

45. Redwater

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The first Ukrainian Orthodox liturgy in Redwater was celebrated by Rev. Ivan Kusey in 1923, after which Rev. Dmytro Seneta provided spiritual care to the fledgling community on an irregular basis. Early services took place in the *Narodnyi Dim* or occasionally in the home of Mr. Mykhailo Popil, stimulating the eventual founding of a congregation.

In March 1925, the Ukrainian Orthodox faithful decided to purchase two acres of land from William Skolney for \$25 to establish a church and cemetery. At a meeting on December 26, 1926, sixteen members committed to financing the construction of a place of worship by signing individual promissory notes for \$25. John Lemisko dug the basement for the sanctuary, while logs were dragged from the North Saskatchewan River to a sawmill operated by Mr. Serink, where they were cut into lumber and transported to the church site. Volunteers, supervised by Polish carpenter Frank Segal and assisted by John Danko from Ukraine, built a modest cruciform structure with a large central dome.

Nick Bodnarchuk crafted the cross that eventually adorned the church. The exterior of the sanctuary was completed in 1927, after which Rev. Seneta officiated the first service. A propane furnace initially installed to heat the building was later converted to natural gas.

In 1932, the congregation commissioned cabinetmaker Philip Pawliuk to build a two-tiered iconostasis, tetrapod, main altar, and tabernacle. Icons for the church were obtained from Volodmyr Zaluski and renowned church painter Peter Lipinski. Among the highlights of the church's artwork are the depictions over the deacon's doors—one featuring St. George slaying the dragon and the other, the Archangel Michael



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casting down a devil with his fiery sword. A beautiful candle chandelier, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Myroon, illuminated the brightly painted sanctuary.

In 1936, Redwater became part of the Radway Central Parish along with Egremont and Fedorah, and two years later, a manse was built in Radway. Holy Trinity was formally blessed during a hierarchical visitation by Archbishop Ioan Theodorich in 1944. Another memorable occasion was the first visit by Metropolitan Ilarion on August 23, 1953, commemorating the thirtieth year of the congregation's history—a reference to Fr. Kusey's groundbreaking 1923 liturgy.

Over the years, the church underwent several remodels. Pews and rugs were eventually installed, windows were repaired, and a tiled ceiling was added to cover the interior of the dome, conserving energy and reducing heating costs. When the candle chandelier was replaced by an electric one, the former was donated to the Redwater Museum.

The congregation also acquired a movie theater for use as a parish hall, but it burned down in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Subsequently, they built a replacement facility at 4719-48th Avenue (on the south side of Highway 38), named Deric Hall.



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Priests

I. Kusey (1923)
D. Seneta (1924-1926)
D. Volokhatiuk (1927-1929)
E. Olendy (1929)
I. Dmytriw (1930-1932)
D. Stratychuk (1932)
I. Mayba (1932)
T. Horbay (1932-1933)
T. Kisiliuk (1933-1936)
P. Sametz (1936-1938)
M. Fyk (1938-1943)
H. Wasyliv (1943-1945)
M. Fyk (1945-1951)
H. Wasyliv (1951-1955)
W. Senishen (1955-1956)
O. Flak (1956-1961)
I. Kulish (1966-1971)
H. Fil' (1974-1975)
M. Sawchenko (1975-1978)
A. Palamarchuk (1983-present)

Location and Feast Day

Located half a mile southeast of Redwater town center at NE 19-57-21 W4, Municipal District of Sturgeon. *GPS Coordinates:* 53.946575, -113.100594 | Their *Feast Day* is celebrated on Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter. | The congregation owns Deric Hall in Redwater, located at 4719-48th Avenue.

Founding Members

N. Bodnarchuk	F. Myroon
T. Chaba	J. Pasichney
M. Harmocy	M. Popil
D. Hunka	H. Prodaniuk
H. Lakusta	M. Pysmeny
J. Kraychy	M. Salyzyn
N. Kraychy	W. Skolney
P. Luklan	N. Ziniuk
A. Melnychuk	

Cemetery

Situated adjacent to the church, the first burial was that of William Sadlak in the fall of 1925. Rev. and Dobrodiika Kulish, as well as their son, Rusticovich, are buried in the graveyard.

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