

10. Brinsley

Holy Ghost / All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The Brinsley church, originally known as the “Kryshchatyk” church, derives its name from the Bukovynian village of Kryshchatyk (Khreshchatyk), situated on the right bank of the Dniester River in Zastavna Raion. Kryshchatyk is notable for its mid-17th-century monastery, which became a renowned pilgrimage site in Bukovyna. The monastery featured a wooden church dedicated to St. John the Theologian. These historical connections may have inspired settlers in Brinsley to name their church after their homeland.

The settlers of the Brinsley area began organizing an Orthodox congregation soon after establishing their homesteads. In 1915, they constructed a rough-hewn log church on land owned by John Hackman (Ivan Hekman). Unfortunately, this structure was destroyed by fire in 1920.

A new sanctuary was built on the same site in 1924, led by volunteer workers with George Deputat serving as the chief contractor. At this time, the congregation joined the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOC) and renamed their church the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Ghost.

The congregation faced periods of flux, briefly seeking pastoral care from the Russian Orthodox Church when Father Horbay fell ill in 1935. Under Father Ambrose Chrustawka, the community returned to the UGOC fold in 1941 when Father Chrustawka himself joined the UGOC.

Architecturally, the Brinsley church is a tripartite structure crowned by a medium-sized central dome on a large octagonal base. It is flanked by smaller domes over the narthex and sanctuary. A clapboard belltower stands northwest of the church. In 2008, the belltower



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contained two banners with Romanian inscriptions. The church's interior included an icon signed by Peter Lipinski and dated 1929. Although the bell tower suffered damage with broken windows in 2008, it has since been repaired.

Throughout its history, the congregation has preserved the church's legacy through ongoing maintenance and worship. The cemetery, adjacent to the church, serves as a testament to the community's enduring ties to their faith and heritage.



Priests

- Fr. F. Pechinsky (ROC, c. 1915–1916)
- Fr. W. Bolfun? (ROC, 1916–?)
- Fr. L. Gherman (EOC, c. 1918–1920)
- Fr. I. Kusey (1920–1924)
- Fr. T. Horbay (1933–1935)
- Fr. A. Chrustawka (1935–1941, ROC)
- Fr. S. Symych (1941–1943)
- Fr. A. Chrustawka (1943–1945, UGOC)
- Fr. H. Wasyliv (1945–1951)
- Fr. W. Melnychuk (dates unclear)
- Fr. H. Kryshtanowich (dates unclear)
- Fr. A. Teterenko (1957–1965)
- Fr. P. Zubritsky (dates unclear)
- Fr. M. Sawchenko (1985–1994)
- Fr. W. Sapiha (1994–2014)

Location and Feast Day

Northeast corner of the junction of Township Road 570 and Range Road 130, SW 6-57-12 W4, northwest of Two Hills, County of Two Hills. *GPS Coordinates:* 53.890256, -111.786451 | Their *Feast Day* is the Monday following Pentecost (Green Holidays).

Founding Members

- M. Shepansky
- O. Gordy
- N. Holowaychuk
- I. Hackman
- I. Werstiuk
- F. Doschiwnik
- S. Bodnaruk
- W. Zadimersky
- H. Bereska

Cemetery

Located adjacent to the church on the same parcel of land.



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