

A History of Ukrainian
**ORTHODOX
CHURCHES**



in Alberta, Canada

A History of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches *in Alberta, Canada*



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

*Jars Balan
Russell Sawchuk*

A HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN ALBERTA CANADA

By Jars Balan and Russell Sawchuk

Published by *Steppingstones Partnership Inc.*
September 2026.

All images except where noted are by
Russell Sawchuk.

All histories except where noted are by
Jars Balan.

Cover design, book design and layout by
Russell Sawchuk.

Printed in Canada by *Rapid Books* in
Montreal QC.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

A History of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Alberta by Jars Balan and Russell Sawchuk.

Includes lists of all Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox parishes and cemeteries from 1900 to 2000.

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-0696005-0-9 (Hardcover book)

ISBN 978-1-0696005-1-6 (PDF)

ISBN 978-1-0696005-2-3 (EPUB)

ISBN 978-1-0696005-3-0 (Kindle)

(Cataloguing data to be provided)

Production of this publication was made possible with the support of the following organizations: *St. John's Legacy Foundation, Shevchenko Foundation, and the SUS Foundation of Canada.*



Dedication

Ukrainians began to arrive in Canada in 1891 from Bukovyna and Halychyna. These immigrants brought with them their strong religious beliefs. 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 242 and 245 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 and many parishes are now inactive and at risk of closing.

This book is dedicated to the memories and preservation of the histories of the Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox Churches that served the faithful in the 1900's. We are eternally grateful and thankful to the founders, clergy and Orthodox members for the strength of their Faith and their dedication.

Jars Balan and Russell Sawchuk



Western Eparchy Leaders

Rev. Yeronim Hyncyna (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 Edward (1906)
St. Mary at Szypenitz (1907)
St. Demetrius at Luzan (1908)
St. Mary at Slawa (1910)



Contents

Dedication	iii
1. Andrew . Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	1
2. Anshaw (Dupres). Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church	5
3. Athabasca . Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	7
4. Bellis . All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	11
5. Big Meadow (Lessard). Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church	15
6. Bonnyville . Saint Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church	19
7. Borowich . Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church	22
8. Boyle . Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	26
9. Boyne Lake . Holy Cross Ukrainian Orthodox Church.....	29
10. Brinsley . Holy Spirit / All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	32
11. Cappon . (Buffalo) Saint Wolodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church	35
12. Calmar . Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	37
13. Craigend . Saint Demetrios Ukrainian Orthodox Church	40
14. Downing . Saint Paraskevia Ukrainian Orthodox Church	44
15. Edmonton . Saint Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor	47
16. Edmonton . Saint Anthony Ukrainian Orthodox Church	50
17. Edmonton . Saint Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church	53
18. Edmonton . Saint John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral	56
19. Edmonton . Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Saint Michael the Archangel	60
20. Edwand . Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church	63
21. Egremont . Saint John Ukrainian Orthodox Church	67
22. Elk Point . Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church	71
23. Fedorah . Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church	74
24. Gifford . Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	78
25. Glendon . Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	81
26. Grassland . Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church	85
27. Hamlin . Nativity of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church	89
28. Innisfree . Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church	93
29. Ispas . Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church	95
30. Jaroslaw . Saint Demetrios Ukrainian Orthodox Church	100

Contents

31. Kahwin. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	105
32. Kaleland. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	110
33. Lac La Biche. All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	114
34. Luzan. Saint Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church	118
35. Luzan-Toporiwtsi. Saint Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church	123
36. Mamaesti / Brosseau. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	126
37. Morecambe. Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church	129
38. Musidora. Dormition of Saint Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church	133
39. Myrnam. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	138
40. Noral. Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church	142
41. North Slawa. All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	147
42. Oyen. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	150
43. Peno. Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church	153
44. Pruth. Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church	157
45. Radway. Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church	161
46. Redwater. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	164
47. Richmond Park. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	168
48. Sandy Rapids. All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	172
49. Sarail. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	176
50. Sich-Kolomea. Dormition of Saint Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church	181
51. Smoky Lake. Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church	185
52. South Slawa. Dormition of Saint Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church	189
53. Spedden. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church	193
54. St. Paul. All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church	197
55. Stry. Descent of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Orthodox Church	201
56. Suchava. Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Saint John of Suchava	204
57. Szypenitz. Saint Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church	208
58. Therien. Saint Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church	212
59. Thorhild. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church	214
60. Two Hills Rural. Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of Saint Paraskevia	218

Contents

61. Vegreville. Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church	220
62. Wandering River. Saint Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church.....	224
63. Warspite. Saint John Ukrainian Orthodox Church	228
64. Waskatenau. Saint Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church	230
65. Willingdon. Holy Spirit Ukrainian Orthodox Church	234
66. Zawale. Saint Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church	238
Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox Parishes	242
Alberta Ukrainian Orthodox Cemeteries	245
Acknowledgements and Sources	247
About the Authors	248



*St. Elias Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery
Luzan-Toporiwtsi, Alberta – Founded in 1904*