

February 2018 Youth News Page: Why Do Catholics Do This?



St. Blaise

- Feast day – February 3
- Bishop and martyr
- St. Blaise had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest
- A legend says that he cured a boy who had a bone stuck in his throat
- Patron of protection of the throat

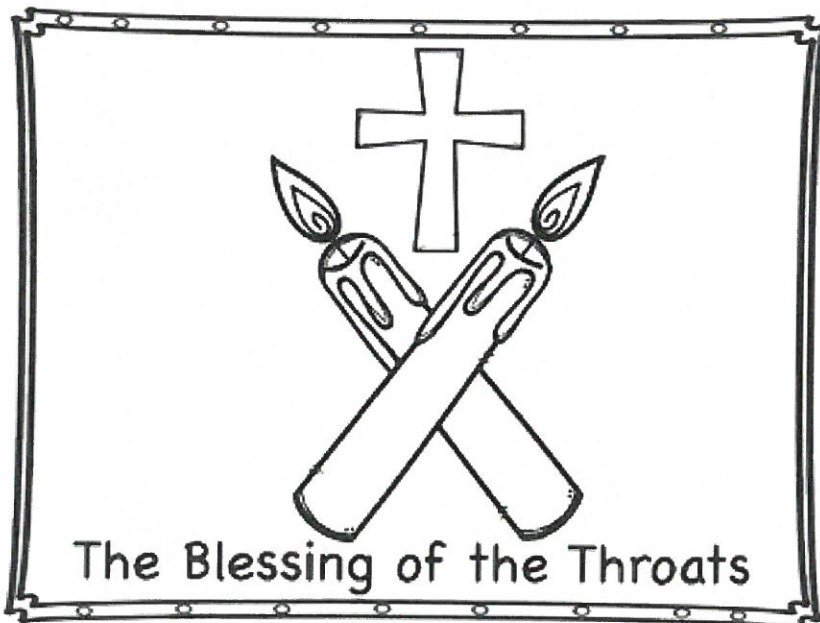


St. Blaise (sometimes spelled Blasé) was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the early 40th Century. While little is known of his life, he is believed to have been martyred during the persecution of Christians.

Although we know few facts about St. Blaise, stories about him have long been part of our revered and received Christian tradition. He was said to have been not only a bishop, but also a physician. And one story handed down to use said he miraculously saved a boy who was choking to death on a fish bone.

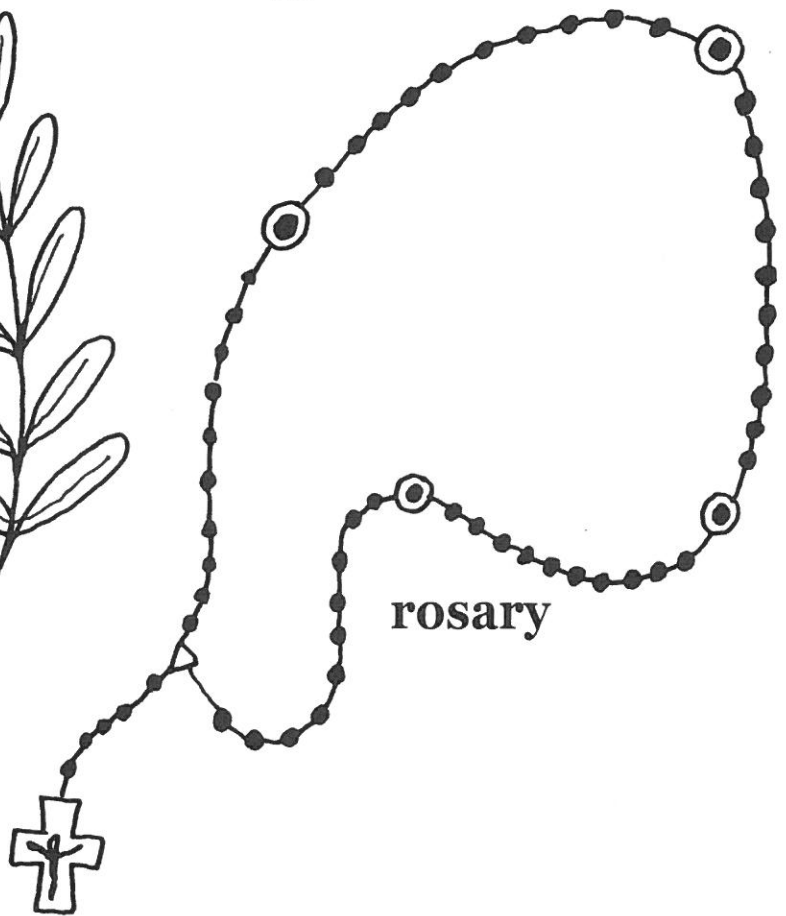
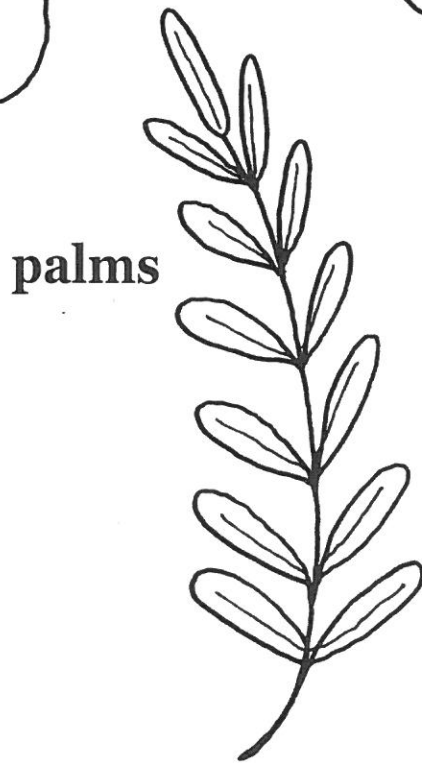
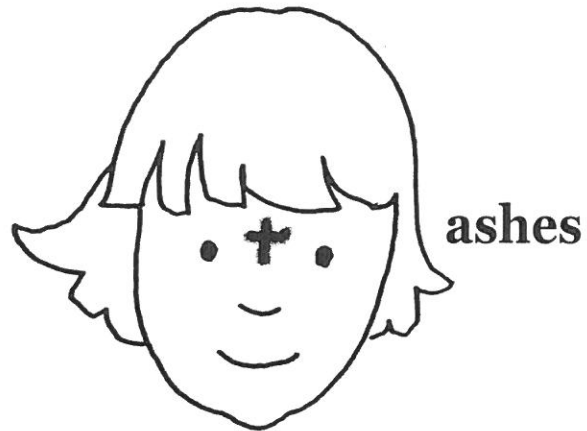
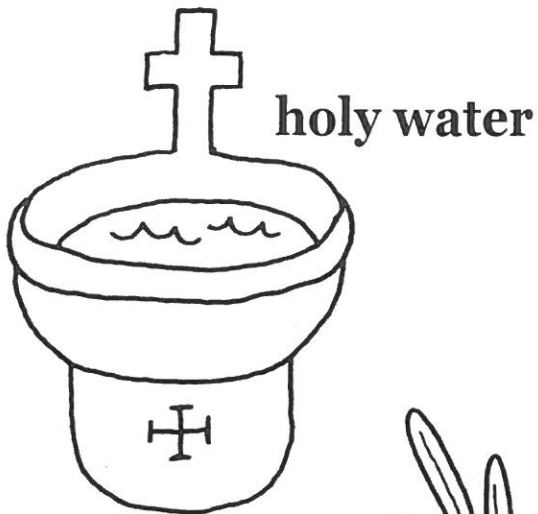
As this story spread, people began praying to Saint Blaise for healing, especially from diseases of the throat. Devotion to Saint Blaise became very popular in the Middle Ages.

And to this day, we still celebrate St. Blaise's feast day (optional memorial) on February 3rd with the Blessing of Throats. Two candles which were blessed the day before (February 2nd, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord) are tied together with red ribbon in the shape of a cross. The candles are then touched to our throats as Saint Blaise is invoked to intercede for us that God may deliver us from diseases of the throat and all other illnesses.



Color the picture and add the ribbon

Sacramentals



Sacramentals are holy objects or actions. They help increase God's life in us through the prayers of the whole Church.