



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18-25, 2019

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (or WPCU) has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21). The theme of this year's Week is "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (cf. Deuteronomy 16:18-20).

*As one way of uniting our prayers to the other Christians around the world that week, **Bishop Siegel** has granted permission for priests, at their discretion, to use the proper prayers and readings for the Mass "For the Unity of Christians," on Sunday, January 20 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time).*

From the official website for the WPCU – "Every year Christians across the world gather in prayer for growth in unity. We do this in a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. Ours is a united prayer in a fractured world: this is powerful. However, as individual Christians and communities, we are often complicit with injustice, and yet we are called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ's healing grace for the brokenness of the world."

VATICAN RESOURCES

- Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
 - http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm

USCCB RESOURCES

- International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/events/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity.cfm>

ECUMENICAL RESOURCES

- Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute
 - <http://geii.org/>

SUGGESTIONS AT THE PARISH LEVEL

- Celebrate the Mass “For the Unity of Christians” on an appropriate day (see below)
- Include an intercession in the Prayer of the Faithful for unity
- Include prayers for unity in other parish/school activities

MASS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS AND OCCASIONS

- May be celebrated on Sundays in Ordinary Time (V¹ in the *ordo*) with the permission of the bishop.
- May be celebrated on weekdays in Ordinary Time (V²⁻³ in the *ordo*) in cases of serious need/pastoral advantage (V²) or for the devotion of the people (V³) at the discretion of the priest celebrant.
- For the Unity of Christians
 - *Roman Missal* (RM): Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions (MPVNO) #17
 - *Lectionary for Mass* (LM) #867-871

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS (FROM THE GRAYMOOR INSTITUTE)

- For an end to the divisions among Christians: that they pursue Justice to discover new ways to work together to announce freedom, bring healing and promote reconciliation as signs of God’s reign.
- For all Christian Churches and Faith Communities, that they may pursue Justice in guiding them towards reconciliation and unity in Christ.
- For all Christian Churches and Faith Communities, that they may be faithful witnesses to the Gospel call to reconciliation.
- For church leaders everywhere during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, that they may work together and promote unity among Christians.
- For the Church, that God would inspire God’s people to continue the quest for Christian Unity and that our hearts be filled with the gift of Jesus’ love for all.
- For the leadership of the Church throughout the world during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, that they may witness to Christ’s prayer “That All May Be One.”
- For the various ecumenical dialogues between our church and other denominations, that they bear witness to the quest for Christian unity in Jesus’ name.
- For those who bear witness to Christ through the ministry of ecumenism, that they always seek the unity that is found in Christ.