

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
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Father Michael D. Kunitz, Administrator

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022
THE THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER HOLY PENTECOST

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTIAN-UNITY WEEK

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| Sunday, January 16: | 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Amelia Petrilak (1st Anniversary) by Mrs. Theresa Carr</i> |
| Monday, January 17: | 8:30 a.m. – First and Third Hour |
| Friday, January 21: | 8:30 a.m. – First and Third Hour 6:30 p.m. – Divine Liturgy |
| Sunday, January 23: | <i>The Thirty-fifth Sunday After Holy Pentecost</i> 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Michael and Hedwig Bacasa by Joseph and Dolores Bacasa, son</i> |

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18TH THROUGH 25TH....

The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will begin on Tuesday (1/18), and will end next Tuesday (1/25). This yearly observance is designed to promote unity among all Christians by means of *prayer together*. The theme for this year of 2022 is: **“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him,”** and was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon. Present times in Lebanon are extremely difficult and economically disastrous. All this combined with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation quite stressful. The power of prayer in solidarity with those who suffer is a demonstration of Christian unity and a sign of communion. The theme, taken from the second chapter, second verse of the Gospel according to **Matthew**, is the **Epiphany**. Each year in January, the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God’s invitation to all of humanity to a new covenant in the Incarnation of Christ. In the Eastern Churches, Epiphany is joined to the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, a baptism all Christians hold in common as testimony to their faith in the Son of God.

(from the website of the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute)

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK.....

God of every nation, creator of every human life, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God, has been made manifest in human history by becoming one of us and one with us. Born in a stable, born in homelessness, he is our King and Lord. The Magi bore witness to the Light of hope coming into the world as they faithfully followed the star, coming from foreign lands in the East, until arriving in Bethlehem of Judea.

The solidarity of God with created humanity in this gift of Epiphany calls us to a life of solidarity with the homeless, the refugee, the weakest and the rejected. We are all human beings worthy of redemption and prepared by that redeeming love to the glory of your Kingdom. Help us, O gracious Lord, to do this in unity and peace.

As we who bear the name of Christian, from the days of the church at Antioch, hold a special place in our hearts for the ancient Christian communities in the land we call holy, remind us to continually respond to our baptismal promises to you, who said through your Spirit at the Jordan, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Help your Church, merciful One, to be a light for unity within itself and a beacon of hope for all humanity. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reign as One God for ever and ever. Amen.

(from the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)