

Sacrament of Penance

Wednesday ~ 6:00 – 7:00 pm; or by appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick should be given if an individual is gravely ill or near death. If possible, the Sacrament should also be administered before major surgery or when one is initially hospitalized.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Diocesan policy requires 12 months of preparation for Marriage. Contact the parish as soon as possible after engagement. No arrangements should be made prior to consultation with the pastor.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents must be registered members of the parish and attend a Baptism preparation class prior to the Baptism if this is your first child baptized. Requirements for godparents are established by the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for Information and to register your child for Baptism.

Parish Registration

All Catholics should be registered in their local parish. Please contact the parish office to obtain registration forms, or if you are uncertain of the parish where you should register.

Parish Staff & Ministries Directory

stignatiusoflogola@hbgdiocese.org

Financial Manager ~ Richard Deardorff ~ 717- 677-8012 or 717-420-3464 (cell)
rdeardorff@hbgdiocese.org

Director of Religious Education ~ Deacon Steve Huete ~ shuete@hbgdiocese.org

Administrative Assistant ~ Kristen DiDio ~ kdidio@hbgdiocese.org

Buildings & Grounds ~ JB Groff ~ 717-677-8012

Music Ministry ~ Phil Mobley ~ 717-677-8012

Parish Council Members

Kathleen Allwein
Donnie Althoff
Charlie Baker
Jim Bittle
Mike McTighe
Joanne Riedel - *Secretary*
Walt Wilson - *Chair*

Finance Council Members

Richard Deardorff (*Ex Officio*)
Greg Ernst - *Chair*
Alix Haller
Christy Hemler - *Secretary*
Terri Pendleton
Bill Pulig

Altar Flowers

OPEN - Contact office if you are interested

Bereavement Ministry

Ginny Bittle

Catholic Communications/EWTN

OPEN - Contact office if you are interested

Cemetery

Contact Parish Office

Knights of Columbus

SK Bob Ternes
- Grand Knight

Covid-19 Task Force

Walt Wilson - Coordinator
Health Advisors:
Dr. Robert Ternes and
Joanne Cochran
(Keystone Health System)

Life After Loss

Dodie Huete

OCIA

Contact Fr. Dominic

Picnic Co-Chairpersons

John Neiderer
Wally Kane

Pro-Life Ministry

OPEN - Contact office if you are interested

Prayer Chain

Lynne Mobley at
LMOBLEY509@gmail.com
or 703-876-4901.

Soup Kitchen

Please send donations
directly to "Soup Kitchen"

Website Development

Kristen DiDio



**Diocese of Harrisburg
Youth Protection Program**

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

www.YouthProtectionHBG.com

Abuse Reporting Contact Information:

First – Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 800-932-0313

Then – Call the Diocesan toll-free hotline at 800-626-1608

“If one member suffers,
all suffer together with it.” (1 Cor 12:26)

St. Ignatius Loyola RC Church

1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, Pennsylvania 17353

www.stignatiusoflogola.org

January 15, 2023: 2nd SUNDAY in Ordinary Time



Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, *Bishop of Harrisburg*;
Rev. Dominic M. DiBiccaro, *Pastor* / Deacon Steve Huete, *Pastoral Associate*

*Mass Schedule, Intentions, and Events
for the Week of January 15 ~ January 22, 2023*

SATURDAY, January 14—VIGIL MASS 2nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Is 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34

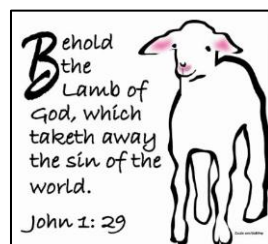
5:00PM + Jerry Acciarri

SUNDAY, January 15 — 2ND SUNDAY OT

Is 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34

8:00AM ~ People of the Parish

10:30AM + Joseph Miller



Monday, January 16 (Weekday in OT)

Heb 5:1-10 / Mk 2:18-22

Parish Office CLOSED

Tuesday, January 17 — Saint Anthony, Abbot

Heb 6:10-20 / Mk 2:23-28

8:00AM — 3:00 PM ~ Office Open

10:00AM + Nora Cohee

11:00AM: "Something More" Faith Group



Wednesday, January 18 — WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 / Mk 3:1-6

8:00AM — 3:00 PM ~ Office Open

10:00AM: Senior Spirituality Group

7:00PM + Rev. Darius G. Moss

Confessions heard from 6-6:45PM;

Adoration 7:40-8PM



Thursday, January 19 (Weekday in OT)

Heb 7:25—8:6 / Mk 3:7-12

8:00AM — 3:00 PM ~ Office Open

10:00AM + Kelly Kimple Kahn

Friday, January 20 — St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr;

Heb 8:6-13 / Mk 3:13-19 St. Sebastian, Martyr

10:00AM + Helen Lawrence

Parish Office CLOSED



Saturday, January 21 — St. Agnes, Virgin

MORNING: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 / & Martyr

Mk 3:20-21



SATURDAY, January 21—VIGIL MASS 3rd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Is 8:23—9:3 / 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 / Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

5:00PM + Mickie Schneider

SUNDAY, January 22 —3RD SUNDAY OT

Is 8:23—9:3 / 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 / Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

8:00AM ~ People of the Parish

10:30AM + Donald Kimple

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



Please Pray for:

Coronavirus victims and those who are ill, Jim & Jeanie Kline, Mrs. Kelly Kump, Ron Thumma, Joe and Diane Wisotzkey, Leo Hockensmith, Erika McKissick, Jean "Heather" O'Shea, Scott Moore and Sally Moore, Mary Wyatt, Jim & Joyce Deardorff, Brandon & Michelle Gilbert, Amy Weatherup, Sophia Joy Ernst, Mary & Chuck Irwin, Deacon Richard Wentzel, Deacon Frank Enderle, Marie Kalp, Kathleen Thompson, Deb & Kathy McLintock and Family, Rachel Wonders, Amy Edwards, Jean O'Connor, Art Lazar, Sr., Mark & Michelle Huete, Paul Angello, Jen Baldwin, Ursula Kaley, Deb Bennet, Fr. Bill Sullivan, Fr. Chet Snyder, John Larry Endy, Mary Beth McCarthy, Laura Lee, Marwa Abdelrahman, Cathy Gates, Donna Singley, Jack Ryff, Tim McGinn, Jane Kump, Gary, Bill, Jerry, Andy, Colleen, Baby Addie, Peggy Neiderer, Chris Kimple, Robert Riquet, Gene & Jo-Ann McDannell, Bob Doxzen, Kimberly Mears, Gabriella Angello, Mark & Kate Morrow, Mark Morris, Linda Fogleman, Paul Knight, George & Barbara Erstila, Jeff Carpenter, Lana & Nelson Harmon, Cole & Connor, Diane Slothour, Sue McDannell, Larry Schneider, Joe & Lisa Grasel, Ange Pena, Julie Barnhart, the Shaffer Family, Heather & Emma Dickerson, Brad Pabody, Adeline Lienard, Robbie, Michael & daughter, Paul Ward, Aiden Tyler Schneider, Dorothy Vega, Karrie McCall & daughter, George Shahid, Denise Navlyt, Drew Schneider & Family, Ida Bloomfield, Linda McDannell, Janie Singley, Mary Beth Greenstreet, Rick Benedict, Jan Patla, Kathe Fogleman, Sam Sheffler, Kate Hemmis, Bill & Mary Lou Graham, Joanna Hodges, John Varones, Joan O'Sullivan, Martha Klinger, Lisa Dionne Lauretti, Sue Orndorff, Jim Gleason, Sue Gustafson, Joe & Michelle Cleary, Kim Johnson, Helen Mills, Kathy Haber, Haley Detman, Joe Durovey, Bev Smith, Donald Sheppard, Linda Mumaugh, Alison Haring, Janet Hartman, Edward Johnson, Angela Galeone, Juliete Lang, Chris MacBeth, Harry Graham, Donald Howard, Armond Binni, Elizabeth Stansky, Pat Johnson, Chris Morris, Faud Doaney, Rae Harmand, Patrick Glass, Helen Lagasse, Nancy Kewisnek, Andy Graham, Bill & Maureen Collins, Rosemary McGilloway, Anji Eisenhart, Monica Manner, Denny Borbonus, Dr. Paul Scarlata, Mary Hawthorne, Ed Washington, Josh Kempinski, Nancy Baker Baltzey, Spencer Propts, Karlton Smith & Cheryl Sobun, James & Marylyn Sobun, Marlene Webster, Yvette Stoklosa, Andy Consiglio, Bill & Michelle Cloonan, Nelson Salem, Janet Shunnarah, George Shunnarah, Bill & Deb McClintock, Mary Pekich, nursing home residents & shut-ins, the victims of war, violence, disease, disaster, & all private intentions.

Also In your prayers, please remember all our men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces:

Maj. Nathan Jeffcoat — US Marine Corps

Lt. Alexandra Jeffcoat — US Navy

Lt. Joseph Cleary — US Navy

Michael C. Kenney IV — US Coast Guard

Lt. Joshua Kimple — US Army

and Lt. Sarah Fogleman, M.D. — US Navy

PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Lynne Mobley at

LMOBLEY509@gmail.com or 703-876-4901.



Sunday Collection Summary

Sunday Collection Summary

January 7 & 8

Weekend Collection

Regular Offering	\$ 3,212.66
Candles	\$ 110.00
Cemetery Upkeep	\$ 120.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 170.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$ 3,612.66

Other Income

Individual Contribution	\$ 100.00
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TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 3,712.66
— WEEKLY BUDGETARY NEEDS	\$ 4,655.74
+Overage or (Shortfall) for the week (\$	943.08)

Memorial (Redding)	\$ 200.00
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Christmas (Dec. 18 collection)	\$ 5,500.00
Christmas (Dec. 25 collection)	\$ 3,979.00
Christmas (Jan 1. collection)	\$ 425.00
Christmas (Jan 8. Collection)	\$ 235.00
Total Christmas offerings to date	\$ 10,139.00

— BUDGETED CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	\$ 8,715.00
+Overage or (Shortfall) to budget	+\$ 1,424.00

Diocesan Second Collections

Church in C/E Europe, Lat. Am., & Africa	\$ 581.69
Retirement Religious	\$ 10.00
TOTAL DIOCESAN OFFERINGS	\$ 591.69

*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for your generosity!*



January 22 — Sunday of the Word of God

January 22 — 2nd Collection: Cemetery Upkeep

February 3 — Take down church Christmas decorations

February 5 — World Missions MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

February 12 — 2nd Collection: Black & Indian Missions



Parishioners Helping

Parishioners



Donation letters for the 2022 TAX YEAR will be available upon request from the Parish Office and will be sent out by the end of January 2023.

U.S. House passes resolution condemning attacks on pro-life centers and churches

By Jonah McKeown, CNA | Jan 12, 2023



The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning recent attacks of vandalism, violence, and destruction against pro-life facilities, groups, and churches, and called on the Biden administration to investigate and prosecute the crimes. House Resolution 1233, introduced by Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana), affirms "the sanctity of life and the important role pro-life facilities, groups, and churches play in supporting pregnant women, infants, and families."

The resolution also calls on the Biden administration to "use all appropriate law enforcement authorities to uphold public safety and to protect the rights of pro-life facilities, groups, and churches."

The measure passed Jan. 11 by a vote of 222-209, with just 3 of the 209 House Democrats joining all 219 House Republicans — except for 3 Republicans who did not vote — in approving the resolution. The 3 Democrats who voted for the resolution were Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Washington), Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pennsylvania), and Vicente Gonzalez (D-Texas).

The resolution comes in response to a growing number of pro-abortion attacks targeting churches and pro-life pregnancy centers in the United States following the Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which returned the question of abortion policy to the states.

Ever since a draft of the *Dobbs* decision leaked in May 2022, CNA has tracked and mapped more than 100 incidents of pro-abortion vandalism across the U.S., including at least 56 at pregnancy centers and 33 at churches of various denominations. The Wednesday resolution mentions nearly 30 of those incidents but also notes that "the Biden administration has failed to take action to respond."

Sanctuary candle offered for JANUARY: In loving memory of Marilyn Cole from Ken Cole and Family

It is easy to feel hopeless when we are once again reminded that we live in a fractured society that does not fully recognize, honor, and protect the human dignity and freedom of all human beings. According to Fr. Bryan Massingale, a leading Catholic social ethicist and scholar in racial justice, “Social life is made by human beings. The society we live in is the result of human choices and decisions. This means that human beings can change things. What human beings break, divide and 28 separate, we can with God’s help, also heal, unite and restore. What is now does not have to be, therein lies the hope and the challenge.”

In prayer, Christians align their hearts to the heart of God, to love what he loves and to love as he loves. Prayer with integrity therefore aligns the hearts of all Christians beyond their divisions, to love what, whom and how God loves, and to express this love in our actions.

Prayer

God of Hope, Help us to remember that you are with us in our suffering. Help us to embody hope for one another when hopelessness is a frequent unwelcomed guest in our hearts. Grant us the gift of being grounded in your loving Spirit as we work together to eradicate all forms of oppression and injustice. Give us the courage to love what, whom an dhow you love, and to express this love in our actions. Through Christ Our LORD. Amen.

DAY 8 ~ January 25th (The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle):
THE JUSTICE THAT RESTORES COMMUNION

Scripture

Psalms 82:1-4, Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute

Luke 18:1-8, Will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night?

Meditation

The Book of Psalms is a compilation of prayer, praise, lamentation, and instruction from God to us. In Psalm 82, God calls for a justice that upholds the basic human rights to which all people are entitled: freedom, safety, dignity, health, equality and love. The Psalm also calls for the overturning of systems of disparity and oppression, and fixing anything that is unfair, corrupt, or exploitative. This is the justice that we, as Christians, are called to promote. In Christian community we join our wills and actions to God’s, as he works his salvation for creation. Division, 29 including that between Christians, always has sin at its root, and redemption always restores communion.

God calls us to embody our Christian faith to act out of the truth that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institutional structure in society is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of each person. Every person has a right and responsibility to participate in society, seeking together the common good and wellbeing of all, especially the lowly and the destitute.

In *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Revd Dr Howard Thurman, who was spiritual adviser to the Revd Dr Martin Luther King Jr. states that: “We must proclaim the truth that all life is one and that we are all of us tied together. Therefore, it is mandatory that we work for a society in which the least person can find refuge and refreshment. You must lay your lives on the altar of social change so that wherever you are, there the Kingdom of God is at hand.”

Prayer

God, Creator and Redeemer of all things, teach us to look inward to be grounded in your loving Spirit, so that we may go outward in wisdom and courage to always choose the path of love and justice. This we pray in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis’ Prayer Intentions for 2023

Entrusted to His Worldwide Prayer Network

JANUARY ~ For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



Perfect Offering: Scott Hahn Reflects
on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus speaks through the Prophet Isaiah in today’s First Reading.

He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: “ ‘You are My servant,’ He said to Me.”

Servant and Son, our LORD was sent to lead *a new exodus* — to raise up the exiled Tribes of Isra-el, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God’s salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47).

Before the first Exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Isra-elites’ door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the LORD “passed over” these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1–23, 27).

In the new exodus, Jesus is the “Lamb of God,” as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Our LORD sings of this in today’s Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His Body to do the Will of God (see Hebrews 10:3–13).

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first Exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4). They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice — that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His Will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His Sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience and made it possible for us to hear the Father’s call to holiness, as St. Paul says in today’s Epistle.

He has made us Children of God, baptized in the Blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies — our lives — as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship with “full, active, and conscious participation” in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).

Readings: *Isaiah 49:3, 5–6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–10; 1 Corinthians 1:1–3; John 1:29–34*



DAY 4 ~ Saturday, January 21st: LOOK, THE TEARS OF THE OPPRESSED

Scripture: **Ecclesiastes 4:1-5**, Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed - with no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power with no one to comfort them.

Matthew 5:1-8 ...Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted...

Meditation: “Look, the tears of the oppressed.” One can imagine that the writer has witnessed atrocities like this before with sickening regularity. And yet perhaps this is the first time the writer has truly seen the tears of the oppressed, has fully taken in their pain and their subjugation. While there is much to lament, in a new looking and a new seeing there is also a seed of hope: maybe this time this witnessing will lead to change, will make a difference.

A young woman looked and saw the tears of the oppressed. The video she shot on her phone of the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 was seen all around the world and unleashed a holy rage as people witnessed, and finally acknowledged, what African Americans have experienced for centuries: undue subjugation by oppressive systems in the midst of privileged blind bystanders. Acknowledging this painful reality has led to a global outpouring of overdue compassion both in the form of prayer and protest for justice.

The progression from simply looking to seeing and understanding gives encouragement for us as actors in this earthly reality: God can remove scales from our eyes to witness things in new and liberating ways. As those scales fall, the Holy Spirit provides insight, and also, conviction to respond in new and unfettered ways. One response the churches and communities made was to establish a prayer tent at George Floyd Square, the place of his murder. In this way, these churches and communities were united in offering comfort to those who mourned and were oppressed.

Prayer: God of justice and grace, remove the scales from our eyes so we can truly see the oppression around us. We pray in the Name of Jesus who saw the crowds and had compassion for them. Amen.

DAY 5 ~ Sunday, January 22nd: SINGING THE LORD'S SONG AS STRANGERS IN THE LAND

Scripture: **Psalms 137:1-4**, For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked us for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

Luke 23::27-31, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children

Meditation: The lament of the psalmist originates in the exile of Judah in Babylon, however, the pain of exile is one that reverberates across time and culture. Perhaps the psalmist shouted this refrain towards the Heavens. Perhaps each verse was given voice between deep sobs of grief. Perhaps this poem emerged with a shrug of indifference that can only come from living within injustice and feeling powerless to effect any meaningful change. However the words were brought forth, the heartache of this passage finds resonance in the hearts of those who are treated as strangers in other lands or in their own lands.

The demand in the psalm comes from the oppressor to smile and make merry, to sing the songs of a “happy” past. That demand has come to marginalized people throughout history. Whether it was in minstrel shows, or Geisha dances, or Wild West cowboy and Indian shows, oppressors have often demanded that oppressed people perform happily to ensure their own survival. Their message is as simple as it is cruel; your songs, your ceremonies, your cultural identity, that which makes you sacredly unique, is only allowable so long as it serves us.

In this psalm generations of the oppressed are given their voice. How could we sing the LORD’s song when we are strangers in our own land? We sing not for our captors but to praise God. We sing because we are not alone for God has never abandoned us. We sing because we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. The ancestors and saints inspire us. They encourage us to sing songs of hope, songs of freedom, songs of liberation, songs of a homeland where a people is restored.

Prayer: God of the oppressed, Open our eyes to the harm that continues to be inflicted on our sisters and brothers in Christ. May your Spirit give us the courage to sing in unison, and raise our voices with those whose suffering is unheard. We pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

In the 1930s Abbe Paul Couturier (1881-1953), a priest in Lyon, France, actively promoted Christian unity in Europe. He proposed that there be a universal week of prayer. In 1909 Father Wattson and all members of the Graymoor community joined the Catholic Church. The present religious group is known under the title The Franciscans of the Atonement. Members continue to do marvelous pioneer work in ecumenical endeavors, locally and nationally. Always true to their founder they steadfastly promote the unity which Christ longs for as reported by the evangelist John.

The urgency expressed by Jesus in the Gospel of John, Chapter 17, should incite us to similar action. The Master gathered His faithful insiders for a final instruction saying: What I want you to do most of all is for you to be united, as “I and the Father are One.” (Jn 17:21)

That Gospel scene is similar to a family summit called by patriarch/matriarch to pronounce final bedside instructions or the last “ask.” If one has such an encounter, the memory stays forever. Thereafter you would often recall those last words of counsel. You repeat them; you try to live by the wisdom given. You make that parting message the anchor in your relationship with the deceased and treasure forever those sacred memories. Likewise, Jesus wants us to act on His parting words, without fail. “Do unto others as I have done for you.” (Jn 13:15)

Christians must pray consistently, frequently and together without ceasing, in our families and churches for enlightenment and direction repeating, “Thy Will be done.”

Most Christians pray those familiar words in the Our Father, “Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heave.” but are we being honest in prayer? Do we believe the reality of those words? By God’s grace-life through sacrament we become his adopted children, all true brothers and sisters in Christ. “The love of God has been poured in our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Rm 5:5). Why then don’t we act together as in a true fraternity of love, respect and action? St. Pope John Paul II accurately stated: “Our divisions prevent our neighbor from hearing the Gospel as they should.”

In 1995 the pope issued an encyclical letter marking the 30th anniversary of the Council’s Decree on Ecumenism. There he reminds the church that ecumenism should be actively pursued at all levels in the church since unity “stands at the very heart of Christ’s mission.” He concluded, “Christian Unity is not just some sort of appendix to the Church’s activity.”

Tragically present times, perhaps more so than any other, desperately demand godly solutions. We are grievously stressed by global war; human trafficking, international crime and a country with outrageous statistics for homicide and youth incarceration. We need to reaffirm our motto: “In God We Trust.”

Pope Francis, always upbeat, encourages us to go forward in hope: “For God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family.” Our pope skillfully expresses this and other hopes and dreams for the church, and for all humanity in his 2020 Encyclical Letter: “*Fratelli Tutti*.” He concludes with a prayer: “In the Name of God who created all human beings...to live together as brothers and sisters...to fill the earth with the values of goodness, love and peace.”

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites all to respond to Our Master’s urgent plea for unity. That is, for Christians to unite in love as He and the Father are “one”.

The octave is a challenge to the entire church to open new pathways of ecumenical cooperation — for leaders to effectively preach John 17; for all members to participate and fulfill their allotted roles enthusiastically.

“There can be no ecumenism worthy of the Name without interior conversion.” (Decree on Ecumenism #7)

Excerpted from Father John C. Kieran, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta
<https://georgiabulletin.org/news/2023/01/that-they-all-be-one-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/>



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

"Do good; seek justice."

Isaiah 1:17

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2023 was selected by the Minnesota Council of Churches, USA in the aftermath of the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the trial of the police officer responsible for his death. These events brought anguish, but also time for the Christian communities to contemplate ways in which they may be complicit in racial injustice. Christian unity is needed as a source of reconciliation and unity.

The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah, reflects the Prophet's concern for the oppressed who suffer from injustice and inequality fed by hypocrisy that leads to disunity. He teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, to create the peace and unity that God desires. These virtues originate in God's love for all, and racism runs counter to this vision. Isaiah's challenge to do good and seek justice together applies equally to us today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began as an eight-day period of prayer called the Church Unity Octave at Graymoor, New York, and was established by founders of the Franciscan Society of the Atonement, Mother Lurana White, SA, and Servant of God Father Paul Wattson of Graymoor.

In 1908, Father Wattson inaugurated a pivotal event that has thrived over the years. This global prayer time has been endorsed by the Christian church family, in particular by the Vatican, also the World Council of Churches, and celebrated within the main line Christian church worldwide.

Father Wattson's vision was to amend the scandal of infighting among Christian churches. He founded the Society of the Atonement and vigorously sought reunion of Anglican and Roman Catholics. He selected the Catholic-friendly feast days: Jan. 18 (at that time called the Chair of St. Peter) and Jan. 25, The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, to establish Unity Week. Hence the Name: Church Unity Octave, emphasizing the eight-day period of prayer.

Since 1966 the World Council of Churches and the Vatican have collaborated to draft themes and select suitable biblical texts for Unity Week. These ground notes are compiled from input by ecumenical groups throughout the world and are available annually from the Graymoor Institute, P.O. Box 300, Garrison, NY 10524 (www.geii.org). The theme for 2023 is set on Isaiah 1:17, "Do Good; Seek Justice."

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023 Daily Readings (Part II)

DAY 6 ~ Monday, January 23rd: JUST AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE... YOU DID IT TO ME.

Scripture

Ezekiel 34:15-20, I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

Matthew 25:31-40, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Meditation

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded that we cannot separate our love for God from our love for others. We love God when we feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the prisoner. When we care for and serve "one of the least of these," we are caring for and serving Christ Himself.

The years 2020 and 2021 made visible the immense suffering among God's family members. The world-wide Covid-19 pandemic, along with economic, educational and environmental disparities, impacted us in ways that will take decades to repair. It exposed individual and collective suffering throughout the world and brought Christians together in love, empathy and solidarity. Meanwhile, in Minnesota, the murder of George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin exposed continued racial injustice. Floyd's cry of "I can't breathe" was also the cry of many suffering under the weight of both the pandemic and oppression.

God calls us to honor the sacredness and dignity of each member of God's family. Caring for, serving and loving others reveals not who they are, but who we are. As Christians, we must be unified in our responsibility to love and care for others, as we are cared for and loved by God. In so doing, we live out our shared faith through our actions in service to the world.

Prayer

God of love, We thank you for your unending care and love for us. Help us to sing redemption songs. Open wide our hearts to receive your love and to extend your compassion to the whole of the human family. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 7 ~ Tuesday, January 24th: "WHAT IS NOW DOES NOT HAVE TO BE"

Scripture

Job 5:11-16, So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth

Luke 1:46-55, He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly

Meditation

Job was living the good life and unexpectedly suffered the loss of his livestock and servants, and endured the devastation of the death of his children. He was suffering in his mind, body, and spirit. We all have suffering that is manifested in our minds, bodies, and spirits. We may pull away from God and others. We may lose hope. Yet, as Christians, we are unified in our belief that God is with us in the midst of our suffering.

On April 11, 2021 in Minnesota, Daunte Wright, a twenty-year old, unarmed African American man, was fatally shot by a White police officer during a routine traffic stop. This incident occurred during the Derek Chauvin trial for the killing of George Floyd.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023 Daily Readings (Part I)

DAY 1 ~ Wednesday, January 18th: LEARNING TO DO THE RIGHT THING

Scripture

Isaiah 1:12-18, Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan; plead for the widow

Luke 10:25-36, He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Meditation

According to Isaiah, God wants Judah not only to practice justice but to embrace the principle of always doing the right thing. God wants us not only to care for orphans and widows but to do what is right and good for them and anyone marginalized by society. The Hebrew word for good is *yaw-tab'* and it means to be glad, joyful, pleasing, to do well, to make something beautiful.

To be Christian means to be a disciple. All Christians sit under the Word of God, learning together what it is to do good, and who it is that stands in need of this solidarity. As society becomes more indifferent to the needs of others, we, as the children of God, must learn to take up the cause of our oppressed brothers and sisters by speaking truth to power and if necessary, plead their case so that they may live in peace with justice. In doing this we will always do the right thing!

Our commitment to eradicate and to be healed of the sin of racism requires us to be prepared and willing to be in relationship with our Christian sisters and brothers.

Prayer

LORD, you called your people from slavery into freedom, Give us strength and courage to seek out those who are standing in need of justice. allow us to see this need and provide help, and through your Holy Spirit gather us into the one fold of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd. Amen.

DAY 2 ~ Thursday, January 19th: WHEN JUSTICE IS DONE...

Scripture

Proverbs 21:13-15, When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous, but dismay to evildoers

Matthew 23:23-25, Justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done

Meditation

From the beginning the Book of Proverbs sets out to provide wisdom and instruction in “wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity” (1:2). Throughout its oracles of wisdom, the call to act justly and to pursue righteousness is a constant refrain, relentlessly shared and affirmed as more acceptable to God than sacrifice. In a one-sentence pearl of wisdom, the speaker testifies that the righteous rejoice when justice is done. But justice upsets the workers of iniquity. Christians, across their separations, should be united in joy when justice is done, and prepared to stand together when this justice brings opposition. When we do what the LORD requires and dare to pursue justice, we may find ourselves in a whirlwind of resistance and opposition to any attempt to make things right for the most vulnerable among us.

Those who benefit from the systems and structures buttressed by White supremacy and other oppressive ideologies such as “casteism” and patriarchy will seek to delay and deny justice, often violently. But to seek justice is to strike at the heart of the powers, making space for God’s just ordering and enduring wisdom in a world all too often unmoved by suffering. And yet, there is joy in doing what is right. There is joy in affirming that “Black Lives Matter” in the pursuit of justice for God’s oppressed, dominated, and exploited beloved. There is joy in seeking reconciliation with other Christians so that we may better serve the proclamation of the Kingdom. Let that joy manifest itself through our shared experiences of God’s presence in community in the known and unknown spaces where God journeys with us toward healing, reconciliation and unity in Christ.

Prayer

God, you are the source of our wisdom. We pray for wisdom and courage to do justice, to respond to what is wrong in the world by acting to make it right; We pray for wisdom and courage to grow in the unity of your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 3 ~ Friday, January 20th: DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8, And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Mark 10:17-31, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Meditation

We – not me. The Prophet warns the people what faithfulness to God’s Covenant means: “...and what does the LORD require of you? To do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” In Biblical Hebrew justice and kindness (mercy) are not different or opposite from each other. They are in fact bonded together in a single word, *mishpat*. God has shown us what is good, asking us to do justice by loving kindness and walking humbly with God. Walking humbly with God means walking alongside others and therefore it is not just about the individual: my walk, my love.

The love that God invites us into is always a love which gathers us into communion: we – not me. This insight makes all the difference in how we “do justice”. As Christians we act justly to manifest something of God’s Kingdom in the world, and therefore to invite others into this place of God’s loving kindness. Within God’s Kingdom we are all loved equally as God’s children, and as God’s Church we are called to love one another as brothers and sisters and to invite others into that love.

To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God, calls Christians to act together in bearing a united witness to God’s Kingdom within our communities: we – not me.

Prayer

Gracious and loving God, Expand our vision that we might see the mission we share with all of our Christian brothers and sisters, to show forth the justice and loving kindness of your Kingdom. Help us to welcome our neighbors as your Son welcomed us. Help us to be more generous as we witness to the grace that you freely give us. Through Christ Our LORD. Amen.