

FEBRUARY 3 , 2026 FATHER JOHN BERTAIO

So, how is your year going so far?

Have you been praying, seeking, for some kind of a healing, either spiritual or physical?

Well, you're in the right place. At the right time.

The scripture readings today, and the saint we venerate today, we're also dealing with healing.

Let's start with Saint Blaise, who lived in the Fourth Century.

It's said that he came from a rich family, and received a Christian education.

Blaise became a priest and then bishop in Sebastea, in Armenia, today called Turkey. He worked hard to make his people holy and happy, and tried to help everyone.

When the governor Licinius began persecuting Christians, Blaise went away to live and pray, and do penance by himself, thus becoming a hermit.

History tell us that animals that were sick with hurt come to him, and they would be healed by him.

One day, he was arrested and sent to prison, to be beheaded.

On the way to his execution, people crowded the road to see their beloved bishop for the last time. He was— as he was blessing people, the poor mother rushed up to him.

She begged him to save her child who was choking to death on a fish bone.

The saint whispered a prayer, and blessed the child. He worked a miracle that saved the child's life.

This is why Saint Blaise is called upon to heal those of diseases of the throat today.

On this feast day, we have our throats blessed during the Mass.

Which is the will to do— which we will do at this Mass in a very special way, so please stay tuned.

Now, while he was in prison, Bishop Blaise brought many people to believe in Jesus. No torture could make him give up his faith in Jesus.

How strong is your faith in believing in the power of Jesus?

And it's in Mark's Gospel we hear another healing.

The woman who spent her life's savings on doctors. She was— just wanted the physical contact with Jesus, to just touch his garment, and laying on her— and laying on her hands, on him.

In her case, Jesus looked beneath the surface touch, to the deeper contact of faith.

Let's remember that Jesus was travelling through the crowds, and you can imagine how many people touched him.

There was no advantage to those who came in casual contact with him in Galilee, to the many, many thousands, 2,000 years ago.

Today, through faith, we can make contact with the Lord.

Today we can contact the same Jesus, and be healed by him, by his saving power, in the sacramental life of the Church.

If you are able to get to church today for a blessing of your throat, please do so. If not, only God and you knows your abilities and your needs.

Open your hearts for this special blessing. Trust in the spirit of Jesus, and to heal you, through the intercession of Saint Blaise.

And let us pray for ourselves, and for all of those who are seeking a healing.