***St. Blaise Day***

So….why would someone not want to have his or her throat blessed - especially at this time of the year?

 As I continue to meet non liturgical Christians, having not known too many when I was growing up, I am amazed at how some have a phobia regarding the Saints. “Did they REALLY exist?” “All I need is Jesus.” “We think it’s wrong to pray to Saints” (uhhh. Praying to vs. welcoming everyone’s prayers….) Today’s Saint is usually called the Patron Saint of illnesses of the throat. I will leave those who enjoy debunking traditions to have a field day with St. Blaise. Instead I will ask “Why do some people not lay hands on and pray for people with throat cancer, a sore throat, Covid related coughing, and difficulty swallowing?” Today is not the day for Christians to argue their point of view regarding saints - but it is a great day to pray for everyone whom we know who has some throat problems. Simply stop and pray! Of course, that can be done at any time, but our tradition highlights the needs of many people who wish to be healed by Jesus!

 Our Church Calendar gives us the privilege of learning about people who lived before us who are heroes of the Faith. They lived lives attempting to demonstrate their love for Jesus. If we remove all of the saints from the calendar and learn nothing at all about their witness then we are left with “Flag Day,” “Independence Day,” “Presidents’ Day,” “Valentine’s Day” (note that “St.” Has been removed.)

 How many of those days, as important as they are, glorify Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? I think that some Christians, by removing Saints Days and Holy Days, have unwittingly played into the hands of the secular culture. We cannot blame the culture when we have intentionally or unintentionally failed to celebrate days which have nurtured Christians in the past. A saint does not point to himself - a Saint points to Jesus, and the saint simply asks you and me to follow the One whom the saint has followed.