

Memories of Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox Churches



*Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Sarrail, Alberta – Founded 1932*

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MEMORIES OF ALBERTA UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

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Photographs and histories of 66 Ukrainian Orthodox churches established in the twentieth century by Ukrainian pioneers in Alberta. Information for each church includes a history, founders, clergy and cemetery data as well as colour photographs of their exteriors and interiors. Lists are included of all Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox parishes and cemeteries that existed between 1900 and 2000.

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Dedication

Ukrainians began arriving in Canada from Bukovyna and Halychyna in 1891. These immigrants brought with them their strong religious faith. From Bukovyna came the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beliefs and traditions.

Some churches were founded before Alberta became a province in 1905, and before there was a Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (1918). Over the succeeding years, some 90 Ukrainian Orthodox Churches were established, many with their own cemeteries. (See pages 293 and 296 for lists of these.)

As our parish histories describe, building and keeping these churches open was at times challenging. There was often a shortage of priests, ongoing conflicts and disagreements, and competition from other religious denominations. Despite these difficulties, the Ukrainian Orthodox faithful persevered. Declining rural members and increasing costs are slowly taking their toll. Regular services are less frequent. Many parishes are now inactive and/or at risk of closing.

This book is dedicated to the memories and preservation of the histories of the Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox Parishes that served the faithful in the twentieth century. We are eternally grateful and thankful to the founders, clergy and Orthodox members for the strength of their Faith and their dedication.

Western Eparchy Leaders

Rev. Yeronim Hrycyna (1955–1958)

Rev. Hryhory Metiuk (1958)

Archbishop Andrew (1959–1975)

Archbishop Boris (1975–1984)

Archbishop John (1984–2005)

Bishop Ilarion (2008–2022)

Earliest UOC Parishes

St. Pokrova at Borovich (1902)

St. Demetrius at Jaroslaw (1902)

St. Elias at Luzan Toporiwtzi (1904)

Holy Ascension at Ispas (1906)

St. Mary at Edwand (1906)

St. Mary at Szypenitz (1907)

St. Demetrius at Luzan (1908)

St. Mary at Slawa (1910)



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Supplementary Information

Here is some explanatory information regarding the contents and structure of this book.

- Based on our research, there were approximately 90 Ukrainian Orthodox parishes established in Alberta in the 1900s. (See the list at the end of this book.) The 66 churches selected for inclusion were the ones that had compiled a history.
- Under the organizational structure of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the individual parishes were independently owned and operated. As a result, the availability of historical data varies greatly. Since some parishes were closed and there were no living members left, obtaining access to their records was difficult. This is the reason why some parish histories are short, while others are more detailed. This is also why there are no photographs for a few of the churches.
- The other challenge was that much of the early church documents and records were in Ukrainian. This made locating, translating and interpreting historic data problematic.
- Translation from Ukrainian to English often resulted in different versions of names for parishes, priests and founding members. We tried to be consistent, but some variations in spelling may still exist.
- The parish history collection project ended in about 2016. Therefore, the histories for active churches ends there. However, we were able to extend the list of priests that served in the active parishes to 2024. Most of the interior photos were taken in 2013.
- The Feast dates listed in the book are based on the “Traditional” or “Julian” calendar. In recent years, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada and many of their parishes have switched to the “Gregorian” calendar.
- All attempts have been made to verify the information contained in this book, but the authors and publisher do not bear any responsibility for errors or omissions.