done by Mrs. Joseph M. Toomey. She was Chairman of Study Clubs, so there are questionnaires sent to other parishes for information. There is also a group of papers documenting which parishioners served in the Armed Forces (World War II specifically). The scrapbook includes newspaper clippings, photographs, programs and correspondence and information on the Theatre Guild of the parish.

St. Thomas More

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main entry: St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church, Decatur (Ga.)

Subject/Added entries: DeKalb County (Ga.)
Decatur (Ga.)
Roman Catholic Church

Folder	Contents	Dates
1	History of the Parish, by Mrs. Joseph M. Toomey	
2	Items removed from back of scrapbook	
3	Members serving in the Armed Forces	1940-1945
4	Miscellaneous correspondence And documents	1951-1962
6	newspaper clippings	
5	Report of Study clubs	1951
	Scrapbook kept by Mrs. Joseph M. Toomey	1940-1958