

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 1941

Friday December 5, 1941



Germany: Dachau Concentration Camp

Fr Heinrich König (aged 42, arrested on [September 30, 1941](#) in [Gelsenkirchen](#); **UPDATE:** arrived)

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_K%C3%B6nig_\(Priester\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_K%C3%B6nig_(Priester)) - with translation

Sunday December 7, 1941

Japan initiates war with the United States



United States – Hawaii: Pearl Harbor

Fr Aloysius H Schmitt (aged 32, naval chaplain, **drowned** while helping sailors escape from the capsized USS Oklahoma)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aloysius_Schmitt

Monday December 8, 1941



Japan

Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ (aged 34, Spanish citizen, arrested on suspicion of espionage, later released)

Japan: Kyoto

Fr Patrick James Byrne MM (aged 53, U.S. citizen, placed under house arrest, not imprisoned thanks to his popularity)

Japan: Nagasaki

Dr Paul Takashi Nagai (aged 33, convert, husband of Marina Nagai Midori, father of Makoto aged 6, radiologist, shaken by a presentment that Nagasaki would be destroyed in the war)

Japan: Tokyo

John A Hewitt (aged 34, missionary, British citizen, detained in [October 1941](#), interrogated for 5 days, released; **UPDATE**: detained, later refused to be exchanged to Britain with diplomats and other missionaries)

R G Wright (missionary, British citizen, detained in [October 1941](#), interrogated for 5 days, released; **UPDATE**: detained, later exchanged to Britain with diplomats and other missionaries)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_James_Byrne

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedro_Arrupe

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takashi_Nagai

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25893117M/A_Song_for_Nagasaki

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26123571M/Heroes_Of_Our_Faith

<http://japanesebiblewoman.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-life-and-faith-of-john-hewitt-1907.html>

Tuesday December 9, 1941



Germany

Deacon Karl Leisner (arrested by the Gestapo in [St Blasien, Waldshut district, Baden-Wurttemberg](#) on [November 9, 1939](#); **UPDATE**: sent to Dachau)

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

Wednesday December 10, 1941



Russia: Gryazovets, Vologda oblast

Fr Andrzej Busiuk (aged 33, military chaplain, arrested by the Soviets in [Suwałki, Poland](#) between [September 17 and October 12, 1939](#), sent to a POW camp; **UPDATE:** amnestied, joined the Polish Armed Forces in the East as a military chaplain)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0199>

Thursday December 11, 1941



Bosnia: Pale

Five nuns were abducted by Chetnik soldiers, convent burned, forced to march through waist-deep snow

Sr Antonija Fabjan (aged 34)

Sr Berchmana Leidenix (aged 76)

Sr Bernadeta Banja (aged 31)

Sr Jula Ivanisevic (aged 48)

Sr Krizina Bojanc (aged 56)

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

Friday December 12, 1941



Germany: Wurzburg

Fr Joseph Georg Simon Hafner OCDS (aged 41, banned in [1938](#) from teaching religious education in [Oberschwarzach](#) due to his anti-Nazi views; arrested in [August 1941](#) for asking a Nazi on his deathbed to acknowledge that his second civil marriage was invalid; **UPDATE:** sent to Dachau Concentration Camp)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georg_H%C3%A4fner

Saturday December 13, 1941



Poland: Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Fr Konrad Saweda (administered last rites to Fr Ludwik Bartosik)

Fr Ludwik Bartosik OFM Conv (aged 32, arrested by the Germans on [September 19, 1939](#); rearrested on [February 17, 1941](#) in [Niepokalanow monastery, Teresin](#) by the Gestapo; transferred from [Piwiak Prison in Warsaw](#) to Auschwitz on [April 4, 1941](#); **UPDATE: died after a series of injuries, infections, and strokes**)

<http://missionimmaculata.com/index.php/mi-saints/blessed-martyrs-of-niepokalanow>

Sunday December 14, 1941



China: Shangchuan, Guangdong

Fr Robert John Cairns MM (aged 57, U.S. citizen, taken by Japanese naval personnel, **presumed dead**)

http://maryknollvocations.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=168&Itemid=110

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/China1.htm

Monday December 15, 1941



Bosnia: Gorazde

Four nuns reportedly jumped from a second story window to avoid rape by Chetnik soldiers, possibly **bayoneted to death**

Sr Antonija Fabjan (aged 34)

Sr Bernadeta Banja (aged 31)

Sr Jula Ivanisevic (aged 48)

Sr Krizina Bojanc (aged 56)

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

Tuesday December 23, 1941



Bosnia: near Sjetlina

Sr Berchmana Leidenix (aged 76, **murdered** by Chetnik soldiers)

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

Wednesday December 24, 1941



Russia: Ust-Sysolsk, Komi ASSR

Joseph Eberle Jr (aged 25, son of Joseph Eberle, sent with his mother into internal exile after the 1930 arrest of his father in [Krasny Kut, Saratov oblast](#), worked as a metalworker;
UPDATE: arrested)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-1543>

Wednesday December 31, 1941



Russia: Ust-vymlag, Komi ASSR

Fr Boleslaw Dzdziejewicz (aged 33, arrested by the Soviets in [Drahichyn](#) on [January 11, 1940](#); sentenced as a “socially dangerous element” to 5 years' imprisonment in a labor camp on [August 6, 1940](#); escaped from [Arkhangelsk Promkombinat camp in Bereznyaki](#) on

October 21, 1940, recaptured, sentence increased to 10 years'; **UPDATE**: amnestied to join the Polish Armed Forces of the East as a chaplain)

<https://biographies.library.nd.edu/catalog/biography-0950>

December 1941, date unknown



Korea: Daejeon

Fr Patrick Brennan SSC (aged 40, U.S. citizen, interned by the Japanese, later repatriated)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Thomas_Brennan