

## The Blessing of Throats

*Traditionally, this blessing for health is given on February 3, the Feast of Saint Blasius, Bishop and Martyr. However, it may be given as desired at any time during the year, and in any place.*

*The blessing is given to the faithful with two candles blessed according to the following form:*

### The Blessing of the Two Candles

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

*R.* Who hath made heaven and earth.

*V.* O Lord, hear my prayer.

*R.* And let my cry come unto thee.

*V.* The Lord be with you.

*R.* And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, who hast created all things by the power of thy Word, and who, for the salvation of man, hast willed that that same Word, by whom all things were made should become incarnate; thou who art great and doest wondrous things, awesome and worthy of praise: for the confession of whose faith the glorious Martyr and Bishop Blasius, spurning divers torments, was counted worthy to receive the martyr's palm: to whom among other gifts thou didst grant the virtue of healing infirmities of the throat through thine almighty power; we humbly beseech thy majesty that, regarding not our sins, thou wouldst deign to bless, through his prayers and merits, this creature of wax, sanctifying and hallowing it through thy grace: that all who with a lively faith receive its impress upon their throats, may be freed from all ailments of the same, and being restored to health may show forth in thy holy Church their thankfulness for thy benefits, by praising thy glorious Name, which is worthy of eternal benediction, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*The candles may then be sprinkled with holy water and censed.*

## The Blessing of Throats

*If this blessing is given immediately after Mass, the priest will be vested in alb and stole of the color of the Mass; at other times he should be vested in surplice and red stole.*

*Placing the two candles in the form of a cross, the Priest applies them to the throats of those who desire the blessing (who should be kneeling at the Altar Rail), saying:*

**Through the intercession of blessed Blasius, may God free thee from all afflictions of the throat, and from all other ailments: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

*NOTE:* Saint Blasius, the martyred Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, was also a skilful physician. Tradition tells us that on his way to martyrdom, he healed a child who was choking to death on an obstruction in his throat. While the blessing which bears his name is given to the throat in memory of his charitable act, it is to be thought of not only as a blessing of the throat, but also as a blessing for bodily health in general.