

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.

Iroquois St. Paul



Iroquois (Beadle County) St. Paul

Iroquois has a history dating back to 1880 when the Chicago North Western Land Company platted the townsite. There was little growth, however, until the Calliope and Iroquois branch of the North Western reached it three years later. There were Catholics among the first settlers, and, beginning with 1885, priests from DeSmet, Cavour or Carthage came to offer their services. The first holy Mass was celebrated in the McDermott home. The priests customarily came by train the evening before, stayed overnight and returned Sunday evenings. The first Baptisms and marriages were also performed in the same home. Mrs. Edith Warren's home was also privileged to have Mass offered in it. In 1917 the Catholics purchased for \$2,000 the old Congregational Church which had been built in 1895. It was remodeled and named St. Paul's. St. Paul cemetery was donated by Thomas Joseph Murphy; he was the first to be buried in it on Oct. 30, 1922. St. Paul Parish never had a resident priest...The Extension Society assisted with the church project in 1917.

Except for the years 1917-20, Catholics were served by priests of Carthage 31 miles to the southeast who made this trip every Sunday and day. Parishioners improved their church and built a parish hall which was dedicated by Bishop Brady on June 8, 1947. Father Richard Giesen of Carthage directed the work.

While St. Paul Parish was a mission of Cavour (1958-68), Father Thomas P. O'Brien, OSV, encouraged the 55 Catholic families to plan for a new church-catechetical center. The brick structure, costing \$100,000 was blessed by Bishop Hoch on May 11, 1965. (CD)



Lake Preston St. Ann

The Irish Standard, Dakota edition, 1916
Lake Preston 1907

According to records the first Mass was said in Lake Preston about nine years ago (1907) in G.A.R. Hall, by Rev. P.J. Cafferky, but it is probable that Holy Mass was said here by early missionaries who traveled this section on their way to Fort Pierre and up and down the Vermillion River valley, the route most of them chose in journeying from Vermillion to Jefferson. Fragmentary records are all that remain to tell the story of these pioneer missionaries, much of historic value has been lost. DeSmet left no record of his work prior to 1848 and the stories of Revoux's administration are incomplete. The narrative of Hoecken's early work save scattering parts, is lost. But it is fair to assume that sometime in early days, Holy Mass was said either by these priests or their followers in the vicinity of Lake Preston. The present church was built in Lake Preston in 1907 by Father P.J. Cafferky. There are now about 15 families in the parish. Rev. Hugh Fox is the pastor.

p. 27 (picture of the church)

LAKE PRESTON, Kingsbury County

St. Ann

1839 A party under John C. Fremont passed the lake and named it. THE SIOUX CITY SUNDAY JOURNAL, Feb. 10, 1946

1880 The Ch. & Northwest RR reached Lake Preston. Olson, THE STUDY OF DANISH IMMIGRATION, p. 19

1881 The town was platted.

1886, Oct. 14 DER WAENDERER A parish was organized: 27 Catholic families, of whom 22 are German. Holy Mass was offered occasionally by missionaries.

1907 Mass was offered in the G.A.R. Hall by Rev. P.J. Cafferky. A Catholic church was built the same year. THE IRISH STANDARD, DAK. Ed.

1916 Rev. Hugh Fox, resident pastor, with three missions. 15 Cath. families.

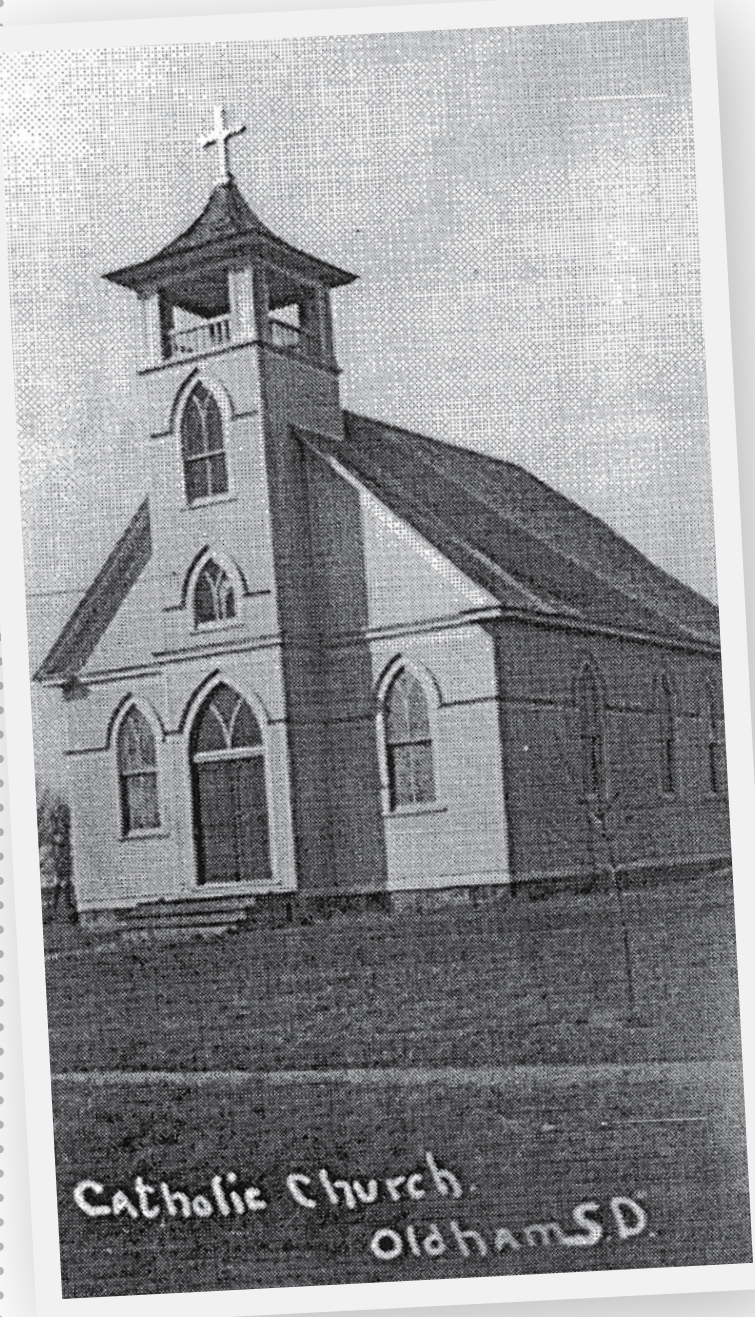
After 1918 a mission

1932-1952 Attended from De Smet.

1952 The church was closed and the people attend at DeSmet or Arlington.

1973, Mar. 15 Reported by Rev. Joseph E. Murphy 16 Catholic white families. No parish buildings. The former church now a warehouse. Religious instruction is given each week at a parishioner's home. Who? People attend at DeSmet or Arlington.

Oldham St. Catherine



The Building of Our Parish
Before a formal structure was built in Oldham in 1903 and 1904, Catholics in the area attended mass in homes and above the drugstore (Mrs. Wiberg's house). The home of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Loesch was one of the places of worship at the turn of the century. Mr. Ed Becker recalls that mass was said in the Klein school which was located Howard and stayed overnight with local families and then returned to town. One of the homes in which he stayed was the Frank Becker home. On March 8, 1899, a two-acre tract of land was purchased for the purpose of building a church and cemetery. Construction was under way in 1903. The debt incurred was paid in full by the time the project was completed.

Oldham Catholics were served by priests from DeSmet from 1889 to 1900.
Mrs. Leo (Regena McAdaragh) Kattke

At Oldham on May 7, 1954, Father Paul F. Anderson—the future bishop—was awakened by a phone call at 4:50 a.m., telling him that St. Catherine's Church was on fire. By the time he ran from the rectory to the burning building, the heat was so intense that he was unable to enter by either the front or back doors. In a matter of minutes flames burst through the roof and the tower collapsed, carrying with it the 1,200-pound bell which had been installed less than a year before. By 6:30 a.m. all that remained of the 50-year-old structure were the foundation and a mass of smoldering ruins. But as it happened in so many other cases, the parishioners rallied with prayers and sacrifice, before a second year had passed.

The faith-testing episodes continued. Early in the morning of February 29, 1969, the recently razed was completely gutted by a fire of undetermined origin. A local funeral home provided facilities for Mass until a new building could be erected.



Spencer St. Mary

Spencer, Farmer unite for new parish

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Spencer Leader Staff

Min. May 31, 1999

New weather radio 2B

The love that the people have for their own parish, just like the town, is something that doesn't fade with the building.

—The Rev. Paul Offerman

Spencer - More than 20 years ago, Bob Fritschen of Farmer married Hazel Robinson of Spencer in St. Mary's Catholic Church. And on that day, they helped bring these two towns together in celebration.

So it was only fitting that the Laurel, Neb., couple returned Sunday to Spencer for another celebration which, like their wedding, helped bring the towns of Spencer and Farmer together.

Hazel Fritschen says God used the May 20, 1988, tornado to unite Farmer and Spencer in the new St. John Neumann Parish Center, built where St. Mary's Church once stood.

"It showed that everyone in the community needs to work together," Hazel Fritschen said. Not only did it give the people of Spencer a church again, "it kind of reopened the Farmer church."

About 200 people attended Sunday's dedication for the center. The new parish is made up of 84 families from both towns.

A few weeks after the tornado struck on May 30, 1998, members of the Spencer parish met with Bishop Robert Carlson, and they decided to join with members of St. Peter Catholic Church in Farmer, which was set to be closed.

The Farmer church is used for Mass and the new parish center will be used for religious education.

At the dedication ceremony, Bishop Carlson said the building was named appropriately after St. John Neumann, who advocated that young people have a place to learn the Catholic faith.

"It was at the heart of what St. John Neumann understood as the way to spread the faith," Carlson said.

In addition, the building houses a branch of the Hanson-McCook County Library; Don Sieverding, who developed a plan for the parish center, said the village board uses the center for its meetings.

It opened in March, six weeks ahead of schedule.

Of the other churches destroyed in last year's tornado, Trinity Lutheran Church also plans to rebuild.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church disbanded its

New parish/ See 3B

6-6-98

Chuck Blomberg/Republic

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH was leveled early in the storm. A hymn book was lying in front, opened to "Sing with Joy the Savior's Glory."

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Chuck Blomberg/Republic



Bishop Robert Carlson blesses St. John Neumann Parish Center in Spencer on Sunday during its inaugural Mass.

New parish: 'Keeps people together'

Continued from 1B

"The love that the people have for their own parish, just like the town, is something that doesn't fade with the building," he said.

"It seems like they never hesitated in their plans to build up again."

Nicole Heumiller grew up in Spencer and said churches are important for community unity.

She wants her own children to have the same church experiences she did.

"It means a lot," Heumiller said. "It kind of keeps people together, and it's a place that's always there."

Rutland Our Lady of Lourdes

RUTLAND, Lake County

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1913-1919 Attended from Huntimer
1919-1934 Attended from Colman
No further record

