

Homily
Memorial of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr
February 3, 2023

We know and remember Dr. Dolittle from the several books and movies as the kind doctor who could speak to the animals. Today, we celebrate a real-life Dr. Dolittle, Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr. He was born into a noble and wealthy family. He studied to become a doctor then later became the bishop of Sebastea. He was known for healing people physically and later spiritually. He also healed animals. One story relates how when he was arrested for being a Christian and being taken away, he encountered a woman whose pig had been snatched by a wolf. St. Blaise commanded the wolf to release the pig, which it did, unharmed. He was known for his virtuous deeds and the sanctity of his words. He is mostly known for the miracle cure of a young boy choking on a fish bone, which is why today we receive the blessing of throats. "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness."

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends His apostles to proclaim the Good News, cure the sick and drive out demons. He is telling us to do the same today, just as St. Blaise did in his day. We are called to be virtuous in our deeds and speak with purity of words. Jesus was taken up to heaven, but that didn't slow the apostles down. They still had Jesus with them, in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament received, just as we do today. We take the example of the apostles, the example of St. Blaise and the encouragement of our Lord and Savior to go into the world. Let's receive the blessing for our throats from the intercession of St. Blaise, the wisdom of the Word proclaimed and the strength from the Body and Blood of Jesus and be Christ in the world.