

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 1937

Wednesday December 1, 1937

У.С.Р.Р.

Ukraine: Kiev

Maria Brzenczyk (aged 60, housewife, arrested on [November 17, 1934](#) on charges that she was 'an active parishioner, she took an active part in the life of the church and conducted counter-revolutionary work, spreading provocative rumors about the Soviet Union'; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0175>

Thursday December 2, 1937

РСФСР

Russia: Bamlag labor camp, Amur region

Olga Fitsner (aged 52, office worker, arrested in [Moscow](#) on [January 15, 1934](#); sentenced on [February 12, 1934](#) to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** released, exiled to Adygea ASSR)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0269>

Friday December 3, 1937

РСФСР

Russia: Butovo firing range, outside Moscow

Archpriest Vladimir Fabian Medveduk (aged 49, arrested in 1930, family evicted and became homeless; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Russia: Moscow

Fr Danakt Kalashnikov (aged 55, arrested in Vladimir in November 1937 for 'actively campaigning for belief in God among both adults and children'; **UPDATE: sentenced to death**)

<http://afonit.info/biblioteka/nasledie-russkogo-monastyrya/svyatye-russkie-svyatogortsy-postradavshie-za-khrista-vo-vremya-bogoborcheskikh-gonenij-v-sssr> - with translation
http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

Sunday December 5, 1937

PCФCP

Russia: Kemerovo

Fr Jozef Bieniecki (aged 67, arrested in Mariinsk on July 27, 1937; sentenced to death on November 23, 1937 in Kemerovo; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Russia: Moscow

Archpriest Constantine Pyatikrestovsky (aged over 50, husband of Ludmila Sergeevna, father of four including Panteleimon, grandfather, arrested in Dimitrov on November 26, 1937; **UPDATE: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp**)

Russia: Sevvostoklag – Kolyma labor camp, Nagayevo Bay, near Magadan

Vladimir Balashev OPL (aged 57, engineer, arrested in Dmitrov, Moscow region on August 15, 1935; sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on November 28, 1935; sentenced to death on November 28, 1935; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0056>
<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0122>
<http://www.pravmir.com/hieromartyr-constantine-pyatikrestovsky-faith-in-god-will-not-end-with-priests-imprisonment-it-is-immortal/>

Tuesday December 7, 1937

PCФCP

Russia: Moscow

Fifteen Christians sentenced to death

Archimandrite Cronid aka Konstantin Petrovich Lyubimov (aged 78, evicted from the monastery of Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius in [Sergiyev Posadon](#) on [November 3, 1919](#) along with his monks; arrested in [Sergiyev Posadon](#) on [November 21, 1937](#))

Archpriest Dmitry Bayanova

Abbot Nicodemus Monina

Hieromonk George Potapov

Hieromonk Gideon Cerkalova

Hieromonk Gideon Smirnov

Hieromonk Jacob Marachkin

Hieromonk Lawrence Nasonova

Abbot Pavlova

Hieromonk Seraphim aka Sergey Alexeevich Krestianinov (aged 62)

Abbot Xenophon aka Konstantin Andreevich Bondarenko (aged 51, sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment in a labor camp in [1935](#))

Russia: Vladikavkaz

Fr Antoni Czerwinski (aged 56, brother of Emelia Czerwinska, arrested on anti-Soviet charges on [January 2, 1936](#); sentenced to death on [November 2, 1937](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied in Moscow)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1531>

http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

Wednesday December 8, 1937



СССР

Russia: Leningrad Prison

Fr Martin Fiks (aged 54, arrested in [1923](#), sentenced to 2 years' internal exile, upon his return was rearrested and sentenced to 10 years' internal exile; arrested on [December 12, 1929](#); sentenced to death on [April 20, 1931](#), commuted to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; sentenced to death on [November 25, 1937](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

Fr Stanislaw Ganski (aged 57, brother of Stanislaw, arrested several times in [Zhmerynka, Ukraine](#) in [1922](#), finally sent to prison; released from prison on [October 8, 1927](#); arrested

on January 26, 1930; sentenced in [Kharkiv, Ukraine](#) on [May 17, 1930](#) to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; denied the right to correspond with his sister in [1934](#); sentenced to death on [November 25, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Russia: woods near Leningrad

Fr Pavel Alexandrovich Florensky (aged 55, sentenced to death by the NKVD on [November 25, 1937](#); **UPDATE: executed**)

Russia: Sandormokh, outside Medvezhyegorsk, Leningrad district

Frants Golembiewski (aged 35, craftsman, arrested in [Leningrad](#) in [1931](#); sentenced to death on [March 7, 1932](#), commuted to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Solovetsky Special Purpose Camp](#); sentenced to death on [November 10, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Russia: Saratov

Fr Aleksey Anisimov (aged 63, bookkeeper, arrested on [April 14, 1931](#) and charged with anti-Soviet agitation; released for lack of evidence on [December 16, 1931](#); **UPDATE: sentenced to death for 'defeatist anti-Soviet agitation' for clandestinely celebrating Divine Liturgy in his home**)

Russia: Solovetsky Special Purpose Camp

Fr Ludwig Erk (aged 37, arrested in [Slavhorod](#) on [September 8, 1929](#); convicted on [March 23, 1930](#), sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a camp; arrested in [1932](#) on [Anzer Island](#) for 'creation of an anti-Soviet group, carrying out anti-Soviet agitation, secretly celebrating liturgical and religious rites and maintaining an illegal contact with a free worker for purposes of transmitting abroad information of an espionage nature about the situation of Catholics in the USSR', sentenced to one year of solitary confinement; sentenced to death on [November 25, 1937](#); **UPDATE: executed**)

Fr Peter Eisenkrein (aged 51, arrested in [Telgulo, Odessa district, Ukraine](#) on [October 18, 1935](#); sentenced in [Odessa](#) on [February 21, 1936](#) to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0027>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0267>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0811>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0853>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1549>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1557>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavel_Florensky

Thursday December 9, 1937



Spain: Arganda, Madrid

Jose Espinosa Martinez (aged 23, seminarian, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC58.htm>

Friday December 10, 1937



Russia: Butovo firing range, outside Moscow

Br Alexey Petrovich Gavrin (aged 54, **shot dead**)

Abbot Azariah Pavlova (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Archimandrite Cronid aka Konstantin Petrovich Lyubimov (aged 78, evicted from the monastery of Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius in [Sergiyev Posadon](#) on [November 3, 1919](#) along with his monks; arrested in [Sergiyev Posadon](#) on [November 21, 1937](#); sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Archpriest Dimitry Fedorovich Bayans (aged 52, **shot dead**)

Archpriest Dmitry Bayanova (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Hieromonk George Potapov (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Hieromonk Jacob Marachkin (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Hieromonk Lawrence Nasonova (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Abbot Nicodemus Monina (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Archbishop Nikolai Dobronravov (aged 76, **shot dead**)

Hieromonk Seraphim aka Sergey Alexeevich Krestianinov (aged 62, sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Abbot Xenophon aka Konstantin Andreevich Bondarenko (aged 51, sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment in a labor camp in [1935](#); sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Russia: Saratov

Fr Aleksey Anisimov (aged 63, bookkeeper, sentenced to death on [December 8, 1937](#) for 'defeatist anti-Soviet agitation' for clandestinely celebrating Divine Liturgy in his home; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0027>
http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

У.С.Р.Р.

Ukraine: Kiev

Maria Brzencyk (aged 60, housewife, arrested on **November 17, 1934** on charges that she was 'an active parishioner, she took an active part in the life of the church and conducted counter-revolutionary work, spreading provocative rumors about the Soviet Union'; sentenced to death on **December 1, 1937**; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0175>

Saturday December 11, 1937

РСФСР

Russia: Butovo Firing Range, outside Moscow

Archpriest Peter N Postnikov (aged 60, **shot dead**)

Metropolitan Seraphim aka Leonid Mikhailovich Chichagov (aged 81, widower, father, retired bishop, arrested by the NKVD on **November 30, 1937**, removed from his apartment on a stretcher due to his invalid condition; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seraphim_Chichagov

http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

Monday December 13, 1937

The Imperial Japanese Army occupied Nanjing

The atrocity known as the Rape of Nanking began and would continue for months, at least 300,000 would die and up to 80,000 suffer rape



China: Nanjing

Minnie Vautrin (aged 51, missionary, U.S. citizen, college vice president, **UPDATE**: continued preparations to house female refugees at Ginling College, would over the coming months protect 10,000 women from rape)

Rev John Magee (aged 53, **UPDATE**: in the coming weeks would write to the U.S. concerning the Japanese atrocities, used a home movie camera to document them)

Rev George Fitch (aged 54, missionary, U.S. citizen, in the coming weeks would write to the U.S. concerning the Japanese atrocities)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7976980M/American_Goddess_at_the_Rape_of_Nanking

Tuesday December 14, 1937



Ukraine: Kiev

Josif Girny (aged 44, water works employee, arrested on [January 31, 1933](#), later released; arrested on [November 17, 1937](#) on charges that included he 'often attended church, was in close contact with the priests'; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

Leonard Belsky (aged 64, arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0106>

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0837>

Wednesday December 15, 1937



Russia: Butovo firing range, outside Moscow

Fr Danakt Kalashnikov (aged 55, arrested in [Vladimir](#) in [November 1937](#) for 'actively campaigning for belief in God among both adults and children'; sentenced to death on [December 3, 1937](#); **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

Fr Feodor Nikolaevich Aleksin (aged 62, **shot dead**)

<http://afonit.info/biblioteka/nasledie-russkogo-monastyrya/svyatye-russkie-svyatogortsy-postradavshie-za-khrista-vo-vremya-bogoborcheskikh-gonenij-v-sssr> - with translation
http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation



Ukraine: Prutovka, Volynia province

Wiktor Buczynski (aged 27, collective farm worker, hid camp escapee Fr Andronik Rudenko in his barn 'for a long time', arrested, did not betray Fr Rudenko)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0178>



Spain: Cabo Mayor, Santander, Cantabria

Fr Joaquin Fernandez Martinez (**killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC58.htm>

Thursday December 16, 1937



Russia: Ufa

Fr Franciszek Budrys (aged 55, arrested in **June 1937** on charges of being the 'president of an espionage network of the counter-revolutionary insurgent Polish Military Organization POV', parish council members also arrested; **UPDATE: shot dead** along with 180 other Catholics)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0181>



Ukraine: Stavishche, Tarashchan district, Kiev province

Ivan Fedorowicz (aged 53, mechanic, arrested, charged with counter-revolutionary activity)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0958>



Germany: Wurtingen

Pastor Theodor Dipper (aged 34, husband of Hildegard, gag order imposed on him by the Ministry of Propaganda for his preaching against Alfred Rosenberg's *Protestant Rompilger: The Betrayal of Luther and the "Myth of the Twentieth Century"* which called for Germans to abandon Christianity, replied "You have forbidden the proclamation of the Word of God with your disposition. This preaching, however, is commanded as a preacher of the Word of God")

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Dipper - with translation

Friday December 17, 1937



China: Nanjing

Minnie Vautrin (aged 51, missionary, U.S. citizen, Ginling College vice president, **UPDATE**: slapped by a Japanese soldier when he could not gain access to a locked dormitory, forced to stand at the campus front gate while the Japanese were deciding to take several male employees to be shot, convinced the Japanese to release the employees, the soldiers left after another group of soldiers abducted 12 women from another campus gate, wrote in her diary "Never shall I forget that scene - the people [the employees] kneeling at the side of the road, Mary [Twinam], Mrs. Tsen, and I standing, the dried leaves rattling, the moaning of the wind, the cry of the women being led out")

Rev W Plumer Mills (missionary, U.S. citizen, pulled from an automobile at bayonet point as he was arriving to help guard the Ginling College campus for the night, later forced to drive away)

Rev George Fitch (aged 54, missionary, U.S. citizen, **UPDATE**: pulled from an automobile at bayonet point, later forced to drive away)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7976980M/American_Goddess_at_the_Rape_of_Nanking

Saturday December 18, 1937



China: Nanjing

Minnie Vautrin (aged 51, missionary, U.S. citizen, Ginling College vice president, **UPDATE**: threatened by a Japanese soldier with a pistol when she confronted him to make him leave the campus)

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7976980M/American_Goddess_at_the_Rape_of_Nanking

Sunday December 19, 1937



Russia: Butovo firing range, outside Moscow

Archpriest Sergei Ivanovich Goloshchapov (aged 55, **shot dead**, had spent 3 years imprisoned in the Solovetsky Islands)

Russia: Ukhtpechlag labor camp, Chibiu, Komi ASSR

Vera Kruszelnicka (aged 22, niece of Camilla Kruszelnicka, investigated in **Moscow** in **1933** due to her friendship with the son of Marshal Voroshilov; sentenced on **February 19, 1934** to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to **Bamlag**; transferred to **Ukhtpechlag** in **February 1935**; **UPDATE**: arrested on anti-Soviet and terrorist charges)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0422>

http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

Monday December 20, 1937



Russia: Moscow

Sr Sevastiana (aged 65, sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in a labor camp)

http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=837:2015-07-14-08-02-14&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation

Wednesday December 22, 1937



Spain: Caparrates, Teruel

Fr Antonio Aspas Calomarde (aged 37, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Thursday December 23, 1937



Spain: Caparrates, Teruel

Anastasio Martinez Saez (aged 48, husband, **killed**)

Spain: Teruel

Br Onofre Mulet Monfort OFM (aged 57, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC38.htm>

<http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Friday December 24, 1937



Spain: La Puebla de Valverde, Teruel

Fr Barnardo Ortiz Marques (aged 44, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faiithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Saturday December 25, 1937
Christmas – Western calendar



Russia: Novosibirsk

Fr Georg Baier (aged 66, sentenced on [April 20, 1935](#) in [Markstadt](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp; **UPDATE:** sentenced to death)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0052>



Spain: Caparrates, Teruel

Fr Joaquin Clementino Andres Galindo (aged 44, **killed**)

Fr Vicente Monfort Casteller (aged 64, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Monday December 27, 1937



Russia: outside Khabarovsk

Fr Anton Hoffmann (aged 40, arrested in [Landau, Nikolayevsky district](#) in [November 1934](#); sentenced on [April 28, 1935](#) to 10 years' imprisonment in a labor camp, sent to [Bamlag](#); sentenced to death on [November 28, 1937](#); **UPDATE:** **shot dead**)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0336>



Spain: Albentosa, Teruel

Fr Francisco Canada Gil (aged 56, **killed**)

<http://newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC57.htm>

Wednesday December 29, 1937

PCOCP

Russia: Butovo Firing Range, Moscow

Bishop Arkady Ostalsky (aged 49, arrested in [Moscow](#) in [May 1928](#); sentenced in [July 1928](#) to 5 years' imprisonment, later extended to 10 years, sent to [Solovki camp](#); released in [February 1937](#), moved to [Kaluga](#); arrested in [September 1937](#) while attempting to flee on a midnight train; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

<https://azbyka.ru/days/sv-arkadij-ostalskij> - with translation

Thursday December 30, 1937

YPCP

Ukraine: Bespechnoye, Kiev province

Maria Ditkovskaya (arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0235>

December 1937, date unknown

PCOCP

Russia: Butovo firing range, outside Moscow

Hieromonk Gideon Cerkalova (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead** on December 10 or 11, 1937)

Hieromonk Gideon Smirnov (sentenced to death on [December 7, 1937](#); **UPDATE: shot dead** on December 10 or 11, 1937)

Russia: Tomsk

Fr Philipp Haufmann (aged 60, deprived of his voting rights in 1922 in Odessa; arrested in Josefstal on April 22, 1935; sentenced in Odessa Prison on August 28, 1935 to 3 years' internal exile; **UPDATE**: arrested and sentenced to death)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1701>

http://www.martyr.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=734:2014-12-09-18-12-36&catid=4:commonnews&Itemid=1 - with translation