

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

January 19

ST. JOSEPH SEBASTIAN PELCZAR BISHOP

In the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus –Solemnity

Joseph Sebastian Pelczar was born on January 17, 1842 in Korczyna in the diocese of Przemyśl, Poland. Raised in a religious atmosphere, he entered the Seminary; and in 1864 was ordained to the holy priesthood. After his studies in Rome, he was a professor at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. As a priest and a professor he was marked by his zeal and a special devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, to the Heart of God, and to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, that he expressed in his works and writing. Concerned by the need for care for the girls endangered morally, for the sick and poor, he founded in Krakow, in 1894, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1899 he became an auxiliary bishop and in 1900 the ordinary of the diocese of Przemyśl. After twenty-five years of exemplary service as a bishop he died in the odor of the holiness on March 28, 1924. Pope John Paul II in 1991 counted him in the glory of the blessed and on May 18, 2003 in Rome proclaimed him a Saint of the universal Church.

EVENING PRAYER I

Hymn

Saint bishop Joseph Pelczar
Example of an ardent, firm faith
To you, the faithful witness of Christ
We give honor.

Everything you did for God alone
And for the honor of the Blessed Virgin
Your passion was to live according
To the Heart of God.

Great eagerness urged you
To inaugurate God's cause
So that for the signs of time, in which you lived,
To answer continually.

All the human concerns were near to you
You their drama carried in your heart;
The ardent love rising from this concern
You changed into deed.
You conquered evil with the power of God's grace
And human hearts sustained with hope;
With your service everywhere you brought
Love and goodness.

May honor be to the One God,
Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
For those who proclaim with their whole life
The glory of His name. Amen.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Obedient to the will of God; with an opened heart for all, I am ready with God's help to fulfill the tasks given to me.

Psalm 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
Praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
Both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
Praise be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
Above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
Who has risen on high to his throne
Yet stoops from the heights to look down,
To look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
From his misery he raises the poor
To set him in the company of princes,
Yes, with the childless wife he gives a home
And gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. Obedient to the will of God; with an opened heart for all, I am ready with God's help to fulfill the tasks given to me.

Ant. 2 Jesus, Savior, to your Most Sacred Heart I give my whole flock; You alone rule your sheep, and to me, your unworthy servant, give strength and light.

Psalm 146

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
Make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,
In mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
And their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
Whose hope is in the Lord his God,
Who alone made heaven and earth,
The seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith for ever,
Who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord, who sets prisoners free,

The Lord who gives sight to the blind,

Who raises up those who are bowed down,
The Lord, who protects the stranger
And upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
But thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Ant. Jesus, Savior, to your Most Sacred Heart I give my whole flock; You alone rule your sheep, and to me, your unworthy servant, give strength and light.

Ant. 3 I ask you, oh Lord, for a great love and for perseverance in love that my life will burn for your glory.

Canticle

Ephesians 1:3-10

Praise be the God and Father
Of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who bestowed on us in Christ
Every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him
Before the world began,
To be holy
And blameless in his sight.

He predestined us
To be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ,
Such was his will and pleasure,
That all might praise the glorious favor
He has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed,
And our sins forgiven,
So immeasurably generous
Is God's favor to us.

God has given us the wisdom
To understand fully the mystery,
The plan he was pleased
To decree in Christ.
A plan to be carried out
In Christ, in the fullness of time,
To bring all things into one in him,
In the heavens and on the earth.

Ant. I ask you, oh Lord, for a great love and for perseverance in love that my life will burn for your glory.

READING

Philippians 2:1-4

In the name of the encouragement you owe me in Christ, in the name of the solace that love can give, of fellowship in spirit, compassion and pity, I beg you: make me joy complete by your unanimity, possessing the

one love, united in spirit and ideals. Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others interests rather than to his own.

RESPONSORY

I desire to be for you not only a steward and a guide but also a father and a friend.

- I desire to be for you not only a steward and a guide but also a father and a friend.

Sincerely concerned for your true good

- Not only a steward and a guide but also a father and a friend.

Glory by to the Father...

- I desire to be for you not only a steward and a guide but also a father and a friend.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Saint Joseph Sebastian worked tirelessly till the end of his life and put at the feet of the Lord the sheaf full of merits, and now the Lord alone is his reward in eternity.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ is worthy of all praise, for He was appointed high priest among men and their representative before God. We honor Him and in our weakness we pray:

Bring salvation to your people, Lord.

You marvelously illuminated your Church through distinguished leaders and holy men and women,

- let Christians rejoice always in such splendor.

You forgave the sins of your people when their holy leaders like Moses sought your compassion,

- through their intercession continue to purify and sanctify your holy people.

You, who in Saint Joseph Sebastian gave to the Church an example of the shepherd according to your Heart,

- grant through his intercession that bishops and priests join an intensive spiritual life with eager service to your people.

You yourself are the only visible possession of our holy pastors,

- let none of them, won at the price of your blood, remain far from you.

The shepherds of your Church keep your flock from being snatched out of your hand. Through them you give your flock eternal life,

- save those who have died, those for whom you gave up your life.

Our Father ...

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,

from your inspiration Saint Joseph Sebastian, bishop,

by word, pen and example taught the ways of justice,

grant through his intercession

that we will continually grow in a knowledge and love of You.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

INVITATORY

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ, chief Shepherd, who loved Joseph Sebastian and adorned him with the garment of glory.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary, 648.

OFFICE OF READING

HYMN

Saint bishop, son of the Polish land
And faithful servant of the holy Church,
An example of faithfulness to the grace of vocation
And tireless shepherd of your diocese.

Before your birth, entrusted to Mary,
Through your whole life you spread her glory,
Her image in your bishop's coat of arms,
"Ave Maria" your invocation.

Oh, lover of the Most Sacred Heart,
His mysteries great herald,
Founder of a religion family,
Careful father of the souls entrusted to you.

You have been an example of strong faith to all
And a guide on the paths of holiness;
The rules of life you have written for the faithful
Thirsting for God and perfection.

Love of your country you placed in the hearts,
You wanted to renew it in faithfulness to God,
You have taught how to build unity among people,
You have been a protector of the poor and hurting.

When today we celebrate your upraising,
Gazed at in example of such heroic virtue,
We want to ask that you, in our concerns,
Be our Intercessor before the throne of God.

To the Most High God be glory,
To the Father who shows us His love,
In the love of the Son with an opened Heart
And in the breath of the Spirit who teaches us holiness.
Amen.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 What can unbalanced a man who eagerly receives all that comes to him, knowing that everything comes from the wisest and most loving will of God.

Psalm 21:2-8,14

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;

How your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;
You have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,
You have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,
Days that will last from age to age.

You saving help has given him glory.
You have laid upon him majesty and splendor,
You have granted your blessings to him for ever.
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:
Through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength;
We shall sing and praise your power.

Ant. What can unbalanced a man who eagerly receives all that comes to him, knowing that everything comes from the wisest and most loving will of God.

Ant. 2 Behold the man who not only said: "Lord, Lord", but fulfilled the will of the Father, as this will is revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Psalm 92

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
To make music to your name, O Most High,
To proclaim your love in the morning
And your truth in the watches of the night,
On the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
With the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
For the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this
And the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass
And all who do evil thrive:
They are doomed to be eternally destroyed.
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Ant. Behold the man who not only said: "Lord, Lord", but fulfilled the will of the Father, as this will is revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Ant. 3 To serve God, this is the task of our life, the task which is the most important, before which everything else is nothing.

II

See how your enemies perish;
All doers of evil are scattered.
To me you give the wild-ox's strength;
You anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;
My ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm-tree
And grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
They will flourish in the courts of our God,
Still bearing fruit when they are old,
Still full of sap, still green,
To proclaim that the Lord is just;
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Ant. To serve God, this is the task of our life, the task which is the most important, before which everything else is nothing.

So let your light shine before men
- so that they will see our good deeds and praise your Father

FIRST READING

1:24-29; 2:6-9; 3:1-4.12-17

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Colossians

The Christian partakes in the mystery of Christ

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make know the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle in accord with the exercise of his power working within me. So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ. For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily. If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not what I son earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patient, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is the bond of perfection. And let peace of Christ controls your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one

another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

RESPONSORY

Colossians 2:6-7a; 3:17

As you have received the teaching about Christ Jesus as the Lord, so always follow Him

- Root in Him and build in Him.

Everything, whatever you do by word or action, do in the name of the Lord.

- Root...

SECOND REDING

From the writings of St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, bishop

(The Spiritual life, Przemyśl 1924, Vol. 2, pp. 162-166)

The motives of love of God

O what glory and what happiness, what fortune for us, that God allows us to love Him, admits us to an intimate friendship with Him – even calling us His friends. “You are my friends, if you do what I command you.” As if this was not enough, God desires our love as He needs it for His own happiness, but it is we who need to love God for our own happiness. For that reason, He gave us a heart able to love; it is this heart He demands from us as the only pleasing sacrifice to Him. He also sent his Son to enkindle the fire of love on earth that it might burn on the altar of human hearts. Moreover, God asks for that heart: “My son, give me your heart,” and endeavors to capture this heart, revealing to him the infinite love of His Heart.

Therefore, wherever man turns, he sees the loving God; and the whole visible and invisible world cries out unceasingly in a mysterious voice:” Man, love your God.”

However, because man is too often inattentive to that voice, therefore God gave him a particular command: ”You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” And who could not love You, True Love?! We should love the Lord God, because He is most worthy of our love, as the Greatest Perfection, even if there would be no reward for those who love Him. God, says St. Thomas Aquinas, as the Highest truth, is the first object for our intellect to know; as the Greatest Good, the first object of love for our heart. So then, as every essential good deserves our love, how much more the Highest Good, who is the source of all good.

We should love the Lord God, because He is the loving Creator, the most gracious Lord, the most concerned Father; rightly then, that the creatures should love their Creator, servants their Lord, children their Father.

We should love the Lord God, because He gave us His only Son, Who took human nature, became our Brother, Master, Savior, King, Father, Friend and Spouse of our souls. He also, in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit, loved us first, and with an everlasting love, as He Himself said: “I have loved you with an everlasting love”, with a most tender love, a love before which all mothers’ love vanishes; with a most generous love, a self sacrificing love, with such a great love, a love such as God Himself – unending love.

If you want to know the greatness of this love, mediate on God’s great acts performed for men, namely the three eternal monuments of love: the manger, the cross and the altar. Stand especially beneath the cross, and look towards the love Crucified. Stand before the Most Blessed Sacrament and mediate on the immolation of the hidden God, the immense sacrifice of self, the entire giving to men with love without limits. Then penetrate into the Heart of Jesus and look at His love. Indeed, no one can understand what a great flame consumes that most moving Heart. When He would be advised to die for us not once, but a thousand times, or to suffer the same for one man what He suffer for all, His love would have accepted willingly for one as for all. If necessary, the Lord, instead of three hours, would have hung on the cross until the last Day of Judgment. His love is eternal and would have accomplished it. So Jesus loved us more than were His sufferings.

O love of my God, how you were incomparably greater than you manifested Yourself externally! These inexpressible sufferings and wounds are a proof of Your great love, but do not reveal its immense greatness, because it is rather hidden, instead of revealing itself externally. It was a flame of a great fire, a drop from a

great ocean of love. This love came to a summit in the Most Holy Mystery of the Altar. Who could not love this God of love?

RESPONSORY

1 John 4:16.19

We have come to know and to believe
In the love God has for us.

- God is love, and he who abides in love,
Abides in God and God in him.

We for our part love,
Because God first loved us.

- God is love...

Hymn, Te Deum, 651.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

MORNING PRAYER

HYMN

Saint bishop, glory of the Polish land
And of your people the great apostle,
The servant of Christ and faithful steward
Of God's mysteries.

Great priest taken from among the people,
During your days you were pleasing to God,
Through your service God showed men
How He loves them.

By word, pen and life's example
You carried God's Gospel to all people,
You led them to the Heart of Jesus,
Showing the way.

May glory be given to the Most Holy Trinity
For the gift of the priesthood given to you,
For your way of life in the Holy Spirit
Leading up to the altar. Amen.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 The Lord Jesus is our Master, let us listen to His teaching, let us look at His Heart and imitate His virtues.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I

Ant. 2 Be men of prayer in order to sing to the Lord everyday the hymn of glory and to ask for the needed graces for yourselves and the souls entrusted to you.

Ant. 3 Only He, Jesus Christ is the source of all graces and the one source of holiness.

READING

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

RESPONSORY

Saint Joseph Sebastian, lover of your people, intercede for us.

- Saint Joseph Sebastian, lover of your people, intercede for us.

Ornament and glory of the Church and Fatherland

- Intercede for us.

Glory to the Father ...

- Saint Joseph Sebastian, lover of your people, intercede for us.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Be glad and give thanks to the Lord that He has called you to the Church; value more this grace than any goods of the earth.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. Let us praise and thank him as we pray:

Nourish your people, Lord.

Christ, you decided to show your merciful love through your holy shepherds,

- let your mercy always reach us through them.

Through your vicars you continue to perform the ministry of shepherd of souls,

- direct us always through our leaders.

Through your holy ones, the leaders of your people, you served as physician of our bodies and our spirits

- continue to fulfill your ministry of life and holiness in us.

You taught your flock through the prudence and love of your saints.

- grant us continual growth in holiness under the direction of our pastors.

Our Father ...

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,

from your inspiration Saint Joseph Sebastian, bishop,

by word, pen and example taught the ways of justice,

grant through his intercession

that we will continually grow in a knowledge and love of You.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Or:

God, of infinite love,
You called saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar
to cooperate in the salvation of souls by word, pen and example,
and to lead the faithful to You through the Sacred Heart, source of love and holiness.
By following his example bestow upon us the grace to live in You
and to spread the Kingdom of Your love among our brothers and sisters, through Christ our Lord.

DAYTIME PRAYER

Complementary psalmody, 1191.

Antiphon, reading and verse from Common of Pastors, 1448.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

EVENING PRAYER II

HYMN

Son of Przemysl country,
Faithful devotee of Mary,
Before Her image in Lezajsk
Offered by your mother

Having loved the priesthood
Dedicated to the Holy See,
Not saving your pen and word
You have become the guide of souls.

Holy bishop Joseph,
Beloved patron,
Implore for the servants of the altar
The faithfulness and sanctity of priesthood.

Intercede also today for us
Before the throne of the Queen of Poland
So that we might build a temple
For God in our hearts.

May God be praised
In the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
From which the grace of holiness
Joseph Sebastian drew. Amen.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 If the will of God is that this illness would be the last in my life, I am ready for death, for which my whole life I have been preparing.

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
And dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
He who acts without justice
And speaks the truth from his heart;
He who does not slander with his tongue;

He who does no wrong to his brother,
Who casts no slur on his neighbor,
Who holds the godless in disdain,
But honors those who fear the Lord;

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
Who takes no interest on a loan
And accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Ant. If the will of God is that this illness would be the last in my life, I am ready for death, for which my whole life I have been preparing.

Ant. 2 He was consumed wholly on the altar of love and dedication as a sacrifice of reparation and pleasing to God.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
Who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
The children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
His justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
He is generous, merciful and just.

He has no fear of evil news;
With a firm heart he trust in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
He will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
His justice stands for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
Grinds his teeth and fades away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. He was consumed wholly on the altar of love and dedication as a sacrifice of reparation and pleasing to God.

Ant. 3 Saint Joseph Sebastian, enlighten us with the flame of your teaching, lead us on the way of salvation and implore for us the graces of God.

Canticle

Revelation 15:3-4

Mighty and wonderful are your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and true are your ways,
O King of the Nations!

Who would dare refuse you honor,
Or the glory due your name, O Lord!

Since you alone are holy,
All nations shall come and worship in your presence.
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

Ant. Saint Joseph Sebastian, enlighten us with the flame of your teaching, lead us on the way of salvation and implore for us the graces of God.

READING **2 Corinthians 3:2-4**

You are my letter, known and read by all men, written on your hearts. Clearly you are a letter of Christ, which I have delivered, a letter written not with ink but by the Holy Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh in the heart.

RESPONSORY

God crowned His own gifts in Saint Joseph Sebastian.
- God crowned His own gifts in Saint Joseph Sebastian.

He gave us an intercessor and an example to imitate
- In Saint Joseph Sebastian.

Glory to the Father...
- God crowned His own gifts in Saint Joseph Sebastian.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Saint Joseph Sebastian, bishop and lover of his people, stayed faithful to God, the Church and to his obligations, and became great in the heavenly Kingdom.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ is worthy of all praise, for He was appointed high priest among men and their representative before God. We honor Him and in our weakness we pray:

Bring salvation to your people, Lord.

You marvelously illuminated your Church through distinguished leaders and holy men and women,
- let Christians rejoice always in such splendor.

You forgave the sins of your people when their holy leaders like Moses sought your compassion,
- through their intercession continue to purify and sanctify your holy people.

You, who in Saint Joseph Sebastian gave to the Church an example of the shepherd according to your Heart,
- grant through his intercession that bishops and priests join an intensive spiritual life with eager service to your people.

You yourself are the only visible possession of our holy pastors,
- let none of them, won at the price of your blood, remain far from you.

The shepherds of your Church keep your flock from being snatched out of your hand. Through them you give your flock eternal life,
- save those who have died, those for whom you gave up your life.

Our Father ...

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from your inspiration Saint Joseph Sebastian, bishop,
by word, pen and example taught the ways of justice,
grant through his intercession that we will continually grow
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Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.