

## NOVEMBER 26, ST. SYLVESTER, ABBOT

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The feast of this holy Abbot of Monte Fano near Fabriano was introduced into the Calendar by Leo XIII, who in doing so paid him the honor rendered by the Church to the founders of Religious Orders. In the Thirteenth Century, when many Benedictine monasteries in Italy had lost much of their former holiness and learning, St. Sylvester succeeded in infusing new vitality into the ancient Order, by founding a monastic family which, by the blessing of God, transformed several religious houses, and was distinguished by the sanctity of its members. His Order is called the Silvestrines; it numbered twenty-five houses in Italy when its founder died in 1267 at the age of ninety.

*Commemoration of St. Peter of Alexandria:* St. Peter was the last martyr to suffer at Alexandria under the persecution of Diocletian (311) and therefore the Greeks give him the honorable title of "the seal and limit of the persecution." He was an admirable example of a bishop.

### INTROIT Psalms 36: 30-31

Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus. (Ps. 36: 1)

Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. Glória Patri et Filio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus.

### COLLECT

Clementíssime Deus, qui sanctum Silvéstrum Abbátem, sæculi hujus vanitátem in apérto túmulo pie meditántem, ad erémum vocáre et præcláris vitæ méritis decoráre dignátus es: te supplices exorámus; ut, ejus exémplo terréna despiciéntes, tui consórtio perfruámur ætérno. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

*(Commemoration of St. Peter of Alexandria, Bishop & Martyr.)*

Infirmítatem nostram respice, omnipotens Deus: et, quia pondus própria; actiónis gravat, beáti Petri Mártyris tui atque Pontíficis intercésio gloriósa nos prótegat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

### LESSON Ecclesiasticus 45: 1-6

Diléctus Deo et homínibus, cujus memória in benedictióne est. Símilem illum fecit in glória sanctorum, et magnificávit eum in timóre inimicórum, et in verbis suis monstra placávit.

Glorificávit illum in conspéctu regum, et jussit illi coram pópulo suo, et osténdit illi glóriam suam. In fide et lenitáte ipsíus sanctum fecit illum, et elégit eum; ex omni carne. Audívit enim eum et vocem ipsíus, et indúxit illum in nubem. Et dedit illi coram præcépta, et legem vitæ et disciplínæ.

### GRADUAL Psalms 20: 4-5

Dómine, prævenisti eum in benedictiónibus dulcédinis: posuisti in cápite ejus corónam de lápide pretiósio. Vitam pétiit a te, et tribuisti ei longitúdinem diérum in sæculum sæculi.

Lord, Thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of Thee, and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

Beloved of God, and men: whose memory is in benediction. He made him like the saints in glory, and magnified him in the fear of his enemies, and with his words he made prodigies to cease. He glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him commandments in the sight of his people, and shewed him His glory. He sanctified him in his faith, and meekness, and chose him out of all flesh. For he heard Him, and His voice, and brought him into a cloud. And He gave him commandments before His face, and a law of life and instruction.

Lord, Thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of Thee, and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

Alleluia, alleluia. The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus. Alleluia.

At that time, Peter said to Jesus: Behold we have left all things, and have followed thee: what therefore shall we have? And Jesus said to them: Amen, I say to you, that you, who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the seat of his majesty, you also shall sit on twelve seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire, O Lord, and hast not withholden from him the will of his lips: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that, while we reverently offer these gifts to Thy divine majesty we may by pious preparation of soul and purity of heart, following the example of blessed abbot Sylvester, become worthy to partake of the body and blood of Thy Son. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Graciously receive, O Lord, the sacrifices dedicated to the merits of Thy blessed martyr and bishop, Peter, and grant they may be for us an everlasting help. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The faithful and wise servant, whom his lord setteth over his family, to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

We pray Thee, O Lord, that Thou grant unto us, refreshed with the divine banquet, to follow closely the footsteps of the holy abbot Sylvester, that we may have an abundant reward with the saints in the kingdom of Thy glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Refreshed by participation in the sacred gift, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that, through the intercession of blessed Peter, Thy martyr and bishop, we may ever experience the effect of the worship we offer. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

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