



ST. SEBASTIAN MARTYR

**FEAST DAY:
20 JANUARY**

COLLECT

Be mindful of our weakness, Almighty God, and since the burden of our sins weighs heavily upon us, may the glorious intercession of Thy holy Martyrs Fabian and Sebastian sustain us. **T**hrough Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

BIOGRAPHY

Sebastian was a favourite with Diocletian for his noble birth and his bravery, and was made captain of the first company of the Praetorian guards. He aided the Christians, whose faith he secretly practiced, both by deeds and by material help and strengthened them in professing Christ. When all this was reported to Diocletian, he tried by every means to turn Sebastian away from faith in Christ. But when neither promises nor threats were successful, he ordered him to be tied to a post and shot through with arrows. The servant of God was then thought by all to be dead, but shortly afterwards, restored to health, he appeared in Diocletian's presence and boldly rebuked him for his wickedness. Then the tyrant ordered him beaten with rods until he expired. He shares his feast with St. Fabian.

PRAYER TO ST. SEBASTIAN

Blessed be the Lord Who found thee worthy, O Captain of the Imperial Guards, to suffer martyrdom for His Most Sacred Name, and blessed be He Who hath crowned thee a Soldier of the Heavenly Army and hath made thee a prince of His Kingdom. Give ear to the prayers of thy brethren, especially those of the athletic profession, archers, the plague-ridden, soldiers, and those who pray for a holy Christian death. O happy brother, be thou a fortress against all temptation, and be thou our helper in the hour of darkness. Pray very much for us, glorious Martyr, and may our prayers ascend before the King of kings, to Whom thou art forever in company. Stand before His Throne and pray for His Subjects here on earth and those in Purgatory, and free us from the bonds of sin. Be His Kingdom supreme on earth as in Heaven, and may we join thy ranks to praise Him, Who is the True Emperor and Divine Ruler of all things. St. Sebastian, Strong of Heart and Beautiful in Spirit, pray for us! Amen