

St. Blaise

Feast Day: 3rd February

Blaise is the patron saint of those with illnesses of the throat. He was a doctor who cared deeply for the people he treated. He was also a committed Christian. At the beginning of the fourth century he was appointed Bishop of Sebaste, and worked tirelessly for the people of his diocese. It was a difficult time; Christians were still being persecuted by the Romans. Many were even killed because they refused to give up their belief in Jesus.

The enemies of the Christians often pursued Blaise. He sometimes fled into the forest to escape. There he lived in a cave and made friends with the animals. Birds would often bring him fruit and berries to eat. Injured animals, such as foxes, would come to him and he would lovingly tend their wounds.

Eventually Blaise was captured and imprisoned by his enemies. One day, a young boy in the same prison swallowed a fish bone and was in danger of choking to death. Blaise prayed to God to save the boy. Suddenly the bone was dislodged from his throat and the boy recovered. The Romans saw this miracle, as a sign that Blaise was becoming too powerful and he was condemned to death.

On 3rd February in many churches, all over the world, the miracle Blaise worked for the boy is remembered. People come to church for the blessing of St. Blaise. Crossed candles are placed under the chin and across the throat. The priest then prays that, by the intercession of St. Blaise, people may be freed from all ailments of the throat.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the life and example of St. Blaise.

He was a person who loved people and animals.

He was a man of deep prayer.

St. Blaise, heal all those who suffer from ailments of the throat.

St. Blaise, help me to love others as Jesus would wish me to.

Response: May the way I live, behave and speak be an example to others.

All: May the way I live, behave and speak be an example to others.