

## *Saint of the Week for January 28, 2018*

Feast Day: February 3

This bishop and saint died for his faith (*which we call a martyr*).

He served in Armenia and worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of the people he served.

Five years after the Roman Empire granted freedom of worship, the people of Armenia were still being persecuted. This saint was forced to flee to the back country and lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, although he made friends with the wild animals.

One day a group of hunters discovered the cave he was living in. When they entered, to their surprise, they found him kneeling in prayer surrounded by wolves, lions and bears!



The legend has it that as the hunters hauled him off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At the bishop's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

- Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade this saint to sacrifice to pagan idols.
- The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.
- Because of this, he is known as the Patron Saint of Throat Illnesses

Churches today use a pair of crossed candles, that the priest/ deacon holds up against one's throat for a special blessing every February 3rd...

*“Through the intercession of this saint, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*



## Who am I?