



*St Apollinaris* was a native of Antioch in Roman Province of Syria, and one of the first great martyrs of the church. He was made Bishop of Ravenna by St. Peter himself. He is patron of Ravenna, Burthscheid, Aachen and Remagen and he is invoked against gout, epilepsy and diseases of the sexual organs.

**First Reading:** (1 Jn 5:5-13) Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has borne witness to his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. He who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne to his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life. I write

this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Ps 147:12-15, 19-20**

**R./ O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

**Gospel:** (Lk 5:12-16) While Jesus was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and besought him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And he stretched out his hand, and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one; but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to the people." But so much the more the report went abroad concerning him; and great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.

## REFLECTION

Jesus heals a leper. He has a deep desire for healing and has a deep confidence in Jesus' power to heal him. The leper stands as an example and inspiration for all of us. **In life, as humans we are, at times, we may suffer from the sickness of sin and evil. But what is more important is that in humility and faith, we get healed by the Lord and live a renewed life.**