

January 26, 2020 Sunday After Theophany
Martyr Hermylus

Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade



The Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus, Slavs by origin, lived at the beginning of the fourth century during a persecution against Christians by the emperor Licinius (311-324). Saint Hermylus served as deacon in the city of Singidunum (Belgrade). Condemned by Licinius to imprisonment, he was long and cruelly tortured for Christ, but he remained unyielding.

Hermylus mocked the pagan gods, calling them deaf, dumb, and blind idols. In anger Licinius ordered more severe torments for him, saying that he could avoid them if he would offer sacrifice. The holy martyr predicted that Licinius would suffer terrible wounds himself because he worshiped idols instead of the Creator. His words came true, for Licinius was killed in 324.

After three days Hermylus was brought before the tribunal again and asked whether he would avoid more torture by offering sacrifice. The saint replied that he would offer worship and

sacrifice only to the true God. Saint Hermylus prayed that the Lord would give him strength to endure his torments and triumph over the pagans. A voice was heard saying, "Hermylus, you will be delivered from your suffering in three days, and will receive a great reward." The torturers fell to the ground in fear, and took the saint back to prison.

Saint Stratonicus was one of the prison guards and a secret Christian. Seeing the agonizing torments of his friend, he was unable to keep from weeping, and he revealed that he was a Christian. They also subjected him to punishment.

After the torture, they put both martyrs into a net and threw them into the Danube. On the third day, the bodies of the saints were found by Christians on the bank of the river and buried near Singidunum. Their venerable heads were in the Church of Hagia Sophia, where the Russian pilgrim Anthony saw them in the year 1200.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:7-13

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Gospel

Matthew 4: 12-17

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:

¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



The Church Mourns the Loss of Life in the Crash of UIA Flight 752

With many others around the world, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA mourns the deaths of 176 persons killed in the plane crash of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 outside of Teheran airport on January 8, 2020.

We, the hierarchs of the Church offer our sincere condolences, and those of the UOC of the USA, to all those who are affected by this tragedy. We hold them, and those who have been killed in this tragedy, in our prayers. Our parish communities and churches are available to all those who have lost loved ones, whether for memorial services, or to receive the care and support of our clergy as they deal with their deep sense of loss and honestly face the depths of their grief.

We are sad at the thought and realization of the loss of 176 individuals - passengers and crew who perished in the plane crash. While the formal investigation is underway, we do not know the cause of the crash – and even if we did, it would not alter the way that our hearts weep within us. We call for the relevant aviation authorities to determine and declare the cause soon, so that others can learn from this tragedy.

We prayerfully bless the parishes of the UOC of the USA and Diaspora to hold Memorial Services for the victims of the tragedy, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

We also pray that our Almighty God will continue to uphold all those who are bereaved and shocked by this accident and to give them the spirit of hope and peace as they come to terms with this tragedy.

Memory Eternal!

With prayers,

+Antony, Metropolitan of the UOC of the USA

+Jeremiah, Archbishop of the UOC Eparchy in South America

+Daniel, Archbishop of the UOC of the USA

Церква оплакує втрату життя польоту МАУ 752

З багатьма іншими людьми світу Українська Православна Церква США сумує за загибеллю 176 осіб, котрі трагічно втратили життя під час аварії рейсу PS752 Міжнародних Авіаліній України біля аеропорту Тегерану 8 січня 2020 року.

Ми, ієрархи Церкви, висловлюємо щирі співчуття, а також духовенства та вірних УПЦ США усім, хто постраждав від цієї трагедії. Ми згадуємо рідних загинувших осіб, а також і тих хто загинув у цій трагедії, в наших молитвах. Наші парафіяльні громади та церкви доступні для всіх тих, хто втратив близьких людей, для проведення молитовних панахид чи для отримання підтримки нашого духовенства, в час коли родини і громади перейняті глибоким почуттям втрати та стикаються з глибиною свого горя.

Ми засмучені думками та усвідомленням втрати 176 осіб - пасажирів та екіпажу, які загинули в авіакатастрофі. Поки ведеться офіційне розслідування, ми не знаємо причину краху - і навіть якби ми знали, це не змінило б того, як наші серця плачуть всередині нас. Ми закликаємо відповідні авіаційні органи визначити та оголосити причину авіакатастрофи.

Надаємо наше благословення усім парафіяльним громадам УПЦ США та Діаспори відслужити Заупокійні Панахиди в неділю, 12 січня 2020 року після закінчення Літургії.

Ми молимося, щоб наш Всемогутній Бог продовжував підтримувати всіх тих, кого торкнулася ця трагедія, та подав нам усім дух надії та миру.

Вічна Пам'ять!

З молитвами,

+ **Антоній**, митрополит УПЦ США

+ **Єремія**, архієпископ УПЦ Єпархії Південної Америки

+ **Даниїл**, архієпископ УПЦ США

January 27, 2020 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day



– the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

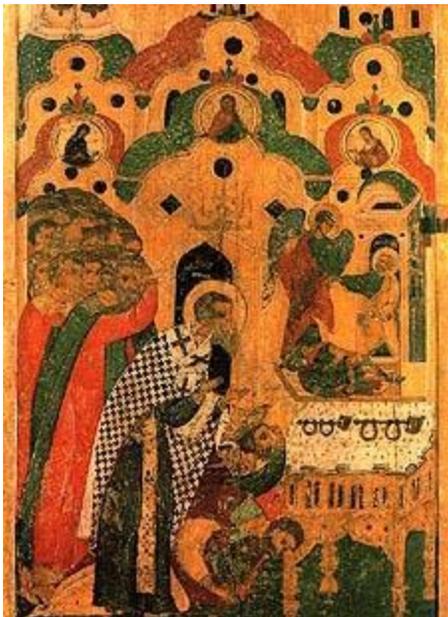
From 1941 to 1945 Nazi Germany and its collaborators committed the systematic murder of over six million Jews. The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was Nazi Germany's "Final Solution" for eliminating all Jewish people within Nazi Germany's grasp. By the end of this heinous act, roughly two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population had been murdered. The United Nations General Assembly's resolution 60/7 designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day on November 1, 2005, during the 42nd plenary session. Join us on January 27 for International Holocaust Remembrance Day when remember the Nazis' act of genocide so that no one else will suffer like that again.

The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in Canada, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

HMD is for everyone. Each year, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. We know they learn more, empathize more and do more.

Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

Jan 28: Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter



The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle Peter: In about the year 42, on the orders of Herod Agrippa, the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Savior. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. During the night before his trial, an angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and led him out from the prison (Acts 12:1-11).

Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. For three centuries the chains were kept in Jerusalem, and those who were afflicted with illness and approached them with faith received healing. Patriarch Juvenal (July 2) presented the chains to Eudokia, wife of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439.

Eudokia sent one chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia (the wife of Valentinian), who built a church on the Esquiline hill dedicated to the Apostle Peter and placed the chain in it.

There were other chains in Rome, with which the Apostle Peter was shackled before his martyrdom under the emperor Nero. These were also placed in the church.

Church of Saint Peter in Chains *San Pietro in Vincoli al Colle Oppio* (in Italian) *S. Petri ad vincula* (in Latin)



Also known as the *Basilica Eudoxiana*, it was first rebuilt on older foundations in 432–440 to house the relic of the chains that bound Saint Peter when he was imprisoned in Jerusalem, the episode called "Liberation of Saint Peter". The Empress Eudoxia (wife of Emperor Valentinian III), who received them as a gift from her mother, Aelia Eudocia, consort of Valentinian II, presented the chains to Pope Leo I. Aelia Eudocia had received these chains as a gift from Iuvenalis, bishop of Jerusalem.

According to legend, when Leo compared them to the chains of St. Peter's final imprisonment in the Mamertine Prison, in Rome, the two chains miraculously fused together. The chains are now kept in a reliquary under the main altar in the basilica. The only link outside of Rome can be found in the Diocese of Burlington (Vermont).

The basilica, consecrated in 439 by Sixtus III, has undergone several restorations, among them a restoration by Pope Adrian I, and further work in the eleventh century. From 1471 to 1503, in which year he was elected Pope Julius II, Cardinal Della Rovere, the nephew of Pope Sixtus IV, effected notable rebuilding

Michelangelo's *Moses* (completed in 1515), while originally intended as part of a massive 47-statue, free-standing funeral monument for Pope Julius II, became the centerpiece of the Pope's funeral monument and tomb in this, the church of della Rovere family. Moses is depicted with horns, connoting "the radiance of the Lord", due to the similarity in the Hebrew words for "beams of light" and "horns". This kind of iconographic symbolism was common in early sacred art, and for an artist horns are easier to sculpt than rays of light.