



**LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES
FOR THE BLESSING OF CANDLES
AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS**

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022**

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD AND THE BLESSING OF CANDLES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

The Blessing of Candles using one of the two forms in the *Roman Missal* should be scheduled to take place at Mass on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

**OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT BLAISE AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

This year in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, it is recommended, as was the case last year, that the blessing of throats take place according to the general form rather than the individual form with crossed candles as described in the *Book of Blessings*, no. 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 Blaise 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.

The Blessing of Throats in this general form can take place during Mass as the conclusion of the Universal Prayer or as the Blessing during the Concluding Rites (see *Book of Blessings*, no 1626). If the Blessing of Throats takes place outside Mass, it is always to be preceded by a brief celebration of the Word of God (see *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1626 and 1636).

The Blessing of Throats, in addition to taking place on the Memorial of Saint Blaise, can take place at any time, including the Sunday before or after the Memorial of Saint Blaise.

Thank you so very much for your continued collaboration throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at fr.dgill@archphila.org.

In Christ,
Father Dennis Gill, Director, Office for Divine Worship