

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

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