Zephyrinus Romanus Severo imperatore ad regendam Ecclesiam assumptus, sanctio, ut qui ordinandi essent, opportuno tempore, et multis presentibus clericis et laicos, de more sacra initiatu; doctique ac spectaculare, ut homines ad id officii munus deligerentur. Decretum preterea, ut rem divinam facienti episcopo sacerdotes omnes astanti. Idem instituit ut patriarcha, primas, metropolitanas ars de sacerdotum episcopum non ferant sostenient; nisi apostolica auctoritate futi. Vis in pontificat anno decem et octo, dies decem et octo. Habet ordinationes quator menses decembris, quibus creavit presbyteros, tredecim, diaconos septem, episcopos per diversa loca tredecim. Antonino imperatore martyrio coronatus est, et exulatus via Appia prope cemeterium Callixtus, septem dies septembris.

Zephyrus, a Roman by birth, was chosen to govern the Church during the reign of the emperor Severus. He ordained that, according to custom, Holy Orders should be conferred on candidates at a fitting time and in presence of many both clergy and laity; and also that learned and worthy men should be chosen for that dignity. Moreover he decreed that when the bishop was offering the holy Sacrifice, he should be assisted by all the priests. He also ordained that neither patriarch, nor primate, nor metropolitan might command a bishop without the authority of the apostolic See. His pontificate lasted eighteen years and eighteen days. In four ordinations which he held in the month of December, he ordained thirteen priests, seven deacons, and thirteen bishops for diverse places. He was crowned by martyrdom under the emperor Antoninus, and was buried on the Appian Way, near the cemetery of Callixtus, on the seventh of the Calends of September.

Victor I was the Pontiff of the Pasch; and thou also, his successor, wast devoted by the zeal of God’s house, to maintain and increase the regularity, the dignity, and the splendour of the divine worship on earth. In heaven the court of the Conqueror of death gained, during thy pontificate, many noble members, such as Irenaeus, Perpetua, and the countless martyrs who triumphed in the persecution of Septimus Severus. In the midst of dangerous snare thou wast the divinely assisted guardian of the truth, whom our Lord had promised to His Church. Thy fidelity was rewarded by the increasing advancement of the bride of Jesus, and by the definitive establishment of her foothold upon the world which she is to gain over wholly to her Spouse. We shall meet thee again in October, in company with Callixtus, who is now thy deacon, but will then, in his turn, be vicar of the Man-God. To-day give us thy paternal blessing; and make us ever true sons of St. Peter.

PROPER of the MASS

ST ZEPHYRINUS, Pope and Martyr

August 26

INTROIT

If thou lovest Me, Simon Peter, feed My lambs; feed My sheep. Ps. I will exult Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT

Eternal Shepherd, regard graciously Thy flock, and keep it with an everlasting protection, by the intercession of blessed Zephyrinus thy Martyr and Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou hast constituted shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord...

EPISODE

Dearly beloved: the ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come; feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre’s sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of priests shall appear, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To Him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.
Psalm 106: 30-31

Matthew 16: 18

Matthew 16: 13-19

Jeremiah 1: 9-10
ECCE dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce constitui te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllass et déstruas, et adficas et plantes.


GRADUAL
Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to him: and his wonderful works to the children of men.

ALLELUIA
Allelúia, allelúia. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Allelúia.

GOSPEL
At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Cæsarea Phœniciæ, and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elias, and others, and Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven: and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.

REFLECTIONE
sancta enuntiatur gubernæ, quassumus Dómine, tuam placitum Ecclesiáem: ut potenéli moderationé dirécta, et incrementæ libertátis accepísti et in religiónis integritáte persistat. Per Dominum.


Matthew 16: 18
Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram edificabo Ecclesiáem meam.

COMMUNION
Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

COMMUNION
Since Thy Church has been nourished by the sacred repast, govern her in Thy clemency, we beseech Thee, O Lord, so that under the guidance of Thy mighty rule she may enjoy greater freedom and abiding integrity of religion. Through our Lord.

August 26
SAINT ZEPHYRINUS
POPE AND MARTYR
Zephyrinus was the first Pontiff to be buried in the celebrated crypt where the Popes of the third century came after their death to sleep their last sleep. The catacomb which thus succeeded the Vatican cemetery in the honour of sheltering the relics of Christ, had been opened thirty years before by the virgin martyr Cecilia. As, when at the point of death, she had consecrated her palace into a church, so now from her tomb she caused her family burial-place to pass into the hands of the Church. This gift of the Cecilia was the inauguration, in the very face of the pagan government, of common Church property officially recognized by the State. Zephyrinus entrusted the administration of the new cemetery to the person who ranked next to himself in the Roman Church, viz: the archdeacon Callixtus. The holy Pontiff witnessed the growth of heresy concerning the Unity of God and the Trinity of the divine Persons; without the help of the special vocabulary, which was later on to fix even the very terms of theological teaching, he knew how to silence both the Sabellians to whom the Trinity was but a name, and the precursors of Arius, who revenged themselves by reviling him.1