

**The Power of Prayer**  
*Deacon Tim Sullivan*

My wonderful mother-in-law, God rest her soul, is well-known by her seven daughters for saying over and over through the years “Never underestimate the power of prayer.” I would add to that “Never underestimate the power of a child’s prayer.”

I participated once in a healing prayer service for a man named Stan two days before Stan was scheduled for open heart surgery. He called me a few hours after the prayer service to tell me that during the prayer service he felt a physical warmth and peacefulness that convinced him that his surgery would be a complete success. I immediately thought of my friend Hector’s five-year old child that Hector brought to the healing service for Stan. The child, named Svi, was a hemophiliac. He had joined in our prayers. “There’s no way God would tell Svi ‘No,’” I said to myself.

So we should encourage our children during times of family prayer to pray for specific needs and situations. Then we should monitor the objects of the children’s prayers and discuss with the children how God responded to their prayers.

This way the children realize that God does hear and answer their prayers, perhaps in ways that the children did not anticipate. They also discover that their relationship with God is real and personal. And that grace is also very real.