



Notre Dame Morning Prayer November 4-8, 2019

+ = In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Monday, November 4, 2019 - Remembrance

We are starting a week of remembrance, and especially of those who fought and died for our country. But we need to also sometimes take time to remember anyone in our lives who has left this world - family members, friends, and heroes of our community such as saints. We remember them because they were valued members and their memory lives on in our lives.

Let us pray. + Lord, we are born into families and into communities. We are not made to be alone and we grieve when those we come to love leave this world. Part of us leaves with them and we struggle with why life is followed by death, often too soon. We pray that you would give us faith to believe that life can continue in You, that death is not an end but a transition, and that no matter how long one lives, every life can be celebrated for the unique way it blesses others. Bring consolation to those of us who miss loved ones and may we strive to live a life worthy of their memory. We ask this through the prayers of the saints and especially your Mother: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 - Remembrance

One hundred years ago, Europe and much of the world was coming to the end of World War I. By the end of the war, on November 11, 1918, around 37 million people had died, including 61,000 Canadians, with many more wounded. Just over twenty years later, World War II would claim even more lives - over 60 million, including 44,000 Canadians. These numbers are hard to understand, but we need to remember that every life lost was a person loved whose departure from this life impacted many others.

Let us pray. + Lord, help us to recognize that in remembering those who died or were injured for our country, we are remembering people who deserve our respect for their sacrifice, even if we know nothing about them. It is impossible for us to learn each of their stories, but help us to at least recognize that each casualty was a unique person who suffered, and in knowing this, help us to show the proper respect for their contribution in defense of our way of life. We ask this through the prayers of your Mother: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - Remembrance

None of the surviving soldiers from World War I are alive today and very few from World War II, and it is easy to forget them. Remembering someone we know personally is easy; remembering someone we don't know is a choice we have to make. In remembering our veterans, we are recognizing that we are benefitting from their sacrifice.

Let us pray. + Lord, help us to not always be focused on the present or the future, but to widen our vision to the past and show gratitude for those who played an important role in creating the community we are now a part of. By remembering, we not only honour those who deserve respect but we also enrich our understanding of who we are and who we might become. We ask this through the prayers of your Mother: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Thursday, November 7, 2019 - Treaties Recognition Week

In 2016, the Ontario government proclaimed the first full week of November Treaties Recognition Week to bring attention to the important role treaties between Indigenous people and newcomers to Canada played in what would become Canada. Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and agreements signed between 1781 and 1930. Our school stands on unceded territory of the Anishinabe First Nation.

Let us pray. + Lord, we recognize that First Nations lived on the land that is now Canada for centuries before newcomers arrived from other countries. We recognize the value of Indigenous culture, language, and spirituality and affirm its rightful place in our land. We recognize that Indigenous people have suffered because of choices made by newcomers and we are committed to working toward reconciliation. May our governments and all those in power respect treaty obligations. Guide all those who seek to better the lives of Indigenous people. May all in our country come to fullness of life. We pray this together with the words that Jesus taught us: *Our Father*. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. + Amen.

Friday, November 8, 2019 - Remembrance

The town of Mainz in Germany was heavily bombed during the Second World War, including the cathedral. When the war ended, the citizens started to rebuild and searched through the rubble. They found the original altar in pieces and managed to patch the marble together. For the main crucifix, however, they only found the body and head of Jesus. There were no longer any hands or legs. Instead of repairing His body, they hung the crucifix in its damaged state with the following inscription:

Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands. Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes. You are His Body.

Let us pray. + Lord, war is humanity's greatest tragedy, but help us to recognize that out of suffering, You can bring good. Teach us to play our role in making the world a better place. We ask this through the prayers of your Mother: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.