

Mater Ecclesiae

# The Downtown Family of Catholic Parishes



ST. LOUIS • BLESSED SACRAMENT • ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA • ST. MICHAEL • ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## ST. LOUIS

*Oldest parish in the Buffalo diocese.*



780 Main Street (at Edward), Buffalo, NY 14202  
[StLouisRCChurch.org](http://StLouisRCChurch.org)  
716-852-6040  
[ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org)

## BLESSED SACRAMENT

*"The Bishop's Chapel"*



1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209  
[BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](http://BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)  
(716) 884-0053  
[office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](mailto:office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)

### FAMILY MASS TIMES

#### SATURDAY VIGILS

- St. Louis Parish: 4:00 pm
- Blessed Sacrament Church 4:30 pm
- St. Michael's: 5:30
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: 4:30 p,

#### SUNDAYS

- St. Louis Parish: 9:00 & 11:00 am
- Blessed Sacrament: 10:30 am
- St. Michael's: 12:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: 10:30 am

#### WEEKDAYS: MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

- St. Louis Parish: 12:05 pm
- Blessed Sacrament: 8:00 am
- (Tuesday & Friday only)
- St. Michael's: 6:45 am
- St. Joseph's : 12:10 pm (M-W-Th-F)
- St. Joseph's: 5:15 pm Tuesday

#### CONFESSION: ON REQUEST AFTER ANY MASS

- St. Louis: Saturdays: 3:15-4:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: Wed & Fri 11:45 am; Saturday 4:00 pm
- St. Michael's: after 6:45 am daily until 9:00 am, or by appt.
- St. Anthony's: 30 mins before all Masses

#### BAPTISMS:

New parents must participate in a virtual pre-baptismal instruction class. Information and registration forms are available on the St. Louis website for the Downtown Family of Parishes. Questions? Contact the Faith Formation Office at [reli-gioused@StLouisrcchurch.org](mailto:reli-gioused@StLouisrcchurch.org).

#### WEDDINGS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

Registered parishioners should call the family office to discuss and check available dates. Arrangements should be made 8 months in advance.

#### NEW PARISHIONERS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

We welcome you to the Downtown Family of Parishes! Registration forms can be found on the websites.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing in preparation of surgery or illness can be done after any Mass. Communal anointing takes place the last Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass at St. Michael's.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS** Email to [dbfpbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:dbfpbulletin@gmail.com)

February 1, 2026 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# February 1, 2026 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Week of February 1 2026*

*Saturday, January 31 ~ St. John Bosco*

St. Louis 4:00 pm	Rita Marie Rozbicki Req by: Estate
Blessed Sacrament 4:30 pm	All Souls Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners
Saint Michael's 5:30 pm	Amador and Mary Lleras

*Sunday, February 1*

Saint Louis 9:00 am 11:00 am	Bella Villari Req by: Family Kevin Christner Req by: Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner
Blessed Sacrament 10:30 am	Downtown Family of Parishes Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners
Saint Michael's 12 noon	Mary C. Lleras

*Monday, February 2 ~ The Presentation of  
The Lord*

St. Louis 12:05 pm	All Souls Req by: St. Louis Parishioners
Blessed Sacrament	<b>NO MASS</b>
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Eugenia Krolewicz

*Tuesday, February 3 ~ St. Blaise,  
St. Ansgar*

St. Louis 12:05 pm	Downtown Family of Parishes Req by: St. Louis Parishioners
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	Michelle Lehner Req by: Richard Lehner
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Raymond Krolewicz

*Thursday, February 5 ~ St. Agatha*

St. Louis 12:05 pm	Intentions of Pope Leo Req by: St. Louis Parishioners
Blessed Sacrament	<b>NO MASS</b>
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Ann Weihing Req by: Richrd Lehner

*Friday, February 6 ~ St. Paul Miki*

St. Louis 12:05 pm	Rita Marie Rozbicki Req by: Estate
Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am	Downtown Family of Parishes Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners
Saint Michael's 6:45 am	Downtown Family of Parishes



<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Raymond Corbin 716-852-6040 x 202 FrRayssp@gmail.com	<b>Permanent Deacons</b> Thomas LaBelle deacon.labelle@gmail.com Carmelo Gaudio
<b>Family Clergy</b> Msgr. Salvatore Manganello smanganello@buffalodiocese.org	Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J. Rev. Richard Zanoni, S.J. Please call St. Michael's Rectory at 716-854-6726
<b>Dir. of Religious Education</b> Ashlee Campbell	religiously@stlouiscrcchurch.org 443-744-0354

*Saint Louis*  
35 Edward St

<b>Dir. Of Music</b> Frank Scinta	<b>Cantors</b> James Mrozek Erin Peradotto-Terhaar
<b>Business Manager</b> Kevin Brayer	<b>Trustees</b> John Beller Erin Peradotto-Tehaar

*Blessed Sacrament*  
1035 Delaware Ave

<b>Dir. Of Music</b> Anthony Domzal <b>Cantor</b> Cory James Gallagher	<b>Trustees</b> Paul F. Jones Jim Knab
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*Saint Michael's*  
651 Washington Ave.

<b>Trustees</b> David Granville Steven Nosek <b>Musicians</b> Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak <b>Cantor</b> Michael Dobrasz	
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## DOWNTOWN FAMILY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Peter Rizzo - **President (BSC)**

Dennis Burns - **First Vice President (St. Louis)**

Alyssa Zakroczemski, **Second Vice President (BSC)**

Anne Harrington, **Secretary (BSC)**

# Saint



# Louis

## FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST SACRAMENTS

We are excited to invite families to prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist this spring! Family #22 is pleased to offer these programs for our parish children.

- **First Reconciliation** is open to children in **second grade**
- **First Eucharist** is open to children in **third grade**

To support your family's needs, we offer both **in-person** and **at-home** class options.

Registration is open now through March 1.

### Sacrament Celebrations

- **First Reconciliation:** Saturday, May 2, at Blessed Sacrament
- **First Eucharist:** Sunday, May 10, at St. Louis

If you have any questions or would like to register, reach out to **Ashlee Campbell at 443-744-0354 / [religioused@stlouiscchurch.org](mailto:religioused@stlouiscchurch.org)**. We look forward to walking with your family during this special time!

## SPIRITUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. It enables the preservation, ministry and maintenance of our historic church. It assists us in reaching out to the people of our neighborhood.

**OUR COLLECTION FOR 1/25/26 WILL BE NOTED NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE WEATHER.**

**THE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS WHO ATTENDED 1/25/26 WILL BE NOTED NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE WEATHER**

**\*\*Please Note: We are only accepting online giving through WeShare.**

**WeShare** is a Catholic owned and operated company whose rates benefit the Parishes. Please visit the Parish website for instructions to switch. You can also support the parish by mailing your donation or using our **WeShare** account on our web page or the QR code on the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your support.



## MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLES

**The Sanctuary Candle** burns this week to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Kevin Christner by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

**The Pieta Altar Candle** burns in Loving Memory of Kevin Christner by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

**The St. Joseph Altar Candle** also burns in Loving Memory of Kevin Christner by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

If you desire to have a Memorial Prayer Candle lit in memory of a loved one or for your special intention, please use the envelope available for that purpose. We honor requests as dates are available

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially Fran Angelo, Diane Andriaccio, Gabriella Parisi, Rosemary Bloch, Laurie Hoehn, Tracy Allen Abram, Greg Joseph, Marcella Ng, Beverly Grover, Kim Bach, Bill & Donna Reeves, Richard Shephard, Joseph Barba, Sr., Dr. Fred Luongo, Michael MacPherson, Patricia Guerra, Jay Deveau, Sondra Schreiber, Christine Maciejewski, David Marchetti, Frank Zawistowski, Bernadette R. Crawford, Carrie W., Joyce Persico, Jeanine L., Richard J. Wall, Sr., Gail Neil, Fred Wolf, Ed Kast, Linda Holben, Rachel Gaiser, Michael Hawkins, Allie Urbanski, Dr. William Fiden, Sharon Hunger, Fr. Drew Morgan, Larry Kennebeck, Denise Goodman, Jason Parks, Kienan Duggan, Margaret Foegen.*

*Please contact the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, we will gladly include them as long as necessary.*

*We remember all those recently deceased, Kathy Piotrowicz, Bob Wood, and our deceased parishioners and loved ones.*

## DOWNTOWN FAMILY PARISHES OFFICE

The Downtown Parish Office has moved to 1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209.

Our phone number is **716-854-0053**

## LECTORS/EUCHARIST MINISTERS JAN 31 & FEB 1 AND FEB 7 & 8, 2026

### Lectors:

Saturday, January 31	4:00	Ann Dumansky
Sunday, February 1	9:00	Steve Nosek
Sunday, February 1	11:00	Tom Caraher
Saturday, February 7	4:00	Diane Randazzo
Sunday, February 8	9:00	Ed Kuzan
Sunday, February 8	11:00	Pam Nordstrom

### Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday, January 31	4:00	Diane Randazzo
Sunday, February	9:00	Mary O'Shea
Sunday, February 1	11:00	Lisa McCarthy and Emily Schimert
Saturday, February 7	4:00	Jim Ferrini
Sunday, February 8	9:00	Mary O'Shea
Sunday, February 8	11:00	Lisa and Tim McCarthy



# Blessed



# Sacrament



**The Catholic Academy**  
OF WEST BUFFALO  
1069 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-885-6111

**Mr. Earl Schunk**  
Principal

## COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 25, 2026

Due to the weather the collection will be noted next week.

There will be one collection next week

## WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time / February 1, 2026

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISH-IONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

#### Readings for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

#### Observances for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life

Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Wednesday:

Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday:

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR A WINTER BALL HOSTED BY THE MEN OF AUGUSTINE

Saturday, February 28, 2026 in the Main Hall at the Saturn Club  
(977 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, 14209)

Doors open at 7 pm

Join us for an evening of music and dance! We will be practicing the Waltz and traditional English country dances.

Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and a door prize.

No dance experience required!

~ \$60/ticket ~

Text or Call Nick Leone at 716-955-9430 for tickets and details.

All proceeds benefit the Oratory of St. Anthony's

Formal Attire Required ~ 21+ ~

## LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY, 2026

### Lectors

#### Sat. 4:30 pm

February 7 - R. Lehner

February 14 - P. Jones

February 21 - L. Urbanski-Farrell

February 28 - D. Galucki

### Eucharist Ministers

#### Sat 4:30 pm

D. Russell

F. Conti

C. Jones

B. Mierszwa

### Lectors

#### Sat. 10:30 am

February 1 - A. Wulf

February 8 - M. Biedny

February 15 - G. Riedel

February 22 - M. Pitek

### Eucharist Ministers

#### Sun. 10:30 am

J. Knab

N. O'Rourke

M.J. Caroll

C. Pitek

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### February 1, 2026

#### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Matthew 5:1-12a

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege - burden - of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me...Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12).** Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet...something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike - more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask Him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

~ Father John Muir

©LPI

## ST. JOSEPH'S VARSITY SINGERS AT BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Blessed Sacrament Church will host the St. Joseph's Varsity Singers on **Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

Inspired by Morten Lauridsen's *Sure on This Shining Night*, this program features sacred and uplifting choral music that celebrates faith, joy, and community - an evening designed to elevate the spirit and unit hearts through song.

This a free concert.

Blessed Sacrament Church 1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo.

### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT NONTESIMONIAL STATEMENTS TO BANKRUPTCY COURT

Please take notice that on December 29, 2025, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court") in The Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. (the "Diocese") entered an order (Docket No. 4471) (the "Nontestimonial Statement Order") granting the request of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") for the presentation of nontestimonial statements (the "Statements") in the above captioned bankruptcy case (the "Bankruptcy Case").

Please take further notice that the hearings for the Statements (the "Statement Sessions") shall be held at the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Courthouse, 2 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York on the following initial dates:

- January 27, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- January 28, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- February 25, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- February 26, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)

Please take further notice, that the Committee, in consultation with the Diocese, may seek to add additional Statement Session dates, if necessary, and subject to the Court's availability.

Please take further notice that the Statement Sessions will be subject to the following conditions:

- Statements shall be made in person at the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Courthouse, 2 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York. Persons who are unable to appear in person may request accommodations, including having counsel or another person read a written statement on their behalf, and the Bankruptcy Court will consider whether to grant any other accommodation.
- Statements should not exceed twenty (20) minutes;
- No parties in interest shall be expected or allowed to comment or respond to the Statements;
- No statements or Statements of any party at the Statement Sessions will be considered as evidence in any matter or proceeding, including in the Bankruptcy Case, and no such statements or Statements will carry any evidentiary weight become part of the official record in the Bankruptcy Case.
- The Statement Sessions will not be transcribed by a court reporter. The audio of the Statement Sessions will be recorded but any such recording shall be sealed and not available to the public or any party in any form except upon an order from the Court following a hearing upon notice to any affected persons or their counsel, counsel for the Diocese, and counsel for the Committee. To the extent the audio recording of a Statement or Statement Session is later released or transcribed pursuant to an order of this Court, such transcript or recording shall be sealed pending further Court order.
- Persons who have Sexual Abuse Proofs of Claim in the Bankruptcy Case may elect to be identified only by their proof of claim number;
- Consistent with Judicial Conference policy, no party or member of the public may photograph, video record, audio record, broadcast, televise, or otherwise transmit the Statement Sessions. Any media report concerning the statements made during the Statement Sessions shall not be considered evidence in any matter or proceeding in the Bankruptcy Case.

Please take further notice, any person impacted by the Bankruptcy Case who would like the opportunity to make a statement (a "Speaker") should contact, or, if represented by counsel, should have their counsel contact the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors [DioceseBuffaloCommittee@psjzlaw.com](mailto:DioceseBuffaloCommittee@psjzlaw.com) or 212-319-5527 by **January 15, 2026**, and include the Speaker's, or the Speaker's counsel's contact information and the Speaker's interest in the Bankruptcy Case. Please note it may not be possible to accommodate every request at the scheduled Statement Sessions.

Please take further notice, the Committee shall select the Speakers for each Statement Session, and, at least two business days in advance of the Statement Sessions, counsel for the Committee shall email Chambers with the number of Speakers, in order of expected appearance, and the estimated time allocated to each Statement.

Dated: New York, New York January 7,  
2025

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP  
Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

# SAINT

716-854-6726



# MICHAEL'S

651 Washington St.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

1//26

\$

1//26

**Weekly Collection needed to cover expenses— \$3,200.**

**Registered Families - 45**

### INFORMATION REQUESTS

For any Parish Information regarding St. Michael's Masses, funerals, prayer requests, please contact The Downtown Parish Family Office.

**Phone - 716-884-0035**

**Email - [churchoffice@stlouiscrcchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@stlouiscrcchurch.org)**

### IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S

Evan, Fran, and Mo Angelo, Judith Barone, Alexander & Michael Brickel, Lorraine Brown, Alonso/Caceres/Rios Santa Cruz, Peter Caruso, Annie Feldman, Phyllis Galie, Mary Biuttner Gutierrez, Gloria Knight, Ben Lisiecki, Elain Love, Dr. David Marchetti, Jean McCarthy, Tom Passmire, Cheryl Radwan, Arlo Thomas Stadler, Jack Stepniak, Mark Szpakowski, Angelo Tomsello, Ann Weihing.

### ST. MICHAEL'S INFORMATION

**Email: [StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com)**

**Musicians: Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak**

**Cantor: Michael Dobrasz**

**Holy Hour:** Join us Sundays for a Holy Hour starting at 1pm, featuring exposition, adoration, rosary, and silent prayer until 2pm at which time the church will close.

#### ***St. Michael's Update:***

**The Vatican has upheld the Diocese's decision to merge St. Michael's with St. Louis. An appeal has been filed to a higher Vatican Court. There is a 60 day waiting period for a decision. Updates forthcoming.**

# News

*Mater Ecclesiae*

## The Downtown Family of Parishes



# Happenings

### ADORATION WITH ROSARY AND DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

Adoration with Rosary and Devotion to the Holy Face will occur Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, Delaware Ave.

All are invited to come and spend time in prayer and reflection before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament



### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

50 Franklin

716-854-5855

[Cathedral@BuffaloDiocese.org](mailto:Cathedral@BuffaloDiocese.org)

### ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

160 Court St

716-854-2563 [StAnthonyBuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:StAnthonyBuffalo@yahoo.com)

### DOWNTOWN FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

**All Stations are on Fridays at 7:00 pm**

- 2/10 St. Louis
- 2/27 Blessed Sacrament
- 3/6 St. Louis
- 3/13 Blessed Sacrament and St. Michael's
- 3/20 St. Louis
- 3/27 Blessed Sacrament and St. Michael's

#### 4/3 Good Friday

- 3:00 pm Service with veneration of the cross - St. Louis
- 7:00 pm Tenebrae with veneration - Blessed Sacrament

#### 2/18 Ash Wednesday

- 6:45 am Mass - St. Michael's
- 9:00 am Mass - St. Anthony's
- 12:05 pm Mass - St. Louis
- 12:10 pm Mass - Cathedral
- 12-2 pm Ash Service - Blessed Sacrament
- 5:00 pm Ash Service - St. Michael's
- 7:00 pm Mass - St. Louis

### YEAR END STATEMENTS

If you would like a year end statement please use the church email (for Blessed Sacrament, St. Michael's, and St. Louis), [dbfpbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:dbfpbulletin@gmail.com).

The email is found at the bottom of the bulletin front page.

### DOWNTOWN FAMILY PARISHES OFFICE

The Downtown Parish Office has moved to 1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209.

Our phone number is **716-854-0053**

### BAD WEATHER CLOSING POLICY DOWNTOWN FAMILY OF PARISHES (BLESSED SACRAMENT, ST. LOUIS, ST. MICHAEL'S)

In keeping with the North Buffalo and the East Side Family of Parishes:

**Effective November 10, 2025 -**

**Weekdays:** If the City of Buffalo Public Schools are closed - **the Parish Family will be closed.**

**Offices closed.**

**No Masses.**

**Weekends:** If closings are required, please watch for information on the local television stations (Channels 2, 4, or 7).

## DAY OF PRAYER

*for the Legal Protection  
of Unborn Children*



ELP



## DEVOTIONS, *EXPLAINED!*

### St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat

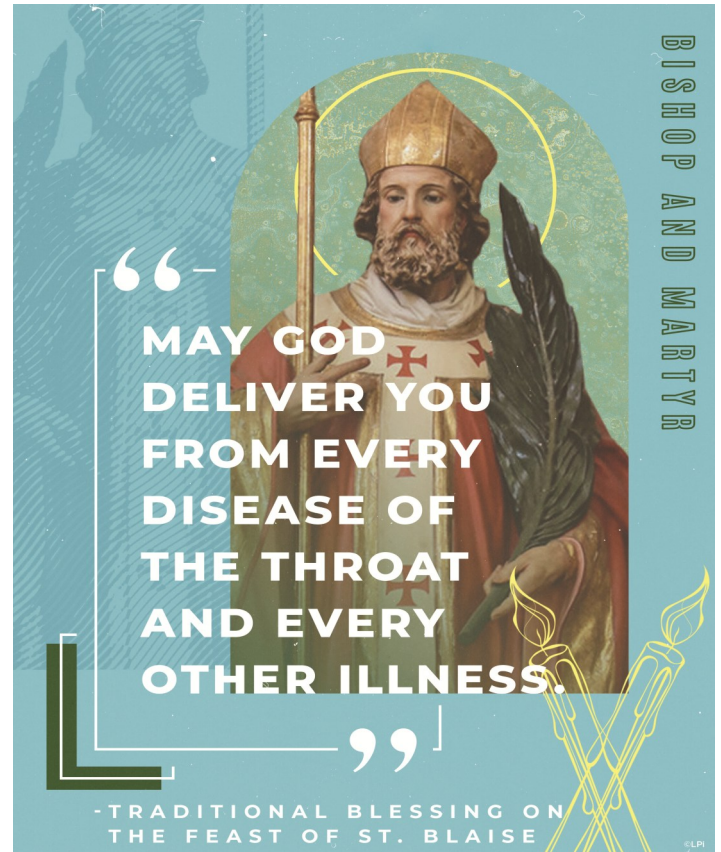
**Mini Explanation:** Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat on the Feast of St. Blaise (Feb. 3), who was a bishop and martyr of fourth-century Armenia. During the blessing, a cross is formed from two blessed candles that are held over the throat.

### St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat, *Explained*

Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 - right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon, or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay-person. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness."

A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross. ©LPi



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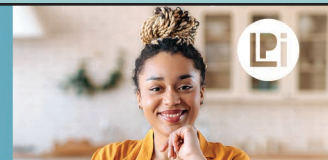
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