

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**



# Memo

**Date:** January 14, 2019

**To:** Priests

**From:** Fr. Paul A. Burke, J.C.L., Chairman of the Archbishop's Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

**Re:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2019

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At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity.

The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which begins January 18 and ends on January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

**This year's theme is "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:18-20).**

This week of prayer will be observed online and in social media on the Archdiocese of Atlanta [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. Archbishop Gregory and other local religious leaders will lead video meditations and prayers. Click [here](#) to receive the daily meditations and prayers in your inbox.

Please see the attached Prayers of the Faithful and additional online resources.

Thank you for your attention to this important time of prayer in the life of the Church. For questions or more information, please contact me at (404) 920-7514 or [pburke@archatl.com](mailto:pburke@archatl.com); or Paula Gwynn Grant at (404) 920-7344 or [pgrant@archatl.com](mailto:pgrant@archatl.com).

Thank you.

## **Sample Prayers of the Faithful**

Please encourage your parishioners to join us online as we pray for Christian unity. Also, please include petitions in the Prayers of the Faithful.

The following are sample petitions for Masses or ecumenical services. They are by no means exhaustive, but can assist those planning various activities throughout the week.

- For an end to the divisions among Christians - that they pursue justice and 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 of 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 will inspire His people to continue the quest for Christian unity and that our hearts may 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; and
- For those who bear witness to Christ through the ministry of ecumenism - that they always seek the unity that is found in Christ.

## **Online Resources**

- [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity](#)
- [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#)