

HEALING OF A SEVEN-YEAR RASH

—The testimony of Patricia K.—

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In June 2017, I developed a rash that starts on my right shin and often pops up on various parts of my body if the shin rash gets too intense. The rash itches incessantly and causes bruising because I scratch it hard while awake and asleep. The rash is constant, but flares up throughout the year to an extent that I must go to the dermatologist to seek relief. I have seen six different dermatologists (including the head of Dermatology at NIH and a university) over the last 7 ½ years. Doctors have run blood work, CT scan, prescribed me several steroid creams, prescribed steroid pills, they have patch tested and biopsied the rash. None of these have identified the cause nor eliminated the rash. Even if it was tempered for a few months, the rash continued to come back with a vengeance. In a text to my dermatologist a few years back, I described the rash: “the itching is awful... like a swarm of mosquitos bit me and then I am lit on fire from ankles to thighs.” Eventually after a lot of antihistamines, numbing from ice bags tied on me for hours, expensive prescription creams, and sometimes ocean water, the rash will subside a bit for a few months.

I went to Saint Nektarios Monastery for a visit in September 2025. Father Stephanos was showing my family the relics in the church and asked if anyone had any ailments that he could say a prayer over and bless with the relics and the myrrh from the icon of the Virgin Mary. I told him that my shin has a rash that has been there for many years and intensely inflamed since October 2024. He blessed it with Saint Nektarios’ cross and the myrrh from the Virgin Mary icon. The rash immediately stopped itching. I was afraid to wash it off, thinking there must be something in the myrrh that soothed the rash. Despite this fear, after a few days I washed my leg and to my wonder, the itching has not resumed. In fact, the skin, which was rough, scaly, and dark, has flattened and returned to a normal color. It has been 6 weeks since the blessing, and I have had no signs of the rash.

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