

Prayers for 9-11

For the children who have lost parents:

Heavenly Father, never let us forget the more than three thousand children who lost parents on that terrible day their world crumbled. Today they are eighteen years older - adults who grew up without the guidance of the mothers or fathers who gave them birth. We ask that you guide them into your arms. Let them recognize the Father who has always been there for them. Let them live their lives full of compassion for others who have suffered as they have. We pray they know the peace of being nestled firmly within your will.

For the first responders:

Dear Lord, our Refuge and Fortress, please be with those who are on the front lines of our world in times of emergency. We lift up the families of the 412 firefighters and police officers who died, as well as those who continue to be stricken with cancer and other illnesses they are suffering because of their bravery that day. Please bless our first responders with wisdom and courage as they run toward those events from which others flee. Make our society mindful of their sacrifices, that we may respond with gratitude.

For the terrorists:

Lord of All Creation, we lift up to you all those in our world who are so lost that they believe that acts of terrorism are a service to god. We pray that you fill their nights with dreams of your truth, that they might be led to the gospel of peace. Show us how to respond with love, knowing that they, too, are your children. Let our response to such acts be guided by your Holy Spirit.

For our current leaders:

Omnipotent God, you tell us that there is no authority except for that which you have established. Give us the discipline to pray daily for our leaders, asking that they look to you for direction as they make the choices that steer the course of history. Help us to give them their due respect and guide them to temper their strength with empathy. Let them seek out your will that they might lead our country back to you.

For Americans today:

Holy Father, we lift up America to you today. Show us how to regain that sense of solidarity that we had in the days following 9-11. Fill your churches once again. Make our land into a beacon of hope. Guide each of us to make this a reality in our own lives. Let our light shine before all people, that they may see your good works, and glorify you.