

A Letter From Father Francis



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus journeyed once again to the Decapolis, a region inhabited by Gentiles where His reputation for healing had already made an impact. In this environment of burgeoning faith, one man approached Jesus, begging Him to

lay His hands on him. Jesus, in His profound love and sincerity, chose to take the man aside from the crowd. This private moment was not to escape attention but to focus on a deeper, more personal healing.

Jesus's mission was not limited to physical restoration; He aimed to nurture and deepen the man's faith. In the context of the time, saliva was believed to have healing properties. By using saliva, Jesus was signaling that a complete healing was imminent. His command, **“Be opened!”** was not only a directive for the man's ears to hear but also an **invitation for his heart to be opened to faith in Him.**

Through this act, Jesus offered more than physical healing; He extended an invitation to a transformative spiritual awakening. His healing miracles were a testament to His divine mission, designed to inspire and strengthen faith in Him.

All healing that the Lord grants—whether physical, emotional, or psychological—is ultimately directed toward the most profound form of healing: salvation. Can we recognize God's presence and action in the world around us? In our own lives? Among our friends and family? Let us pray for a deeper faith to perceive God's salvific action within the depths of our hearts. By echoing the psalmist's call, “Praise him for his mighty deeds; Praise him according to his excellent greatness” (Psalm 150:2), we invite ourselves to be more aware of and grateful for the divine workings in our lives.

In our journey of faith, let us remain vigilant and open-hearted, so that we may see and celebrate the many ways God is actively healing and guiding us toward salvation.

Jesus instructed the healed man to remain silent, possibly because His time had not yet come or because He sought to maintain His focus on His mission to the lost sheep of Israel, avoiding unnecessary attention from the Gentiles.

Despite this, the witnesses could not contain their astonishment. They spread the news of Jesus's miraculous deeds, effectively proclaiming the Gospel

among the Gentiles. As the psalmist declares, they were revealing “his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his marvelous deeds” (Psalm 96:3).

This enthusiastic sharing anticipated Jesus's words to His apostles, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

However, a crucial question remains: Would the people understand the full scope of the salvific message that Jesus's healing represented within God's universal plan, or would they simply see Him as a wonder-worker, focused only on the external miracles?

In our own lives, let us strive not to be prejudiced. May we recognize and embrace God's profound works of salvation in the everyday moments we experience, seeing beyond the surface to the deeper, transformative grace He continually offers.

Jesus, I trust in you. Increase my faith and trust that you are present and active through all circumstances in my life. Help me to proclaim the good news that I witness daily, even in the strength of faith when challenges come.

**See you at Mass!
Fr. Francis**



Specific Mass intentions for each scheduled Mass listed regularly in this bulletin are made by individual request. The 2025 Mass Intention Book will be available starting Monday, September 16 for you to have a Mass intention next year for a loved one. Please contact the **Parish Office at 317.255.4534 or cjohnson@spxparish.org** to request your intention.

The recommended Stipend for a Mass intention is \$10, but we would never want anyone to not have a Mass offered because of lack of funds.