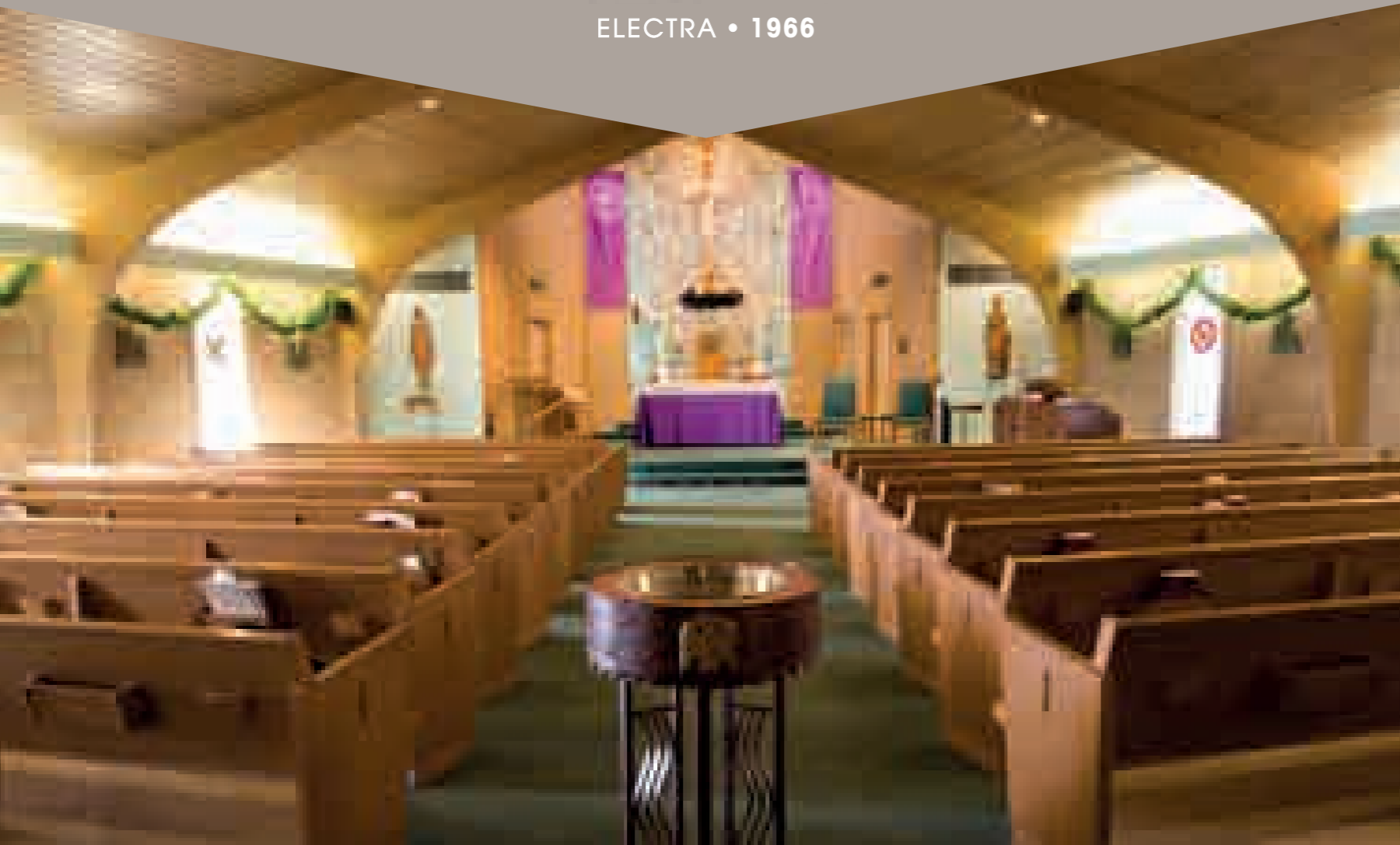


St. Paul

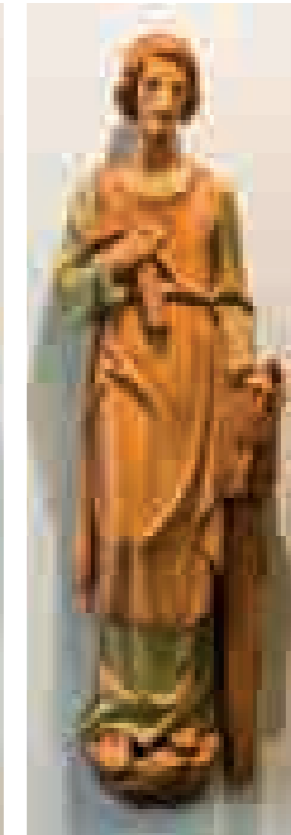
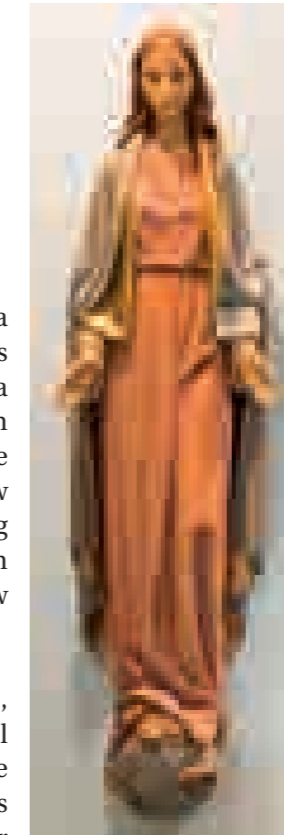
ELECTRA • 1966



In nearby Electra, history took a different course. In 1910, St. Francis Xavier was established there as a mission of Mount Carmel. Then on April Fools Day, April 1, 1911, the legendary Clayco No. 1 well blew in a mile north of town, triggering an oil boom. It was no joke. Within months, Electra's population grew from 1,000 to 5,000 people.

According to church records, Catholics working for the oil company in Electra attended the first Masses of the St. Francis Xavier mission. The location for Masses rotated between homes and business in the area until 1912, when the new church was established.

Church services alternated between Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Francis Xavier in Electra. In the decades of the 1950s and 1960s, religious education classes were held in Electra, while weddings, first Communion, Confirmation and other sacraments and special events were held in Mount Carmel.



Through the women involved in the Christian Mothers Society and Altar Society, as well as men who were members of the Knights of Columbus, fellowship grew strong between Catholics in Electra and Mount Carmel.

Both communities merged in the mid-1960s, completing a new house of worship, St. Paul Catholic Church, on September 11, 1966.

Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth Bishop Thomas K. Gorman dedicated St. Paul in Electra on November 27, 1966.

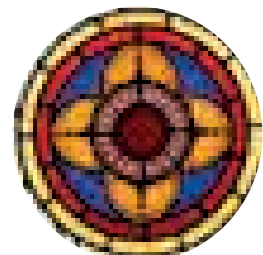
In 2006, local parishioners joined with Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Kevin W. Vann to celebrate 100 years of Catholic presence in their community.

Today, the church is home to about 100 parishioners.



The history of the Catholic Church in Electra dates back to 1906, with the establishment of the nearby Mount Carmel community by German colonizers Emil, Austin and Anton Flusche.

Similar to what they had done before in Muenster, Lindsay and Pilot Point, the Flusche brothers purchased farmland in the area, founded a community, made plans to build a church, and recruited Catholics from the Midwest to settle there.



By 1907, a Catholic chapel and school were built for the largely German farming community of Mount Carmel.

Father C.G. Lindeman, who had ministered to the community since its founding, moved into a new rectory a few years later and became first resident pastor on April 1, 1909. By 1922, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church was completed by the Catholic community, which had grown to about 35 families, according to the Texas State Historical Association. The population of Mount Carmel would decline, however, over the following decades.

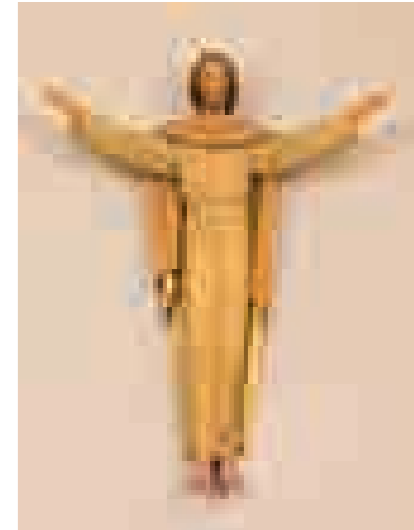


Although Masses were celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel through 1965, only eight families constituted the parish. By December 1964, the church was closed and by 1966 Mount Carmel ceased to exist as a formal community.



St. Jude Thaddeus

BURKBURNETT • 1968



A group of 20 devout Catholic women, eager to start a Bible study group in Burkburnett in the spring of 1958, set in motion the eventual creation of a new house of God in their community.

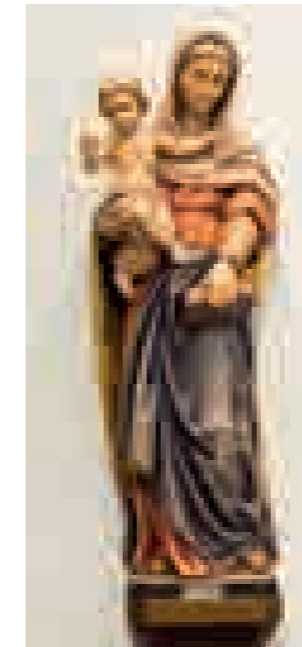
Monsignor Anthony Daly, pastor of Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls, moderated the study group and named it the Saint Boniface Study Club, in honor of an 8th century missionary and teacher who brought Christianity to the vast pagan region of Germania in North Central Europe.

The club met regularly at various locations in Burkburnett and established a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine group to provide religious education for children and adults. With the assistance of chaplains from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, classes were held in private homes and at the local American Legion hall.

Burkburnett's growing number of faithful eventually became a Catholic community. On October 15, 1965, Monsignor Vincent P. Micola celebrated the first Mass at the Burkburnett Town Hall. Attending the Mass were 350 people, including the mayor and his wife.

Catholics of the new St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic community continued to meet at the town hall over the next three years, and the women of the early study group formed the St. Jude Altar Society. This society also became affiliated with the National Conference of Catholic Women — a federation of several thousand organizations representing millions of Catholic women throughout the United States.

Through many creative fundraisers, the St. Jude Altar Society helped raise needed money for the construction of a new church. One of those activities, a fall Thanksgiving dinner, continues to this day.



With additional funds donated by parishioners, the local community and the Catholic Church Extension Society, St. Jude Thaddeus had the financial means to build a church.

On January 10, 1968, parishioners broke ground for their church the old-fashioned way — by a mule-drawn plow. The event was attended by Catholic clergy, parishioners, members of the community and elected officials.

By October 28, 1969, the Feast of St. Jude Thaddeus, the completed church was consecrated by Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop John J. Cassata — shepherd of the new Diocese of Fort Worth, created only a few months earlier. As a gift to the new church, the bishop donated Stations of the Cross.

What began in 1958 as a Bible-study group started by a small group of Catholic women has grown into St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church — an active house of worship today for about 200 families, including nearly 300 parishioners, in Burkburnett.



Christ the King

IOWA PARK • 1980



Christ the King Catholic Church in Iowa Park was established in 1980 as a mission of Saint Paul in Electra. Prior to that time, Father Richard Beaumont, pastor of St. Paul, realized a need for a Catholic Church in Iowa Park and brought it to the attention of Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop John J. Cassata.

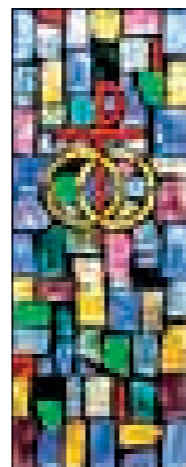
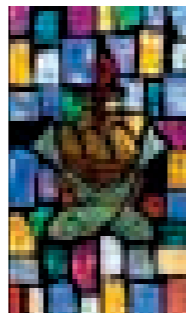


Bishop Cassata established the parish and appointed Father David Johnson as its first pastor. The priest celebrated the first Mass for Christ the King Parish on January 1, 1980, at the Lutheran Church in Iowa Park. During Father Johnson's time at Christ the King, he helped parishioners finance a multi-purpose building to serve as the church, parish hall and formation center.

In 1983, Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Joseph P. Delaney sought a deacon to become pastoral administrator at both Christ the King in Iowa Park and St. Paul in Electra. Deacon Patrick Burke came from the Archdiocese of New Orleans in early 1984 to serve in that role.

At that point, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wichita Falls took over care of the two parishes.

Various priests from Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls, as well as pastors from St. Paul in Electra, celebrated Mass for Christ the King parishioners. On some special occasions, including Christmas, priests from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and New Orleans, Louisiana, visited and celebrated Mass.



On December 18, 1988, a new church was constructed, and parishioners paid off its costs through golf tournaments and other creative fundraisers over the years.

On the church's 25th anniversary, in 2005, Bishop Kevin W. Vann consecrated a new marble altar at Christ the King. Members of church also added a new pulpit that year.

During the Christmas season, Christ the King displays beautiful nativity scenes, made by parishioners. The popular homemade depictions of Christ's birth are exhibited in the church's parish hall and attract visitors from Iowa Park and surrounding areas.

Currently about 100 faithful are parishioners of Christ the King Catholic Parish in Iowa Park.

