



FEAST OF ST. BLAISE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

These are the words of a special blessing imparted in our Churches on the Feast of St. Blaise. Legend tells us that an anxious mother scurried to St. Blaise with her little boy. A fish bone had lodged in his throat. The Saint called for two candles, lit them and placed them in the form of a Cross under the boy's chin, recited some prayers and gave his blessing. Almost immediately, the fish bone loosened and was easily removed.

Many such cures obtained through prayer to this Saint gave foundation to the hope that the Blessing of St. Blaise will prevent troubles of the throat. From such physical troubles we all want and need protection – from hoarseness, choking, colds and cancer.

There are also spiritual diseases of the throat, much more harmful than the physical. "Evils of the throat and every other evil" from which St. Blaise's blessing begs protection, include particularly these spiritual troubles, which are beyond the cure of the greatest throat specialists. These include: the hoarseness of unkind speech, choking curses, gagging lies, sexual mouth canker, etc.

The Apostle Paul had on his mind such diseases in one of his letters. Quoting Psalm 5, Verse 10, he wrote to the Romans, "Their throat is an open sepulcher. With their tongues they have dealt deceitfully. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." (Romans 3:13). Such spiritual diseases for the throat indeed are the most harmful and these we want cured through the intercession of St. Blaise.

Keep these thoughts in mind when the Priest touches with the crossed candles your throat and asks God, through the intercession of St. Blaise, to deliver you from every evil, especially from physical and spiritual evils of the throat.

BLESSING OF THROATS

FEBRUARY 1-2, 2020

AFTER ALL THE WEEKEND MASSES