

# 36. Mamaesti / Brosseau

# Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The district of Mamaesti takes its name from the local school organized in August 1911, which in turn was named after the Bukovynian village of Mamaivtsi—now called Novosilka in Kitsman Raion, Chernivtsi Oblast. The establishment of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church began in 1914, when Nick Taschuk and Dmetro Sherstanko donated land for the church’s construction. Logs supplied by congregation members were used to build the sanctuary, with Peter Hnatiuk serving as the main carpenter.

The structure was built on a stone foundation with a log frame, covered by a cedar-shingled, dome-less roof. Notably, one of the squared logs was scavenged from the nearby North Saskatchewan River and hauled to the construction site using oxen. The exterior was later covered with wood siding and painted, while the interior walls and ceiling were finished with V-joint planks and also painted.

Initially named the Holy Trinity Russo-Greek Orthodox Church, the congregation was served sporadically by various priests from the Russian Orthodox Mission. A bronze bell was purchased and hung outside on a wooden trestle. Later, Ignaty Logozar constructed a log bell tower southwest of the church, where the bell was relocated.

# Transition to the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada

On January 14, 1942, a pivotal meeting chaired by John Pundick resulted in the congregation's decision to join the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOC). Rev. Ambrose Chrustawka celebrated the first liturgy sung in the Ukrainian language, officially integrating the congregation into the Ukrainian Orthodox community.



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**I**n 1951, Rev. I. Shwetz reported that the Brosseau congregation had eight members and celebrated four liturgies annually. In 1953, the church underwent significant remodeling under the supervision of Walter Gulka of St. Paul, with materials and labor donated by members. A new foundation was built, and the church was relocated onto it. Additions included a porch, altar, and domes. The interior ceiling was modified to accommodate a dome, enhancing the church's architectural features.

In 1954, an iconostasis was installed, featuring hand-carved altar doors donated by Metro Draginda of Hairy Hill. That same year, the congregation purchased the old Mamaesti School, constructed circa 1910 and closed due to centralization. The school was moved to a site half a mile east of the church at NW 33-11-4 W4, renovated, and adapted for use as a parish hall.

## Priests

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A. Pohrebniak (Russian Orthodox Church, 1916)

Gregory Soroka (Russian Orthodox Church, 1918 –1921)

L. Diachina (Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada, 1942 –1946)

D. Denesiuk (UGOC, 1966)

W. Sapiha (UGOC, 1994 –)

## Cemetery

**T**he cemetery is located east of the sanctuary on church property. The first burial was that of Wasyl Oneschuk on March 16, 1916. *Cemetery GPS Coordinates: 53.80195, -111.60131*

## Continued Growth and Renovations

**O**ver the years, members of the Brosseau church made continuous improvements to both the sanctuary and the parish hall. In 1959, Nickola Karpiuk of Two Hills donated a hand-carved altar table. The bell tower was replaced in 1983, although the original bell was retained. The church roof was re-shingled, and the heating system was converted to natural gas in 1986. New windows were installed in 1987, and in 1992, the churchyard was enclosed with an iron fence.

That same year, new icons painted by Brother Simion were obtained for the iconostasis from the Holy Protection Orthodox Monastery in Kansas City. Meanwhile, the parish hall also saw significant upgrades. The old porch was removed in 1971-72, and a kitchen was added. Electric power was connected in 1975, and the roof was re-shingled in 1980. In the 1990s, natural gas was installed to improve heating.

A cenotaph stands at the west entrance of the churchyard, honoring those who contributed to the church's rich history.

## Location and Feast Day

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**N**orthwest of Two Hills, north of the North Saskatchewan River, three and one-half miles east of Highway 36 on Lac Sante Road at NE 32-55-11 W4, County of Two Hills. *GPS Coordinates: 53.802134, -111.602545* | Their *Feast Day* is celebrated on Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter.



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