

Some of the first Polish immigrants to arrive in Alberta came from the Austrian-occupied territory known as Galicia. They first arrived between 1854-1901, and began to establish farms and friendships, adding their skills to the mining, railroad and lumber industries. These were very hardworking people who made the most of the land grants bought through the government.

They were also a people of great faith and deep conviction for their homeland ties. The Catholic Church has been a great source of consolation and pride of the Polish people, especially during times of adversity. During the early years in this new country, the Church was sometimes the only connection to their native country and culture.

In central Alberta, there came to be an area known as "New Kiew", as it represented new promise for the Polish people in this strange new land. A group of Polish Catholics from the region (now in the counties of Two Hills and Minburn) began meeting to celebrate Mass as early as 1901.

Jan Baczinski Sr. and family settled north of Krakow (Lamont area) in 1899 and subsequently moved to New Kiew area. In 1901 and for six years following that, Fr. Olszewski or another missionary would be picked up and brought to perform Holy Mass at the Baczinski residence.

The Roman Catholic Parish of Holy Trinity was established about 1908, when Jan Baczinski donated two acres of land for a cemetery on NW 34-53-13 W4. At this time, there was a mission at Krakow, served by Fr. Olszewski who visited New Kiew many times. He would arrive on horseback, rain or snow, and say Mass. Most times he would spend the night at Baczinski's and then leave the following morning for Krakow. In 1911, Fr. Kuleway was assigned to the area and took over for Fr. Olszewski.

Construction of a log church began in 1915, under the supervision of Wawrzenic Najdziak and Karol Adamowski. It was completed in 1918 and consecrated as the Parish of St. Peter and Paul, but known by many as the "Polish Church". During that time, it was under the direction of the Roman Catholic parish in Mundare.

As the years passed, many new families began attending, or some of them just got larger and a new building was needed. In the early 1940's, Fr. Przysiezniak made a suggestion to build a new church. The construction was completed in 1947, at a cost of \$6000 with Steve Semotiuk as contractor and the name changed to Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish of New Kiew. It was blessed by Rev. Burke of Vegreville. The main altar was donated by Oleonora Ostz, Karol Sokalski and Jan Baczinski. The painting at the main altar was donated by Maciej Kowalski.

Some of the older families that worshipped here were Bileski, Adamowski, Baczinski, Cylurik, Palsatt, Peteski, Kisilevich, Kowalski, Sokalski, Najdziak, Shchurek, Tomska and Strychaluk.

The "Polish Church" became a mission of St. Martin of Tours parish in Vegreville in 1953. During the 1960's, there was a Catholic Women's League. Money from that was raised to buy dishes and things for the kitchen and other articles for the church. Due to the lack of priests to continue a regular Mass schedule, the church closed in 1999.

Burials are still allowed in the cemetery and certain sacraments can be administered by approval of the Archdiocese. Since its closure, the church has been used for funerals, baptisms and weddings; as well as a summer Mass and blessing of the graves.

Note: Every member of the congregation, ministerial, board, and priests have all been a huge blessing to this church. In particular, Adolph Adamowski served as organist for nearly sixteen years, and his brother Frank carried on his legacy starting from 1938 until (even after) the doors of the church closed. Also of note, there have been four generations of Sokalskis to serve the altar at New Kiew.

The following is a list of the priests who have served at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish of New Kiew:

Olszewski (1900-1911)
Kulawy (1911-1917)
Anthony Sylla (1918)
Konwinski
Raczasyk (-1923)
Aloysius Stashkewich (1924)
Szadaryk (-1926)
Bozyk (1931)
Rosiecki (1933)
Donald Murphy (1934)
Holick (1934)
Harold
Kaluzny
Adam Przysiezniak (1940-1953)
Burke
Kennan
Becs
McCarthy (1963)
Cordeau
Dobbins
Mitchell

McLallen (1970)
James E. Murphy
Joseph Ayling
Olszewski
Ted Rozmahel
Richard Beaudette
Gervais Kragbe
Joe Leszczynski
Terry Conway
Leo Hoffman
Peter Sharpe
Sablan
Andrew Rybak
Isagani Avinante
Grzegorz Przewrocki
Nilo Macapinlac
Michael Schumacher
Roger Niedzielski
Luan Vu

SYNOPSIS

- 1854 – First Polish Immigrants arrive to the area which they named New Kiew area
- 1901 – first known Mass celebrated at the Baczinski residence. Fr. Olszewski or another missionary would be picked up and brought to perform Holy Mass
- 1908 - Roman Catholic Parish of Holy Trinity was established with land donated by Jan Baczinski Sr.

- 1911 - Fr. Kuleway was assigned to the area and took over for Fr. Olszewski
- 1915 – construction of first log church began
- 1918 – Church construction completed and consecrated as the Parish of St. Peter and Paul under the direction of the Roman Catholic parish in Mundare
- 1940 -more families moved to area. Decision was made to build the new (current) church to accommodate larger congregation
- 1947 – construction of new church completed. Steve Semotiuk was contractor and the name of the church was changed to Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish of New Kiew. It was blessed by Rev. Burke of Vegreville. The main altar was donated by Oleonora Ostz, Karol Sokalski and Jan Baczinski. The painting at the main altar was donated by Maciej Kowalski.
- 1953 - This, the "Polish Church," became a mission of St. Martin of Tours parish in Vegreville in 1953.
- 1999 – Due to decline in the numbers of priests available to serve, the last regular Mass was officiated by Fr. Leo Hoffman in July 1999.

Burials are still allowed in the cemetery and certain sacraments can be administered here by approval of the Edmonton Archdiocese. Since its closure, the church has been used for funerals, baptisms and weddings; as well as a summer Mass and blessing of the graves.