

# FROM FR. DEO

October 12, 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good all the time... All the time God is good! This Sunday's readings talk about gratitude as a response to God's loving and healing mercy. The readings talk about "grateful and forgetful lepers". Leprosy was a terrible disease and forgetting who healed you seems unconceivable. It reminds me of COVID-19. I caught COVID in September 2020, and I had to be taken to Rush Hospital, where I was hospitalized for eight hours before being released to recover at the rectory. Parishioners, in an act of kindness and solidarity, would leave food, medicine, and water by the door. I would only go out to pick them up once they had left. It was such a strange and painful way to live—cut off from everyone, even those who cared deeply. I'm eternally grateful to those who cared for me.

Like COVID-19, leprosy created a powerful social stigma that led to isolation, depression, and anxiety. Those who were infected were exiled from their communities and forced to live in remote leper colonies, cut off from family and society. That is why lepers were required to present themselves to the priest for examination when they believed they had been healed.

In the first reading (2Kgs5:14-17), Naaman, the Syrian leper is healed after obeying the prophet's instruction to wash himself in the Jordan River. In response, he acknowledges that there is no God except in Israel. In the Gospel (Lk17:11-19), ten lepers are healed by Jesus, and He instructs them to go show themselves to the priests. Yet only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus for healing him, while the other nine now-healed Jewish lepers went their way. Jesus says to him, "Your faith has made you well." St. Paul, in the second reading, advises Timothy to be grateful to God even in his physical sufferings, trusting in God who raised Jesus from the dead.

These readings invite us to contemplate our own leprosy and see ourselves as lepers who need God's healing and mercy. Oftentimes, when we hear "leprosy," we think of an ancient disease that no longer affects us. But in these readings, leprosy represents more than a physical disease: it symbolizes our spiritual woundedness, our sins, our brokenness, the ways in which we are "unclean" before God and others. Like the lepers, we may experience some sort of isolation, shame, fear, calling out to God to heal and forgive us. But we forget to return to the Lord and thank Him.

The nine lepers went on their way rejoicing—but they didn't return. They accepted the gift but neglected the Giver. Are we like those forgetful lepers? That one leper who returned displayed a deeper faith: he not only received healing but returned, fell at Jesus' feet, and gave praise. Jesus told him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well." He was completely healed, body and soul. As we celebrate our Sunday Eucharist, let us ask for the gift of gratitude to God for the healing grace and other blessings He has bestowed upon us. As I am eternally grateful to those who took care of me during those challenging times, let us thank those who bless us with their loving care.

In parish news, we invite each of you to participate in the "Encounter Survey". It will help us discern together where we are as a parish—what's working, where we can grow, and how we can serve you and others more deeply in your walk with Christ. Whether you come to Mass every week or just occasionally, your feedback is important and your voice matters.

This month is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother Mary, and to Respect Life, a time when we renew our commitment to the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death. We warmly invite you to pray the Holy Rosary with us throughout the month as a parish community. Let us ask Mary, Mother of Life and Queen of Peace, to intercede for our Church, our families, our nation, and especially for the protection of all human life. Lastly, they will be selling tickets after all Masses today for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner to support our parish mission for the Station School in Rwanda. Your generosity is well appreciated.

*St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us!*

In Christ,

Fr Deo

