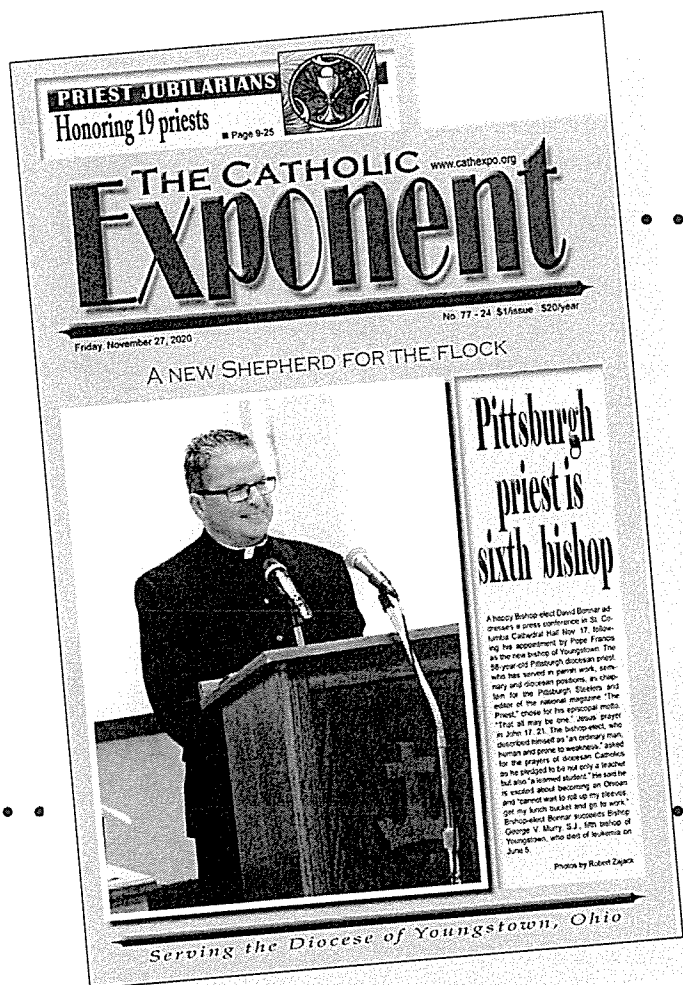


ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



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FEAST OF ST. BLASÉ – BLESSING OF THROATS

Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit. Christians feel and experience pain as do all other people; yet their faith helps them to grasp more deeply the mystery of suffering and to bear their pain with greater courage. Part of the plan laid out by God's providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health, so that we may fulfill our role in human society and in the church.

The blessing of the sick by the ministers of the Church is a very ancient custom, rooted in imitation of Christ himself and his apostles. Christians have always called upon the prayers of the saints in times of suffering and illness for they followed in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus.

It is the custom to give the blessing of throats on the memorial of Saint Blasé, February 3rd. Saint Blasé was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fish bone stuck in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

The Blessing of Throats will take place at all Masses *this* weekend, February 6/7, 2021.

