

Do Miracles Happen today?

My name is Fr Jim Curtin and I have been pastor of St Dennis Catholic Church in Lockport for the past 12 years. Recently I read the March 7th issue of Time Magazine entitled "Living with Pain", there were several articles in the issue with regard to how we deal with chronic pain in our country. The article stated that 75 percent of Americans will have serious back pain by the time they die and 40 million Americans live with arthritis. The various articles discussed our solutions to chronic physical pain in our country. Everything was discussed from med surgery to pain pills to massage therapy, physical touch and meditation. It seems that more and more doctors are prescribing pain pills as a remedy to pain in our bodies. Billions of dollars were spent on pain medication in this past year versus only several million dollars 8 years ago.

In the articles I was upset by the fact that there was no mention of how prayer can provide healing for our bodies. Jesus said Lay hands on the sick to his disciples and to us, lay hands on the sick (bible verse). Also in the lesson from James it states if anyone is sick call in the elders, anoint the person with oil, and that prayer made in faith will bring healing. It is true that the advancements in medicine provide tremendous amounts of relief for people. And I believe that doctors and medicine are all part of God's healing plan. It is unfortunate today with regards to physical pain that often people don't realize that it can be caused by emotional stress that we carry within us from past hurts, rejection, or emotional woundedness. This emotional pain manifests itself within our physical body over time. The solution for physical pain is often to take a pill that will numb the pain or relieve it for a time. Often, sadly, for most people this is the only solution to chronic pain. I know and have experienced a better solution, the healing power of Jesus Christ.

We at St Dennis Church pray for physical healing of pain each weekend in the church at 10:15 am and 12:00 noon after Mass. We also do individual healing prayer during the week by members of the healing team. In the first 300 years of the church healing was normal in families. People laid hands on the sick and anointed them with oil and they were healed. We have seen hundreds of miracles of healing here at St. Dennis by laying hands and praying for those in pain. Most people know that Jesus dies for our sins but they don't realize that he died for all illness on the cross also. We are all sons and daughters of God, what Father would want his children would want his children to suffer any sort of physical illness? I have found that God is restoring throughout the world today the healing ministry of his Son Jesus. I invite all churches and denominations to come and receive healing prayer here at St. Dennis. Our healing prayers are open to all. For more information on healing prayer call 815-838-2592. God Bless You.