



The Blessing of Throats

Where it is the custom, the faithful come forward at the end of the Liturgy, and the following blessing is given today. In the following or similar words, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing:

Today we commemorate Saint Blaise, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way today for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and in his love for us and for the sick.

Then facing the altar upon which the crossed candles lay, he says:

BLESSING OF CANDLES ON THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE:

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who has made heaven and the earth.

O God most powerful and most kind, Who created all the different things in the world by the Word alone, and Whose will it was that this Word by Which all things were made should become incarnate for the remaking of mankind; And Who are great and limitless, worthy of reverence and praise, the worker of wonders; for Whose sake the glorious Martyr and Bishop, St. Blaise, joyfully gained the palm of martyrdom, never shrinking from any kind of torture in confessing his faith in You. Among other things, You give to him,

the prerogative of curing by Your power every ailment of men's throats. We humbly beg You in Your majesty not to look upon our unworthiness, but, by his merits and prayers be please, in Your awe-inspiring kindness, to bless✠this wax created by You and to sanc✠tify it, pouring into it Your grace; so that all who in good faith shall have their throats touched by this wax may be freed from every ailment of their throats through the merit of his suffering; and, in good health and spirits, may give thanks to You in Your holy Church and praise Your glorious name, which is blessed for ever and ever. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who with You lives and reigns, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. **R.** Amen.

Two candles, crossed in the shape of a St. Andrew's Cross, are placed on the throat of the recipient, or held above the head of each, and the celebrant says:

Latin

Per intercessionem Sancti Blasii, episcopi et martyris,
liberet te Deus a malo gutturis, et a quolibet alio malo.

And making the Sign of the Cross over the recipient, he says

In nomine Patris, et Filii ✠, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

English

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, (and by our prayers), may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen