

## Prayers for November 11\_13, 2024

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Dear Father, we give thanks for the volunteers You have inspired to serve St John's and our community. We are blessed with people of diverse talents that choose to extend a helping hand. Bless their talents and commitment.

**Leader -Merciful God**

**Congregation– Receive our Prayer.**

Dear Father, the world is riddled with conflicts. Countries are at war, families are estranged, politicians are obstinate. We take comfort and solace knowing **You** still write the final chapter.

**Leader -Merciful God**

**Congregation -Receive our Prayer.**

Today, Lord, help us to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, and tolerant of the weak because someday in our lives we will be all of these. Today we especially pray for: Brayden, Caleb, Cindy, Darla, Denise, Diane, Doug, Jerry S., Karlie, Kristy, Larry, Lee, Lori, Nancy, Nathan, Oliver, Pat, Rachel, Tracy, Sandy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts.

**Leader -Merciful God**

**Congregation- Receive our Prayer.**

God of Inspiration, patience is difficult for many of us. We need to understand patience comes from wisdom and wisdom comes from hearing the perspective of others. Give us the patience to listen to those who have different opinions from our own and help both of us to respect those differences.

**Leader -Merciful God**

**Congregation– Receive our Prayer.**

Holy Protector be with all observing Veterans Day. We pray You guard the lives of active duty and retired military and emergency personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. We ask you to heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by military and emergency personnel.

**Leader: Merciful God**

**Congregation: Receive our Prayer.**

**With everlasting thanks and joy for Your love and forgiveness we ask You to be with us till we meet again. This week help us to take every opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of each day. Help us to pay attention to how best we can be a gift to others. May we approach each day with SOUL – serving others, uplifting lives! We ask all in the name of Your Dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN**

## **November 10\_13, 2024, Still Part of the Team**

*We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up.” Hebrews 12:1.*

Scott Norwood played for the Buffalo Bills. Buffalo hadn't won a major sport championship since 1965. But one night in Tampa Bay it appeared the ball would finally bounce the Bills' way. There was time for only one more play. They turned to their kicker, Scott Norwood. All-Pro. Leading scorer. As predictable as snow in Buffalo.

The world watched as Norwood kicked the ball and . . . missed. Norwood walked off the football field with his head down. He was still upset when the team returned to Buffalo. Despite the loss the city hosted an event to honor the team. Norwood took his place on the platform with the other players. The fans began to chant.

“We want Scott.”

The chant grew in volume until Norwood's teammates pushed him to the front. The fans gave him a rousing ovation. He missed the kick, but they made sure he knew he was still a part of their community.

The Bible says that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). Thousands of saved saints are looking down on us. Abraham. Peter. David. Paul. . .and Joshua. Your grandma, uncle, neighbor, coach. They've seen God's great grace, and they are all pulling for you.

Do you hear them? They are chanting your name. They are pulling for you to keep going.

You may have missed a goal, but you're still a part of God's team.

A reflection by: Max Lucado