HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT NEW KIEW



Photo courtesy of Jim and Hedi Sokalski.

Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, completed in 1918. (date of photo unknown).



Photo courtesy of Jim and Hedi Sokalski.

New Kiew cemetery (2018).

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, tens of thousands of Ukrainians, Poles, Romanians and others emigrated from eastern Europe to settle in western Canada. These immigrants brought their own national traditions to Canada, giving rise to a unique and diverse cultural landscape in east-central Alberta. The most striking feature of this new landscape was the variety of churches established throughout the region.

One such church was the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church at New Kiew. The history of the parish dates to around 1908 when Jan Baczinski donated two acres of land for a church and cemetery. The earliest Roman Catholic services in the community were delivered in Baczinski's home by Polish clergy from the nearby mission at Krakow. A log church was constructed between 1915 and 1918 next to the cemetery and was consecrated as the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul; however, it was known informally as the 'Polish church.'



Photo courtesy of Jim and Hedi Sokalski.

Church as seen from Township Road 540 (2015).

Like most churches across Alberta, the 'Polish church' was at the heart of community life. A new, larger church was built in 1946 and the name was changed to the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish at New Kiew. In addition to religious services, the church community hosted social gatherings, association meetings (such as those of the Catholic Women's League) and special events.

This new church served the community for over fifty years until a shortage of clergy to continue a regular mass schedule forced the church to close in 1999. The building continued to be used for special events and occasional religious services until the church burned down on July 25, 2020. The church was a visible landmark that could be seen for many miles in any direction and is greatly missed as a beacon for the community. The cemetery is a reminder of the parish's history and remains an important gathering place for both local and visiting families.

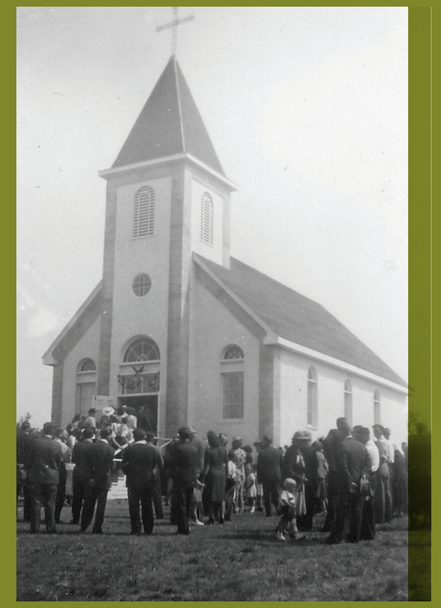


Photo courtesy of Jim and Hedi Sokalski.

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of New Kiew shortly after construction (1947).



Photo courtesy of Jim and Hedi Sokalski.

First mass held at the new church (1947).

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Alberta Government