

## **Week of 12/11/11**

### **FOR THE HEALTH OF:**

Family Members by Helen Davis  
Peter Powers by Paul, Wendy & Family  
Tony Miralles by Martha  
Tony & Janet Miralles by Timko Family  
Costella Family by Toni  
Miralles Family by Tony & Janet  
Thelma Slavic by Tony & Janet  
Sophia Krill by Tony & Janet  
Family by Fran Sabo  
Thelma by Fran Sabo  
All Church Members by Fran Sabo  
Katherine Dupay by Dave & JoAnn Metz  
Sydney Haley by Dave & JoAnn Metz  
Mom & Dad by Michelle & Jody  
Dick by Michelle & Jody  
Janet & Tony by Michelle & Jody  
Family by Mariann Mica  
Sophie Dudzinski by John, Marie & Jacob  
Michelle & Jody by Mom & Dad  
Mary & Johnny Kossol by Larry & Helen  
Tony & Janet by Larry & Helen  
Myron Septiko by Larry & Helen  
Steven Kovatch by Mom, Dad & Tommy  
Nellie Redmond by Mom, Dad & Tommy  
Nellie Redmond by Teresa Redmond  
Mary Jo Yetsconish by Chuck  
Tony Miralles by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yetsconish  
Paul Brand by Bonnie Brand  
Sophia & Amelia Brand by Paul & Bonnie Brand  
Mary & Helen by Al & Bev Davis  
Julia Balchak by Tim, Karen & Kiersten  
Michael, Sr. & Michael, Jr. by Donna  
Michael, Rebecca & Justin by Mom & Dad

Tony & Janet by Donna

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Deceased Family Members by Helen Davis  
Dolores Varega by Martha  
Zackie Short by Toni  
Simon Joseph by Toni  
Anna Beck by Tony & Janet  
John Yusko by Larry & Helen  
Ann & Steve Komacko by Larry & Helen  
Chuck by Mom & Dad  
Paul Mica by Mariann  
Al Sabo by Fran  
Ben Dudzinski by John, Marie, Jereme & Jacob  
Helen Koslosky by John, Marie, Jereme & Jacob  
Mike Backo by John, Marie, Jereme & Jacob  
Chuck by Michelle & Jody  
Al Hines by Michelle & Jody  
Ginx Essey by Michelle & Jody  
John Metz by Dave & JoAnn  
John Sesco, Sr. by Mary Sesco  
Anthony Niro by Niro Family  
John Sesco, Sr. & Alfred Davis, Sr. by Al & Bev Davis  
Tim Connelly by Weinheimer Family

### **SAFE TRAVEL:**

Chuckie by Mom & Dad

### **THANKFULNESS & GOD'S BLESSINGS:**

Fran

### **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:**

Al & Bev Davis

Fran

### **GOD'S BLESSING & GUIDANCE:**

Ashley & Brittany by Al & Bev Davis

### **HEALTH & SAFETY:**

Jonathan, Jennifer, Jereme & Jacob by Mom & Dad

Ava by Baba, PapPap & Uncle Jacob

Parents by Timko Family

Johnny, Jordan & Jessalyn by Mom & Dad

Joelle, Jocelyn & Jillian by Mom & Dad

Family by Chuck & Julia Urdenis

## ***Feast Day of the Holy Martyr Sebastian – December 18<sup>th</sup>***

The Praetorian guard of the Imperial Palace of the Roman Empire was an elite group culled from many applicants thoroughly screened for their loyalty to the emperor and for their extreme courage. In the third century one of these stalwart protectors of the emperor was a fearless young officer named Sebastian of Milan who coupled his loyalty to the emperor with an even greater devotion to the Savior, thus having a dual nature he was able to survive under one regime but which cost him his life in another.

Sebastian, who had been born of Christian parents, had been recruited for military service and served with such distinction that he rose to prominence in the Praetorian guard of Emperor Carinus, a ruler who saw no great harm in Christianity and who dismissed complaints about his having a Christian officer in the guard on the grounds that his religion did not seem in any way to affect his efficiency and bravery. As a result of this attitude, Sebastian, who had access to the prisons as well as the palace, was able to seek out imprisoned Christians and do what he could to ease their troubled minds and, in extreme cases, to secure their release.

The presence of a member of the Praetorian guard in the secret places of Christian worship in the catacombs of Rome seemed quite strange to new converts but to those seasoned followers of the Savior accustomed to seeing him, candle in hand, he was a welcome figure whose humility was reassuring. It soon became common knowledge that any Christian who found himself victimized by vindictive captors had a friend at the palace who would come to see him in his hour of trial. Sebastian could not sway the emperor to the point where a royal amnesty would be declared for all Christians, but he did have enough favor to allow him to roam freely to help not only Christians, but the cause of the Savior as well.

On one occasion Sebastian, accompanied by Archbishop Calus of Rome, went to a prison which held captive two brothers named Marcellinus and Markos, whose only crime was that they were Christians. Sebastian addressed himself to the jailer and his wife who were named Nikostrator and Zoe, the latter suffering from a speech defect. After speaking of the miracles of the Savior, Sebastian knelt in prayer with the couple and to their extreme joy the impediment which had slurred the speech of Zoe all of her life vanished and she spoke clearly for the first time. Not only the jailer and his wife, but all other non-Christians in the small jail were converted to Christianity. The jail was emptied of its human contents who went in a body to the house of Nikostrator to be met by a priest named Polycarp who baptized the entire group into Christianity.

Not long after this event, Emperor Carinus died. He was succeeded by Diocletian who was a vowed enemy of Christianity and who would tolerate no one in his personal guard who did not bow to the idols. Informers lost no time in revealing Sebastian's true religion.

Diocletian then turned his attention to Sebastian whom he had brought before him to say he had personally selected a method of execution for the former soldier. Sebastian was made to stand in the courtyard before a veritable phalanx of archers who loosed a hail of arrows into their human target. Left for dead, he was taken away for burial when one of the martyr's widows noticed that there was still life in a body so riddled with quills, he looked more like a porcupine than a man. Carefully removing all the arrows, the widow nursed Sebastian back to health, insisting he remain in hiding to seek safety elsewhere at the proper time.

Sebastian was very grateful but said that he was not accustomed to hiding, and on the occasion of a festive banquet held in the palace he strode in to face the man who had supposed him long since dead. The incredulous Diocletian stood transfixed at the presumed sight of a dead man and was taken aback when the former guard berated the emperor for his callous treatment of the Christians. Recovering from his stupor, the angered monarch ordered that Sebastian be beaten to death and thrown in a sewer. A basilica in memory of St. Sebastian now stands by the Apian Way of Rome.