

Besides the chief feast of St. John the Baptist, that of his nativity, the Church commemorates on the twenty-ninth of August, his glorious death and birth into heaven. Ever since the Fourth Century in Africa, in the East, in Syria, and in many places all over the world, the beheading of St. John the Baptist has been commemorated on August 29th. When in 362, Pagans violated the tomb and burned his remains, some parts were saved by monks, and taken to St. Athanasius at Alexandria. The head is said to have been preserved at Jerusalem, and may later have been brought to Rome.

The Gospel of the Mass recounts his martyrdom. He died because his sanctity as precursor of Christ was intolerable to the immoral Herodias. He anticipated in his death the humiliations of Calvary, but he was rewarded by having his praises spoken by the Savior Himself, even if Jesus and his disciples did not actually assist at his funeral, as some legends maintain.

Commemoration of St. Sabina, Martyr: St. Sabina, a Roman widow of high birth, suffered martyrdom under Emperor Hadrian, early in the Second Century, and was buried in the same grave with St. Seraphia, her maid-servant, who had instructed her in the Faith.

INTROIT Psalms 118: 46-47

Loquébar de testimoniis tuis in conspectu regum, et non confundébar: et meditábar in mandátis tuis, quæ diléxi nimis. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Loquébar de testimoniis tuis in conspectu regum, et non confundébar: et meditábar in mandátis tuis, quæ diléxi nimis.

COLLECT

Sancti Joánnis Baptístæ Præcursóris et Mártiris tui, quæsumus, Dómine, veneránda festívitās: salutáris auxilií nobis præstet effectum: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Sabina, Martyr)

Deus, qui inter cétera poténtiæ tuæ miracula étiam in sexu frággili victóriam mártýrii contulisti: concéde propítius; ut, qui beátæ Sabínæ Mártýris tuæ natalítia cólimus, per ejus ad te exéempla gradiámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Jeremias 1: 17-19

In diébus illis: Factum est verbum Dómini ad me, dicens: Accinge lumbos tuos, et surge, et lóquere ad Juda ómnia, quæ ego præcipio tibi. Ne formides a fácie eórum: nec enim tímpere te fáciam vultum eórum. Ego quippe dedi te hódie in civitátem munitam, et in colúmnam férream, et in murum æreum, super omnem terram, régibus Juda, princípibus ejus, et sacerdotibus, et populo terræ. Et rebellábit advérsus te, et non prævalebunt: quia ego tecum sum, ait Dóminus, ut líberem te.

GRADUAL Psalms 91: 13-14

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicábitur in domo Dómini. (Ps 91: 3) Ad annuntiándum Dómini misericórdiam tuam, et veritátem tuam per noctem.

LESSER ALLELUIA Osee 14: 6

Allelúja, allelúja. Justus germinábit sicut lílium: et florébit in ætérnum ante Dóminum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Mark 6: 17-29

In illo témpore: Misit Heródes, ac ténuit Joánnem, et vinxit eum in cárcere propter Herodiádem, uxorem Philíppi fratris sui, quia dúxerat eam. Dicebat enim Joánnes Heródi: Non licet tibi habére uxórem fratris tui. Heródias autem insidiabátur illi, et volébat occídere eum, nec póterat. Heródes enim metuébat Joánnem, sciens eum virum justum et sanctum: et custodiébat eum, et audíto eo multa faciébat, et libénter eum audiébat. Et cum dies oportúnus accidísset, Heródes natális sui coenam fecit princípibus et tribúnis et primis Galiléæ. Cumque introísset filia Herodiádis, et saltásset, et placúisset Heródi simúlque recumbéntibus; rex ait puéllæ: Pete a me, quod vis, et dabo tibi. Et jurávit illi: Quia quidquid petiérís dabo tibi, licet dimídium regni mei. Quæ cum exiísset, dixit matri suæ: Quid petam? At illa dixit: Caput Joánnis Baptístæ. Cumque introísset statim cum festinátione ad regem, petívit dicens: Volo, ut protínus des mihi in disco caput Joánnis Baptístæ. Et contristátus est rex: propter jusjurándum et propter simul discumbéntes nóluit eam contristáre: sed misso spiculátore, præcépít afférrí caput ejus in disco. Et decollávit eum in cárcere. Et áttulit caput ejus in disco: et dedit illud puéllæ, et puella dedit matri suæ. Quo audíto, discípuli ejus venérunt et tulérunt corpus ejus: et posuérunt illud in monumento.

OFFERTORY Psalms 20: 2-3

In virtúte tua, Dómine, lætábitur justus, et super salutáre tuum exsultábit veheménter: desidérium ánimæ ejus tribuísti ei.

SECRET

Múnera, quæ tibi, Dómine, pro sancti Mártýris tui Joánnis Baptístæ passióne deférimus: quæsumus; ut ejus obténtu nobis proficiant ad salútem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Sabina, Martyr)

Hóstias tibi, Dómine, beátæ Sabínæ Mártýris tuæ dicátas méritis, benígnus assúme: et ad perpétuum nobis tribue proveníre subsidium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 20: 4

Posuísti, Dómine, in cápíte ejus corónam de lápide pretiósio.

POSTCOMMUNION

Cónferat nobis, Dómine, sancti Joánnis Baptístæ solémnitas: ut et magnífica sacraménta, venæ súpsimus, significáta venerémur, et in nobis pótius édita gaudeámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Sabina, Martyr)

Divíni muneris largitáte satiáti, quæsumus, Dómine, Deus noster: ut, intercedénte beáta Sabína Mártýre tua, in ejus semper participatióne vivamus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not ashamed: I meditated also on Thy commandments, which I loved exceedingly. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord; and to sing to Thy name, O Most High. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not ashamed: I meditated also on Thy commandments, which I loved exceedingly.

May the august festival of St. John the Baptist, Thy precursor and martyr, we beseech Thee, O Lord, effect for us the furtherance of our salvation. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God, who among the other marvels of Thy power, hast granted even to the weaker sex the victory of martyrdom: mercifully grant: that we who celebrate the heavenly birthday of blessed Sabina, Thy Martyr, may, by her example draw nearer to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days: The word of the Lord came to me, saying, Gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak to Juda all that I command thee. Be not afraid at their presence; for I will make thee not to fear their countenance. For behold I have made thee this day a fortified city, and a pillar of iron, and a wall of brass, over all the land, to the kings of Juda, to the princes thereof, and to the priests, and to the people of the land. And they shall fight against thee, and shall not prevail: for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.

The just shall flourish like the palm-tree; he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus in the house of the Lord. (Ps 91: 3) To show forth Thy mercy in the morning and Thy truth in the night.

Alleluia, alleluia. The just shall spring as the lily, and flourish forever before the Lord. Alleluia.

At that time: Herod sent and apprehended John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother, because he had married her. For John said to Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Now Herodias laid snares for him, and was desirous to put him to death, and could not. For Herod feared John, knowing him to be a just and holy man, and kept him, and when he heard him did many things; and he heard him willingly. And when a convenient day was come, Herod made a supper for his birthday, for the princes, and tribunes, and chief men of Galilee. And when the daughter of the same Herodias had come in, and had danced, and pleased Herod, and them that were at table with him, the king said to the damsel, Ask of me what thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he swore to her, whatsoever thou shalt ask, I will give thee; though it be the half of my kingdom. Who, when she was gone out, said to her mother, What shall I ask? But she said, the head of John the Baptist. And when she was come in immediately with haste to the king, she asked, saying, I will that forthwith thou give me in a dish the head of John the Baptist. And the king was struck sad; yet because of his oath, and because of them that were with him at table, he would not displease her; but sending an executioner he commanded that his head should be brought in a dish. And he beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head in a dish, and gave it to the damsel, and the damsel gave it to her mother. Which his disciples hearing, came, and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

In thy strength, O Lord, the just man shall exult, and in Thy salvation he shall rejoice exceedingly: Thou hast given him his heart's desire.

The offerings which we bring, O Lord, in memory of the passist of Thy holy martyr, John the Baptist, we pray that, by his favor, they may profit us unto salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

By the merits of blessed Sabina, Thy Martyr, graciously receive, O Lord, the offerings consecrated to Thee, and grant that they may ever bring us 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.

O Lord, Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones.

May the solemn festival of St. John the Baptist bring us the grace, O Lord, both to venerate that which is signified in the great sacrament we have received, and to be joyful because this thing hath been more abundantly manifested in us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Filled with the Gift of Thy divine bounty, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that by the intercession of blessed Sabina, Thy Martyr, we may partake thereof for evermore. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.