

*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 "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2).*

*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 19 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time).*

*From the official website for the WPCU – "As we gather throughout our nation to pray for the unity of Christians we are reminded of the importance of need for "unusual kindness" in the dialogue that leads to growth in unity. We do this in a world where separation and division hinder the quest for Christian Unity. In 2020, we are being called to show unusual kindness towards one another. As Paul recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, it was it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. (cf. Acts 27:18 – 28:10)"*

#### **VATICAN RESOURCES**

- Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
  - <http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html>

#### **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 (V<sup>1</sup> in the *ordo*) with the permission of the bishop.
- May be celebrated on weekdays in Ordinary Time (V<sup>2-3</sup> in the *ordo*) in cases of serious need/pastoral advantage (V<sup>2</sup>) or for the devotion of the people (V<sup>3</sup>) 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 all Christian Churches and Faith Communities, that they may continue to show one another extraordinary kindness 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 an end to the divisions among Christians: that they work together in bringing about healing and promote reconciliation as signs of God’s reign.
- 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 participate in the works of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, that they always treat one another with extraordinary kindness seeking the unity that is found in Christ and a true openness to the giftedness found in each other.