

41. North Slawa

All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church

No formal records exist documenting the early years of All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church in North Slawa. However, oral histories indicate that a congregation had formed by 1912, and construction of a log church began around that year, likely reaching completion by 1915. Metro Rozko, who had donated ten acres of land from his homestead for a cemetery in 1906, served as the master carpenter overseeing the volunteer work crew. The sanctuary, built from hand-hewn logs, was named the Russo-Greek Orthodox Church of All Saints. The congregation obtained the formal title to the property on July 10, 1922.

Liturgies were celebrated at North Slawa on an irregular basis, with priests from the Russo-Orthodox Church ministering to the community. The only regular service was the annual blessing of the graves. During a cemetery clean-up in July 1940, a controlled fire unexpectedly grew out of control, tragically consuming the original church. Despite lacking a place of worship for more than a decade, Provody continued to be held at the cemetery each spring, maintaining a focal point for religious life in the North Slawa district.

Meanwhile, parishioners decided to follow their long-term pastor, Rev. A. Chrustawka, when he left the Russo-Orthodox Church for the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOC). At a meeting held on September 14, 1941, members voted to request affiliation with the Winnipeg-based UGOC, which thereafter provided priests for the congregation.

Rebuilding and Decline

According to a report submitted to the Consistory by Rev. I. Shwetz, in 1951, the All Saints congregation consisted of five members. On June 1, 1956, through the efforts of Isaac Lypka, the North Slawa parishioners purchased the former Brierfield Schoolhouse from the recently amalgamated Two Hills School Division. It was moved to the ten-acre burial ground and converted into a church. Subsequently, a free-standing enclosed belfry was erected near the church, and the entire property was fenced with the help of a provincial grant. A cairn was also erected in honor of the North Slawa pioneers.

Although two services are known to have been held at the church in the summer of 1966, by 1971, it was reported that the All Saints congregation had been defunct for several years.



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Priests

Ioann Zazuliak (ROC, 1918)
Aleksandr Kiziun (ROC)
L. Diachina (1942-1946)
I. Shwetz (1946-1951)
M. Flak (1951-1952)
S. Hredil (1952-1959)
M. Kryschuk (1959-1961)
A. Chrustawka (1961-1965)
R. Denesiuk (1966)
W. Melnychuk (1966-1968)

Cemetery

The cemetery is situated on the church property.

*Cemetery coordinates: 53.74540,
-111.04236*

Location and Feast Day

Northwest of Derwent, south of the North Saskatchewan River, at SW 18-55-7 W4, County of Two Hills. GPS coordinates: 53.744683, -111.043186 Their *Feast Day* was on November 8.

Founding Members

Metro Rozko
Mike Lypka
John Kurash
Sam Dutka
Joseph Derwynka
Nick Myshaniuk
Mike Toplnicki
Kost Kalynchuk
Steve Rogich
Peter Zaiec



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