



**St Giles** (c. 650 – c. 710) was a Greek Christian hermit saint from Athens, whose legend is centered in Provence and Septimania. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. He is the patron saint of beggars.

**First Reading: (Col 1:1-8)** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother; To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing - so among yourselves, from the day you heard and understood the grace of God in truth, as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

**Ps 51:10-11**

**R./ I trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.**

**Gospel: (Lk 4:38-44)** Jesus arose and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they besought him for her. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her; and immediately she rose and served them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them, and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. And when it was day he departed and went into a lonely place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them; but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

## REFLECTION

Jesus was compassionate towards the sick and the needy. Leaving the Synagogue Jesus went to Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law was critically ill. She was in desperate need, suffering from a "high fever". Jesus healed her. Jesus is the great hope of the most needful. No matter how desperate or helpless or weakened we are Jesus will speak the Word of healing. All that is needed is a willing heart and mind. Jesus had been ministering all day, yet He was approachable. He could be approached at all hours. There was never a closed door into His presence. There is a strong challenge to us. **We need to care enough to bring the helpless to Jesus.**