

PASTOR'S CORNER

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this Thursday, the 18th of January. This week will include, as it always does, the celebration of Ecumenical Sunday on January 21. From one perspective, that of the Church as the Body of Christ, all Christians are united in a bond that cannot be broken. From the human level of perception, however, as we all know, the One Church of Christ is fragmented into thousands of pieces. This is so in two respects. It is true from the perspective of denominations of Christian worship, of which there are currently in the United States over 40,000! More foundationally, it is so from the perspective of the individual believer who has yet to fully integrate Jesus into his life.

We pray not necessarily for denominational unity, but first and foremost for a unity in the soul of each believer. This is a process hampered not only by sin, but also by erroneous doctrine and liturgical chaos at the level of several churches. Please understand, it remains a core belief of the Catholic Church that the fullness of truth and of the means to salvation exist solely within the Roman Catholic Church. This does not mean that each of her members is united perfectly with Christ, however; far from it. Nor does it mean that each of her members is doctrinally pure and liturgically sound; far from it. It simply means that the fullness of the means to human salvation exist and are protected within the Catholic Church.

Does this mean that those other Christians outside the Catholic Church cannot be saved? Of course not. But nonetheless it does mean that in some manner their denominations lack the fullness of what we have been graced with. Of course, it is perfectly possible for an individual Protestant to more fully dwell within Christ's Spirit than it is for any particular Catholic. Judgment of the soul is left, as always, completely to God's mercy. Indeed, since we believe that we have been entrusted with much more, how much more than is to be expected of each of us?

We direct our prayers this week for our own ongoing conversion in Christ and for an end to the human disunity and enmity that has so plagued Christian history, but which is, at its core, but a reflection of our own human disunity and disharmony. In the end, we pray as much for our own sanctity as we do for 'Christian unity', the wellspring of which must always begin with personal holiness.

Fr. Stephen Geer

Ordinary Time

Day	Date	Time	Observance	Mass Intention
VIGIL	Jan 13	5:00 pm	Vigil of the Sunday Eucharist	Betty Susnjara +
SUNDAY	Jan 14	9:00 am	The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:30 am)	Joyce Sample +
		11:30 am	The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Missa pro populo
Monday	Jan 15	8:30 am	No service	
Tuesday	Jan 16	8:30 am	No service	
Wednesday	Jan 17	10:30 am	Funeral Mass	Joseph Danna +
Thursday	Jan 18	10:00 am	Ferial weekday	John Anker +
Friday	Jan 19	8:30 am	Ferial weekday	Maxine DeSantis +
Saturday	Jan 20	8:30 am	St. Sebastian, Martyr (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:00 am)	Henry Chieu Nguyen +
			<u>Readings for the Sunday Mass:</u> Jonah 3.1-5, 10; Psalm 25; 1 Cor 7.29-31; Mark 1.14-20	
VIGIL		5:00 pm	Vigil of the Sunday Eucharist	Tom Lewandowski +
SUNDAY	Jan 21	9:00 am	The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ (The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the chapel at 8:30 am)	Mary Spada +
		11:30 am	The Eucharist of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Missa pro populo