

55. Stry

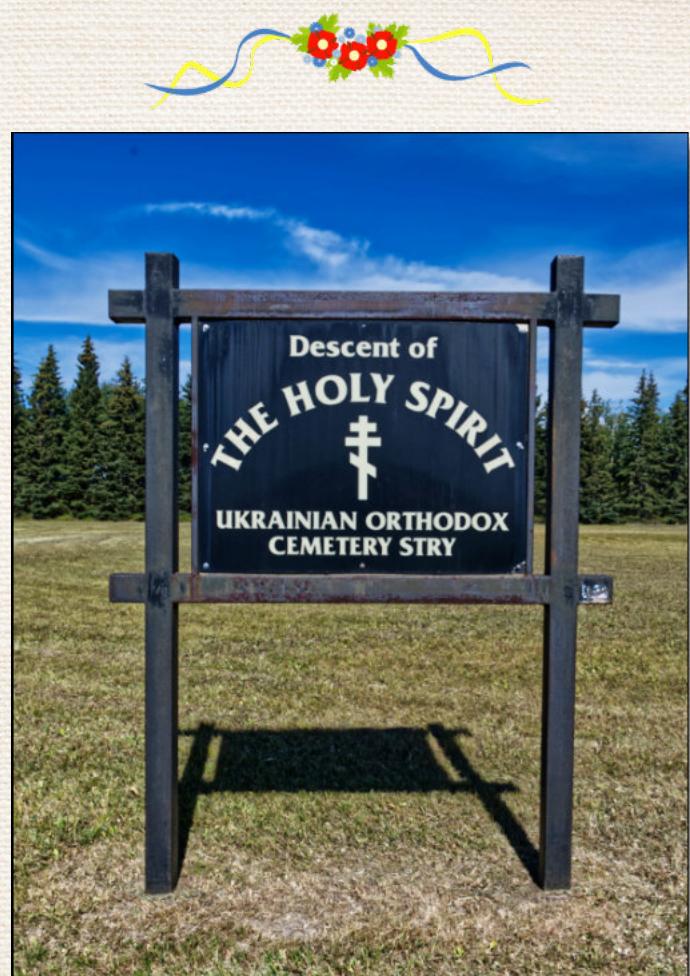
Descent of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Congregational life in Stry began with a meeting of local community activists on August 19, 1933. At this gathering, a resolution was passed petitioning the Consistory of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOCC) for membership. A reply was received on February 1, 1934, along with the necessary forms to officially register the new parish. On October 30, 1940, the congregation formally requested acceptance into the ranks of the UGOCC, adopting the name Descent of the Holy Spirit Church.

In the meantime, Rev. I. Mayba began providing pastoral care to the Ukrainian Orthodox faithful in Stry. In 1934, the congregation established a cemetery on land adjacent to the future church site. For eight years, services were held at the second Stry National Hall (constructed in 1931). The first hall, built at the same site in 1928-1929 on land donated by Nick Bunda, was destroyed by fire in 1930.

In April 1938, the congregation applied to the Department of Lands and Mines for permission to harvest 20,000 feet of lumber from a nearby timber reserve to construct a place of worship. The lumber was processed at the Kutash sawmills in McRae, Alberta. Church members took turns hauling the materials to the building site using horse-drawn sleighs and wagons. According to a letter sent to the UGOCC Consistory, the sanctuary was largely completed by the end of 1941, built by volunteers under the supervision of master builder Ivan Mnoholitny.

The official blessing of the Descent of the Holy Spirit Church took place on September 30, 1945, during a visit by Archbishop Ioan Theodorovich. However, another source suggests that the church may have been consecrated earlier, in June 1943.



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Renovations and Enhancements

During the 1980s, significant renovations were undertaken. The church's interior and exterior were repainted, the floors refinished, and broadloom carpeting was installed along the aisles and around the altar. A new iconostasis and new altars enhanced

the sanctuary's aesthetic, and draperies were added to the windows.

While serving as the parish priest, Rev. Lorne Kubin contributed to the beautification of the church by painting the interior dome and creating large icons behind the altar.



Priests

- I. Mayba (1934–1936)
- T. Horbay
- H. Wasyliv (1936–1943)
- W. Woytowich (1943–1944)
- M. Fyk (1944)
- W. Senishen (1944–1949)
- D. Foty (1949–1950)
- F. Kulchynsky (c. 1950–1951)
- P. Satsevich (1951–1961)
- S. Hrebeniuk (1961–1962)
- Y. Turzansky (1965–1969)
- W. Melnychuk (1969–1970)
- S. Hredil (1970–1973)
- L. Diachina (1973–1975)
- Y. Puk (1987–1988)
- V. Lakusta
- L. Kubin
- O. Hudyma (1988–1991)
- T. Udod (1991)
- P. Kosacki (1992)
- T. Udod (1992–)
- J. Plewa (1996)
- J. Lipinski

Location and Feast Day

Southeast of Vilna and west of Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, between Highway 28 and Secondary Highway 652, at SE 28-58-13 W4. GPS Coordinates: 54.035430, -111.862715 | Their *Feast Day* is celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost (*Green Holidays*).

Founding Members

- P. Koroluk
- I. Tchir
- L. Pidluzny
- W. Pelech
- D. Davydovych
- I. Romanchuk
- N. Malaiko

Cemetery

Land for the cemetery was donated in 1934 by Yakym and Victoria Mernonenko, located at SW 28-58-13 W4, near the church site. The first burial was that of Maricia Shysh in 1934.

Cemetery GPS: 54.035169, -111.874281

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