

2. Anshaw

Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The history of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Anshaw (now Duprés) is marked by dedication, community effort, and eventual decline. An Orthodox congregation was reportedly organized in the community in 1942. In 1943, the congregation secured a two-acre government land allowance to establish a cemetery. Four years later, construction of the church began. The project was driven by volunteer labor and donated materials. Timber for the structure was harvested by Steve and Walter Zuck, along with Tom Antoniuk. They processed the logs into lumber for construction. Harry Osoba, likely the chief carpenter, played a significant role in crafting the church's impressive central dome. This feature complemented the building's compact yet well-proportioned design.

In 1950, an intricate ikonostasis was installed. It was created by the renowned craftsman Philip Pawliuk of Lamont. The sanctuary was further enhanced with richly adorned ikons and ornamental decorations. Externally, the church was painted a cream color with red trim, reflecting the congregation's commitment to beautifying their place of worship.

Although the exact timeline of the congregation's affiliation with the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada is unclear, it is likely that services were sporadic in the early years. The congregation may have relied on priests from the Russian Orthodox Mission. However, on June 18, 1951, during a meeting in Bonnyville led by Father Petro Satsevich, the congregation formally adopted the constitution and bylaws of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada. Signatories of the document included M. Kostyshyn, G. Tiahlo, and Dmytro Pasichnyk.

Despite this affiliation, records indicate limited religious activity. In 1954, no liturgies were celebrated in the community. A letter written in August 1955 by Father Ivan Kulish, following a memorial service for the Tiahlo family, provides insight into the parish's challenges. Father Kulish noted that the congregation consisted of only five members:

- Dmytro Pasichnyk
- Yuri Welechka
- Stefan Tiahlo
- widows of Yuri and Jacob Tiahlo.

Of these, only Yuri Tiahlo's widow actively participated in church services at Lessard. The others exhibited indifference toward religion. Father Kulish remarked that prospects for revitalizing the congregation were minimal, despite his efforts to encourage engagement.

Communications from the Consistory suggest that the parish maintained some activity until 1970. However, as time passed, the community's involvement dwindled. The church was eventually abandoned. By 1995, the Bonnyville and District Historical Society initiated efforts to preserve the sanctuary, possibly by relocating it to Bonnyville.

Unfortunately, these efforts did not materialize. The church was left to succumb to the elements.



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Priests

Fr. H. Wasyliv (1936–1943)
Fr. W. Woytowich (1943–1944)
Fr. W. Senishen (1945–1949)
Fr. W. Boychuk (1949–1950)
Fr. P. Satsevich (1950–1951)
Fr. Iov Skakalsky (1952–1953)
Fr. I. Kulish (1955)



Location and Feast Day

Situated south of Bonnyville and east of Gifford, NE 8-62-6 W4, Municipal District of Bonnyville. Their *Feast Day* is July 28.

Founding Members

B. Antoniuk
J. Antoniuk
Tom Antoniuk
Trofim Antoniuk
Jim Krawiec
John Krawiec
S. Krawiec
S. Philipchuk
J. Shewchuk
G. Tiahlo
J. Tiahlo
G. Welechka
J. Zuck
L. Zuck
W. Zuck

Cemetery

Located adjacent to the church, the cemetery remains a testament to the community's history, even as the church itself has been long abandoned.

