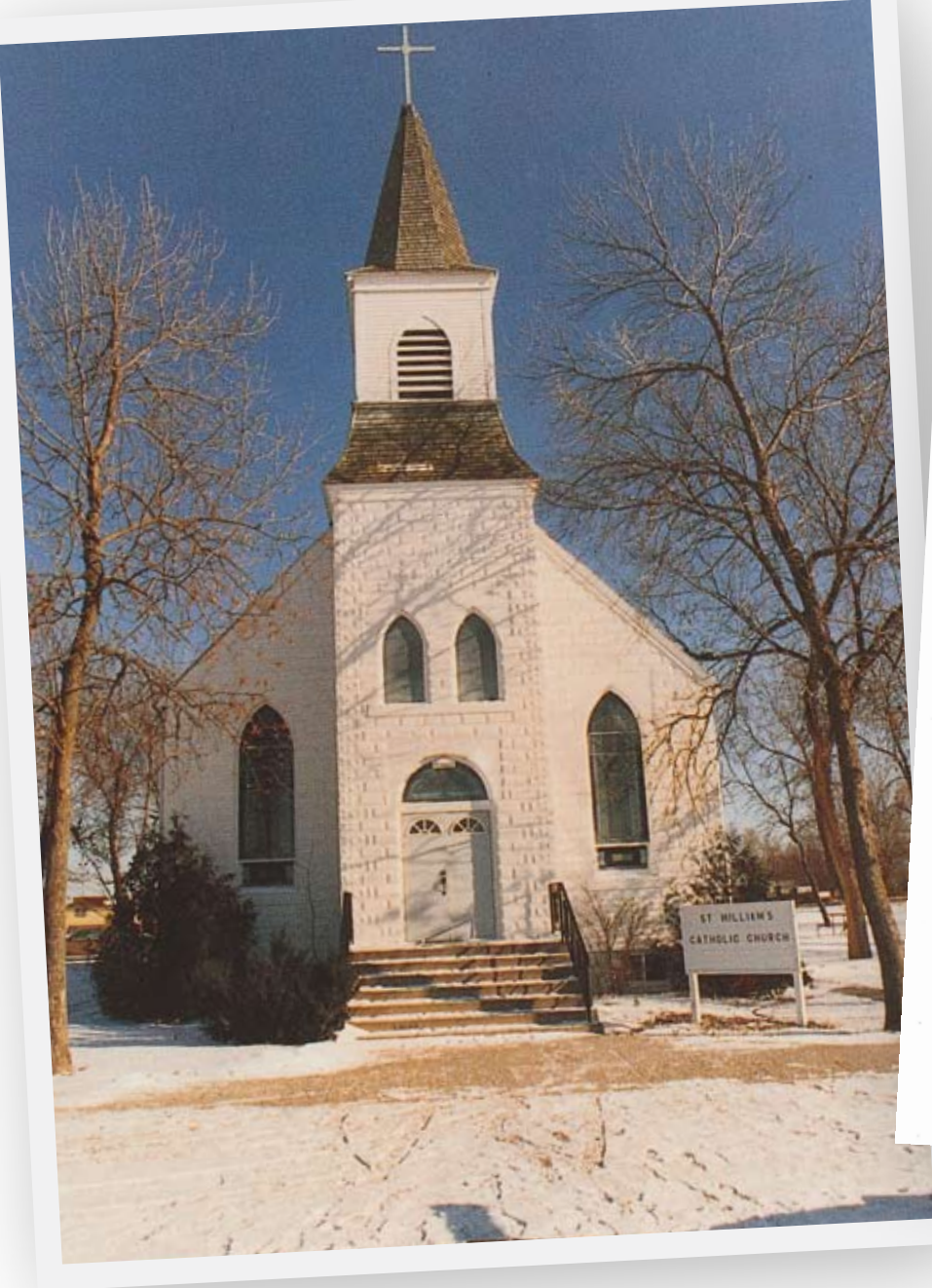


These are parishes that have closed, but the dates of when they did so, is uncertain. Information that we have included is just an excerpt of history that we have found.

Aurora St. William



Aurora (Brookings County) St. William

Aurora was founded in 1877 by Irish Catholics from Wisconsin. When the Chicago and Northwestern line passed through the settlement two years later, it was definitely on the map. The first Mass known to have been offered in Aurora was said in 1880 by Father W. Lenz, Ill., and lived that winter at the Densy homestead a few miles east of town. After that the priest from Elkton came periodically until 1882 when Bishop Marty was able to send them Father J. P. Keenan. He was instructed to organize a parish and proceed with the erection of a church. Father Keenan had come from Elkton and before the building was completed was reassigned to Plandreau. Two years later a tornado demolished the little church.

Despite hard times the Catholics of Aurora, who had their church destroyed in a storm in 1884, were determined to have a house of worship. They found holding services in a schoolhouse was unsatisfactory. Father Michael Quinlan was ingenious in supplying their need without an outlay of much money. He purchased an abandoned schoolhouse, had it moved to the church site and, after remodeling it, produced a church that served until 1910. The priests of Elkton administered to St. William's parish...Father William F. Shean served Aurora from Brookings in 1904....a parsonage was built in Aurora in 1928.

Because of a dwindling membership and a scarcity of priests, St. William's had no resident pastor after 1964. It was attended from Blue Cloud Abbey (1964-69), and after that it became a mission of Elkton. The parish house was rented. (CD)

Badus St. Ann



CENTENNIAL OF ST. ANN'S CHURCH OF BADUS LAKE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA 1884 - 1984

St. Ann's parish began its history with the advent of settlers to Dakota Territory. In the fall of 1877 a group of Swiss colonists, who had located temporarily at Stillwater, Minnesota, sent a small group to Dakota Territory for the purpose of investigating homestead land available for settlement. Their journey to Dakota Territory led them to the east shore of present day Lake Badus. Ten men filed homestead claims around the Lake in 1877 and a good report of lands was taken back to Stillwater. In the spring of 1878 Joseph Burkler and family, colonists to build houses, make improvements to the colony, incorporated as Ligia Greischa (union, organization and canton or place). The purpose of incorporating was for constructing a church, school and colony house. The language of the settlement was Romansch. The name of Lake Badus was taken from a mountain of a similar name in Switzerland. One of the first frame buildings erected in the settlement was the school house. The lumber was purchased in Norway and shipped to Volga, the nearest railway point to the Col. activities. The Badus school served as a public elementary school until destroyed by fire in 1948. The first mass and baptismal service was held on May 20, 1880, at the school by Father John Brogan of Sioux Falls, who made periodic visits to the settlement. Those baptized were Christina Burkler, the first child born in Badus, Mary Palli, Anna Giossi and Anna Schueli. Also from the early register of St. Ann's the following was recorded: "On May 9th, 1880, Rose Tobin, daughter of Edward and Mary Tobin was baptized, on May 21st, following day Clara Theresa Lawless of Richard and Bridget Croke." The first marriage, in May, 1881, was Casper Cassutt and Barbara Fazendin. The first death was that of Jacob F. Berther, who died in 1881, leaving a widow and five sons, Casper, Martin, Bert, John and Tony. Mrs. Joe (Mary) DeRungs celebrated her 100th birthday on May 31, 1984. She is the oldest living parishioner of St. Ann's.



Bushnell St. Bernard

The first Mass was celebrated in Aurora in the Catholic Church, built by Father Stecher during the winter of 1880-1881. The church was built on the site of the present church and was destroyed in the spring of 1882. In 1882, the Catholic Church was re-established in Aurora. In the year 1887, Father Stecher of Elkton arrived in Aurora. He was the first priest to reside in Aurora. He was succeeded by Father LaFleur in 1926, and for the next several years resided in Bushnell, midway between Aurora and White.



Kathleen Heffernan White recalled: As children we came to the Catholic church in Elkton during good weather with a team of horses and a surty. When the weather was bad, Monsignor Sheehan drove out to the Bill Farrell school house to serve the people from Aurora, Bushnell and White areas. Mother always packed a picnic lunch, and Dad wrapped a jug of beer in wet burlap. When we came to a shady grove, he buried the beer to keep it cool, and on our return trip home, we stopped for lunch. Dad enjoyed his cool beer, and we enjoyed our lunch—the first food of the day, since we had been fasting from midnight in order to go to communion."

Carthage Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart, Carthage With Mass offered in a school house and in homes in 1881/2, priests came from Miner, Diana, Woonsocket, Madison, and Howard, whose Fr. Stecher dedicated a church on Nov. 4, 1892, with two German and 28 English families. From 1900 on, Woonsocket priests came until a rectory was built in 1914 with Fr. Charles Krouse and 14 families; and resident pastors remained until 1956, except white being a mission of DeSmet in the 1920's. St. Nicholas in Roswell was once a mission of Carthage. In 1956, Fr. Kolbeck came from Howard; a new church was built in 1958 and the rectory moved to Howard; in 1965 priests came from Oldham and in 1968 from DeSmet, including Fr. Joseph Murphy who had 40 families in 1973. In 1983 Fr. Arnold Petrosky and from 1989 Fr. Richard Schmidt served until Jan. 8, 1990 when the parish closed.



Wednesday, June 30, 1982-Carthage News

Pictured above is the old Catholic Church and the Parsonage.

Carthage (Miner County) Sacred Heart

To the northwest of Howard, homesteaders in 1880 called their settlement Mable, but when it was opened two years later it was named Franklin. Catholics among the settlers were visited by Father John C. Ahern who offered the Holy Sacrifice in the home of James Coughlin and later on in the public schoolhouse. In 1883 a new townsite was platted a short distance west and called Carthage. Beginning with 1883 turn, from Miner, Diana, Woonsocket, Madison and Howard. In 1892 Father Thomas F. Stecher found two German families and 22 English families. He believed the time ripe for building a church. The building was completed in 1892, and Father Stecher continued to minister to these people until 1912.

1914, Carthage was attended by Endist Fathers out of Woonsocket until the 14 Catholic families provided a home by building a Sacred Heart Parish. Father Henry Kolbeck of Howard assumed charge. He inspired the people to build a new church in 1958. From 1966 to 1970 Sacred Heart was a mission of Oldham, then of DeSmet. In 1973 Father Joseph E. Murphy reported 40 Catholic households. (CD)



Fairview St. John

MANCHESTER, Kingsbury County (Fairview)	St. John's Church
1884	Manchester was first known as "Fairview", then was renamed either for Elverson Manchester or C. H. Manchester, one of the town's first settlers. THE SIOUX CITY SUNDAY JOURNAL, Feb. 10, 1946.
1910-1914	Attended from De Smet
1914-1915	Attended from Carthage
1915-1916	No record
1916-1924	Attended from De Smet No further record
1947	Only a few Catholic families

Freemont St. Michael

FREMONT St. Michael Church

Some of the early settlers; Luke Doyle, Matt Troy, John Ryan, James McCarthy, John Sweeney, Thomas McLone, C.B. Ahern, Frank Doyle, Mike Burns, Mike Doyle, Peter Doyle, George Phillips, Christ Gaukel, Coskley, with their wives and families. These people came from Ireland, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The first Masses were offered in the homes of Luke Doyle, John Sweeney, Con Ahern and Christ Gaukel. They were offered by Father Dermody. Father Shean, now of Elkton (1947) was the first resident pastor but lived in Brookings. 1900 St. Michael's Church was erected in Freemont, Township Moody County. There are no other buildings. 1940 there were 12 families. Ladies Altar Society. 1945 the church was closed.

Mable Franklyn

To the northwest of Howard, homesteaders, in 1880, called their settlement Mable, but when the post office was opened two years later, it was named Franklin. Catholics among the settlers were visited by Father Ahern, who offered the Holy Sacrifice in the home of James Coughlin and later on in the public schoolhouse. In 1883, a new townsite was platted a short distance west and called Carthage. The private school conducted by Mrs. May Mavel in a room in the bank building gave way when a public school was opened in 1883. The following year, on April 20, Bishop Hare drove from Howard to Carthage and held services in the school building. He stated that a disastrous hailstorm had destroyed the crops the year before and consequently plans for a church had to be abandoned.