

# 8. Boyle

## Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The first Ukrainian Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Boyle was celebrated by Father M. Fyk at St. Paul's Anglican Church in 1940.

Following the service, twelve families paid membership fees to initiate the formation of a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada (UGOC) congregation. Records show that on August 5, 1942, membership dues were collected from six members. Another liturgy was held at St. Paul's on October 11 of the same year.

The next recorded liturgy, officiated by Father H. Wasyliw, took place on March 4, 1945, again at the Anglican Church. The service drew a larger-than-expected crowd, encouraging the congregation's leadership. Following the liturgy, a special meeting was held where annual dues were collected from nine members. Carl Shevoley was tasked with exploring the possibility of uniting with the Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church, located four miles north of Boyle. This congregation, founded by Ukrainian settlers in 1934–1935, had constructed a modest church by 1936 but experienced a decline in membership during the 1940s. Despite initial overtures, the two communities remained separate, although some members eventually joined the UGOC.

Throughout 1945, three more UGOC services were held in Boyle. On July 8 of that year, the congregation resolved to acquire Lots 18, 19, and 20 on Block 7 for a future church and parish hall. Around this time, the parish was officially incorporated into the UGOC and received a Certificate of Incorporation from the Province of Alberta. At the annual meeting on December 30, a motion was passed to adopt the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 19) as the congregation's patronal festival.





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In early 1946, discussions focused on whether to prioritize constructing a parish hall or church. The congregation decided to proceed with building a church, purchasing \$255 worth of lumber and clearing the lots for \$207.50. However, a request to harvest timber from Crown land was denied due to restrictions on School Land. Construction of the church foundation began in the spring of 1948, with members contributing labor. John Humeny crafted the cross for the dome, while Fred Yaremko made the windows. Even Father Wasyl Melnychuk assisted in laying the church floor.

On March 27, 1949, the congregation voted to rename the church Holy Trinity. That summer, the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the partially finished sanctuary on Pentecost (Trinity Sunday), June 12, 1949. The joyous occasion included the wedding of Joe Radmanovich and Joan Douglas. Work on the church continued, and by 1950, the interior was nearing completion. Contractor William Kadiuk installed a choir loft, stairs, and flooring. He received \$370 for materials and \$230 for labor. Members painted the interior in 1951 and landscaped the property, moving the coal shed, planting grass, and adding a caragana hedge.

During this period, discussions arose about locating the parish manse in Boyle or Lac La Biche. A district meeting on August 31, 1952, resolved to build the manse in Lac La Biche due to its more central location and better infrastructure. Meanwhile, Holy Trinity continued improving its facilities. In 1952, Fred Yaremko was hired to build pews. In 1954, a porch was added to the church.

By the late 1950s, the congregation was ready to fully furnish the sanctuary. In 1957, Fred Yaremko built a Kevot (tabernacle) for the altar and later constructed an ikonostas in 1958. That year, the congregation purchased

the former Granville School to serve as a parish hall. It was moved behind the church and fitted with a heater and stove. On July 24, 1960, during a visitation by Bishop Andrew, Holy Trinity was formally blessed. The event included a choir performance by Richmond Park and a dinner prepared by the women of the parish.

Over the years, the congregation made numerous improvements. Electricity was supplied to the church and hall in 1964. The church exterior was stuccoed in 1968. To celebrate the UGOC's 50th anniversary in 1968, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was held in Boyle, attended by Archbishop Andrew and priests from Smoky Lake and Edmonton. The celebration featured a concert, speeches, and performances by the Richmond Park choir and a dance group from Lac La Biche.

In 1973, the church interior was renovated with paneling and wall-to-wall carpeting. Attention then shifted to the parish hall, which was re-shingled and fitted with a drop ceiling in 1980. In 1983, the church foundation was repaired, and the hall was repainted. A significant repair occurred in 1987 when the choir loft dropped during a panakhyda service due to rotted joists. Volunteers, led by Peter Danylak, completed the necessary repairs.

By 1990, the Village of Boyle paved and curbed Second Street. The congregation paid \$4,300 for its share. In 1992, the church received additional repairs, including new doors and stucco work. In 1999, the roof was re-shingled, and the dome and cross were painted silver.

Throughout its history, Holy Trinity members donated the accessories and furnishings typical of an Orthodox church. Contributions included a plashchanitsa (burial shroud), chandelier, censer, church banners, processional cross, and candle holders.

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## Priests

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- M. Fyk (1940–1942)
- H. Wasyliw (1945–1948)
- W. Melnychuk (1948–1952)
- P. Zubrytsky (1952–1956)
- A. Teterenko (1956–1957)
- H. Krystanowich (1957–1958)
- M. Chomenko (1958, 1960–1961)
- M. Stetzenko (1958–1960)
- E. Stefaniuk (1962–1967)
- S. Hredil (1967–1970)
- L. Kubin (1970–1975)
- L. Diachina (1975–1979)
- D. Maceluch (1979–1981)
- L. Kubin (1981–1982)
- S. Soroka (1982–1986)
- H. Fil' (1986–2000)
- M. Domaradz (2000 –)

## Location and Feast Day

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Village of Boyle, 5012 Second Street,  
County of Athabasca. *GPS Coordinates:*  
54.588347, -112.804970 | Their *Feast Day*  
is Pentecost, 50 days after Easter.

## Founding Members

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- M. & H. Dubensky
- P. & M. Hryniuk
- A.M. & P. Humeny
- J. & M. Humeny
- S. & A. Kushnir
- P. & M. Nikipelo
- M. & A. Nykipilo
- J. & M. Poleschuk
- F. & M. Pysyk
- J. & P. Sambirsky
- W. & A. Scherban
- F. & Y. Yaremko

## Cemetery

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*GPS Coordinates:* 54.58745, -112.86575

