

Blessing of Throats on the Memorial of Saint Blase (February 3)

Bishop Kettler is requiring all parishes to use the following for the Blessing of Throats in 2021.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no blessing of individual throats. The option listed in the Blessing of Throats, paragraph 1628, is to be used. There are to be no exceptions to this.

1628. If, for pastoral reasons, each individual cannot be blessed in the manner described in no. 1627, for example when great numbers are gathered for the blessing or when the memorial of Saint Blase occurs on a Sunday, a priest or deacon may give the blessing to all assembled by extending hands, without the crossed candles, over the people while saying the prayer of blessing. A lay minister says the prayer proper to lay ministers without making the sign of the cross.

Additionally, paragraph 1635:

1635. If all cannot be blessed individually, the celebrant, without candles, extends his hands over the assembly and says the prayer of blessing.

As indicated in the Book of Blessings, the Prayer of Blessing should follow the Universal Prayers. It is recommended that some, if not all, of the intercessory prayers from the Book of Blessings be utilized.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Carpenter in the Office of Worship at aaron.carpenter@gw.stcdio.org or 320-255-9068.