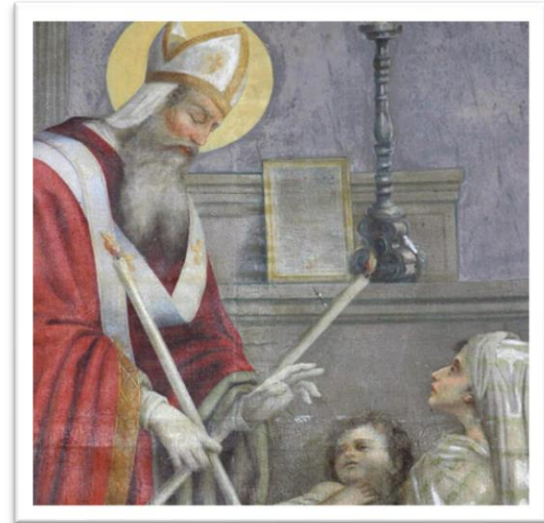# St Blaise

Saint Blaise, also known as San Blas, was born into a wealthy Christian family in Armenia during the 3rd century AD. Despite his affluent upbringing, he chose a life dedicated to the Gospel, becoming a skillful doctor before being appointed as the Bishop of Sebastea. However, his remarkable journey just began at this point. During the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Licinius, Blaise retreated to a cave on Mount Argeus, offering sanctuary to wild animals injured by hunters. It was here that his legendary healing powers first became evident.

## The Miracles of Saint Blaise

1. **Miracle of the Throat Healing:** A desperate mother brought her young son, who was choking on a fish bone, to him. Saint Blaise prayed over the boy and was able to heal him instantly, dislodging the bone from his throat. This miracle cemented his patronage for ailments related to the throat and led to the Catholic tradition of the Blessing of the Throats. This ritual, performed on Saint Blaise's feast day, February 3, involves the priest blessing the throats of the faithful with a pair of crossed candles to protect them from throat diseases.

2. **Miracle of the Wild Beasts:** When Saint Blaise was taken into custody, legend has it that he was led to the prison by wild beasts who were under his power. During his time in prison, it is said the animals came to visit him but did not harm him.

3. **Miracle of the Poor Widow:** Another miracle associated with Saint Blaise involved a poor widow. After Saint Blaise had miraculously cured her sick pig, she thanked him by bringing him food and candles in prison. This act is often seen as an example of the power of gratitude and loving kindness, important virtues in the Catholic faith.