

Daily Homily  
St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr  
Optional Memorial  
Fourth Week, Ordinary Time, Friday  
3 February 2023  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Today is the Optional Memorial of St. Blaise... a bishop and a martyr.

The Scripture readings that the Church has chosen for him today reveals something of how he lived out his life and how the legacy of his life has been passed on to our days.

The first reading... St. Paul talks about affliction. Affliction builds character and ultimately leads to hope... and especially a hope that leads to God. This was a driving force in Blaise's life. He lived at a time in which the Church was afflicted, and he was even martyred in the midst of it. But a martyrdom that brought him to eternal life.

The Gospel... is about the healing ministry of the Church... for those who believe, nothing can touch us to harm our sense of peace, our sense of God with us, our sense of who we are and whose we are. St. Blaise is considered even today a man of great belief and therefore a man of deep healing. It's why we bless throats today.

Affliction and healing, two sides of the same coin, that St. Blaise offers to us today, to enliven our own faith.