

## MARTYR SEBASTIAN AT ROME

Holy Martyr Sebastian was born in the city of Narbonum in Gaul (modern France), and he received his education at Mediolanum (now Milan). He was the head of the imperial guards under emperors Diocletian and Maximus. Saint Sebastian was respected for his authority and was loved by the soldiers. He was a brave man filled with wisdom; his word was honest, and his judgment just. He was insightful in advice and faithful in his service. He was also a secret Christian, not out of fear, but so that he could provide help to the brethren in a time of persecution.

The noble Christian brothers Marcellinus and Mark had been locked up in prison, and at first they firmly confessed the true Faith. But under the influence of the tearful entreaties of their pagan parents (Tranquillinus and Marcia), and also their own wives and children, they began to waver in their intent to suffer for Christ. St. Sebastian went to them in their confinement and addressed the brothers who were on the verge of yielding to the entreaties of their family:

“O valiant warriors of Christ! Do not cast away your everlasting crowns of victory because of the tears of your relatives. Do not remove your feet from the necks of your enemies who lie prostrate before you, lest they regain their strength and attack you more fiercely than before. Raise your banner high over every earthly attachment. If those whom you see weeping knew that there is another life where there is neither sickness nor death, where there is unceasing gladness and everything is beautiful, then assuredly they would wish to enter it with you. Anyone who fears to exchange this brief earthly life for the unending joys of the heavenly Kingdom is foolish indeed. For he who rejects eternity wastes the brief time of his existence, and will be delivered to everlasting torment in Hades.”

He then said that if necessary, he would be willing to endure torment and death in order to show them how to give their lives for Christ. His speech stirred everyone present. They saw how seven angels clothed him in a radiant garment and heard a fair Youth say, “You shall be with Me always.”

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# THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 7 - VOLUME LX

TONE 2

DECEMBER 18, 2022

## **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**

*Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus; St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem; St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus; St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople; Ven Sebastian, Abbot of Poshekhónsk Monastery; Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhotúr'e*

“Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the source of the flame, as if by restful waters, and the Prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.”

Troparion, Tone II

“Excelling in godly zeal, you gathered a band of martyrs from which you shone as a star. The arrows that wounded your body, O Sebastian, pierced the hearts of the enemy. Therefore, God has glorified you!”

Kontakion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday, December 21	6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers & Small Compline
Thursday, December 22	6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers & Small Compline
Friday, December 23	9:00 a.m. Royal Hours
Saturday, December 24	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Great Vespers of Nativity 7:00 p.m. Vigil of the Nativity; Great Compline & Matins ( <b>Please note time change of this service from calendar</b> )
Sunday, December 25	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

### **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ's Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, December 19	II Timothy 2:20-26	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday, December 20	II Timothy 3:16-4:4	Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday, December 21	II Timothy 4:9-22	Mark 10:11-16
Thursday, December 22	Titus 1:5-2:1	Mark 10:17-27
Friday, December 23	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mark 10:23-32
Saturday, December 24	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29
	Galatians 3:15-22	Luke 2:1-20

**COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER:**

18, TODAY 3:00 p.m. Concert at St. Theodosius Cathedral  
25, Sunday Christmas break—no Church School classes

**JANUARY:**

1, Sunday New Year’s Day—no Church School classes  
8, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale  
Church School First Confession class begins  
15, Sunday Retirement Party for Michael Pilat

<p><b><u>HOME BLESSINGS:</u></b> Father Christopher is planning to bless the homes of parishioners following the Feast of the Theophany. Details and a sign-up sheet will be available in the near future.</p> <p><b><u>SAVE THE DATE:</u></b> We will be honoring Choir Director Michael Pilat on his retirement with a party on Sunday, January 15. Plan to stay after the Divine Liturgy for this event!</p> <p><b><u>OFFERING ENVELOPES:</u></b> Offering envelopes for 2023 are available in the vestibule. If you do not have a box with your name on it and would like to obtain offering envelopes, please see Father Christopher.</p> <p><b><u>2023 CALENDARS:</u></b> Lectionary wall calendars for 2023 are also available in the vestibule.</p> <p><b><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u></b> The covers today are offered by Pauline Smolarchuk. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to offer covers in 2023. Your donation goes toward the printing costs of our weekly Trinitarian. Cost is \$10, or \$20 for Pascha and Christmas covers.</p>	<p><b><u>CONCERT AT ST. THEODOSIUS:</u></b> This afternoon, December 18, St. Theodosius Cathedral will be open to all for tours - at 1:00 p.m.; and for a concert - at 3:00 p.m. The choir will present selections of liturgical music for the Nativity as well as from the yearly worship cycle. There will also be a sing-along of popular carols.</p> <p><b><u>LA COUPOLE OPEN HOUSE:</u></b> Come in and browse the selection of unique gifts, Christmas cards and ornaments. All children’s books are 20% off.</p> <p><b><u>CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:</u></b> Please remember to donate for flowers that will adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is an envelope in your box that you can use during the upcoming weeks.</p> <p><b><u>FLOWERS:</u></b> The flowers today are offered by the Bellack Family.</p> <p><b><u>COFFEE HOUR:</u></b> The Coffee Hour refreshments today are sponsored by Table of Eight. There are dates in the new year awaiting donors; please sign up in the kitchen. Many thanks to those who have offered us this kindness!</p>
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“The effect of prayer is union with God, and if someone is with God,  
he is separated from the enemy.

Through prayer we guard our chastity, control our temper and rid ourselves of vanity.  
It makes us forget injuries, overcome envy, defeats injustice and makes amends for sin.  
Through prayer we obtain physical well-being, a happy home, and a strong, well-ordered society....  
Prayer is the seal of virginity and a pledge of faithfulness in marriage.  
It shields the wayfarer, protects the sleeper, and gives courage to those who keep vigil....  
It will refresh you when you are weary and comfort you when you are sorrowful.  
Prayer is the delight of the joyful as well as the solace of the afflicted....  
Prayer is intimacy with God and contemplation of the invisible....  
Prayer is the enjoyment of things present and the substance of the things to come.”

St. Gregory of Nyssa

**ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN: HYMNS ON THE NATIVITY - HYMN 3 (Beginning)**

To the melody “He consoled with promises”

- 1 Blessed be the Child Who today delights Bethlehem.  
Blessed be the Newborn Who today made humanity young again.  
Blessed be the Fruit Who bowed Himself down for our hunger.  
Blessed be the Gracious One Who suddenly enriched  
all of our poverty and filled our need.  
Blessed be He Whose mercy inclined Him to heal our sickness.

*Refrain: My Lord, blessed be Your Child, Who raised to honor our hardness of heart.*

- 2 Thanks to the Fountainhead sent for our salvation.  
Thanks to the One Who violated the sabbath in its fulfillment.  
Thanks to the One Who rebuked leprosy and it remained not.  
Fever also saw Him and departed.  
Thanks to the Compassionate One Who bore our pain.  
Glory to Your coming that restored humankind to life.
- 3 Glory to that One Who came to us by His First-born.  
Glory to that Silent One Who spoke by means of His Voice.  
Glory to that Sublime One Who was seen by means of His Dawn.  
Glory to the Spiritual One Who was well-pleased  
that His Child should become a body so that through Him His power might be felt  
and the bodies of His kindred might live again.
- 4 Glory to that Hidden One Whose Child was revealed.  
Glory to that Living One Whose Son became a mortal.  
Glory to that Great One Whose Son descended and became small.  
Glory to that One Power Who fashioned Him,  
the Image of His greatness and Form for His hiddenness.  
With the eye and the mind—with both of them we saw Him.
- 5 Glory to that Hidden One Who even to the mind  
is utterly imperceptible to those who investigate Him.  
But by His grace through [His] humanity  
a nature never before fathomed is [now] perceived.  
His hands bound and fettered, His feet nailed and fastened,  
by His [own] will He clothed Himself with a body for those who seized Him.
- 6 Blessed is He Whom freedom crucified, when He permitted it.  
Blessed is He Whom also the wood bore, when He allowed it.  
Blessed is He Whom even the grave enclosed, when He set limits to Himself.  
Blessed is He Whose will brought Him  
to the womb and to birth and to the bosom and to growth.  
Blessed is He Whose changes revived our humanity.
- 7 Blessed is He Who engraved our soul and adorned and betrothed her to Him[self].  
Blessed is He Who made our body a Tabernacle for His hiddenness.  
Blessed is He Who with our tongue interpreted His secrets.  
Let us give thanks to that Voice Whose praise on our lyre  
and Whose power on our kithara are sung.  
The peoples came together to listen to His melodies.