



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
and make disciples of every person

everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. You
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed
you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We are building
a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in
our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is November 12, 2023, Veterans Day Weekend, Eschatology 1 of 6 Year A
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins,
a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Wisdom, chapter 6, verses 12-16 Not in the 1989
NRSV Pew Bibles

Psalm: 63 selected verses with responsorial verse

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 13-18
NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 204

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 NRSV 2ND Testament page 28

*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The
NRSV Bible, 1st Testament numbers, are in the front, and the 2nd Testament numbers
are in the back of the book. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you.
Thank you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of ___. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To be added to our email list, visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Good morning, and welcome. ■ (**

Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.)** Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us later in this worship event. Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the Lord's open table. **Please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.**

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and the music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, "**Jesus Lord To Me**" Words and Music, by Gary McSpadden and Greg Nelson. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Jesus Lord To Me" Words and Music by Gary McSpadden and Greg Nelson. © 1981 Yellow House Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) River Oaks Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 16976. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



Bell's 2nd ring will announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Leader -1: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastor: Jesus promised to be with the Church to the end of the age. We joyfully give God thanks and praise.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

Pastor: We come here to pray. The definition of the word liturgy is the "prayer-work" of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving those present and God.



Ray Of Hope Church officially began on 10/31/1983.

Today is November 12, 2023, the twenty-fifth week of Pentecost,
in our 41st year of ministry.

Today's theme is Honoring Veterans and also considering life and death.

We are on the Lectionary Readings today. ESCHATOLOGY 1 of 6 weeks.

Doctrine: "The Rapture" is in every edition of the Bible.

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds. © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing
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+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 98.



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 98

- Michael Gerding (1)
- Bobby MacDonald (2)
- Raoul Robert (3)
- Lyle Dobson (4)
- Jack H. Girard (5)
- Teddy Fogle (6)
- Len Reber (7)
- Peter (8)

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

BROTHER: Here on the next page is a close-up of #8 in block 98, "Peter," for you to see. For those who cannot see physically, it reads "Peter. People living together through understanding and harmony." The letters are arranged so the words cross over shared letters like a crossword puzzle. An artist's palette with seven colors of glitter and three paintbrushes is also on the panel. The letters are displayed in

various glitter and other fancy fabrications. From this artwork, I have the impression Peter was a very kind and loving person who enjoyed all the colors and many aspects of personalities with the people he loved. I also get the impression from the soft colors of this panel that Peter was hopeful that people would learn to appreciate and respect each other, and he lived his life in such a way that others who made this Quilt panel saw those qualities in him and wanted Peter remembered in this way.



Leader -2: In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related illness and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.***) We hope this candle's flame will bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: For You Are My God Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Third Edition. Onlicense Song # 81275. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Leader – 3: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, consider our relationships with God and others. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us immediately.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my

words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

As the war between Hamas and Israel increases, the devastation of the Gaza Strip, especially at the hospital facilities, continues to cause new tensions at the border at the West Bank and surrounding Countries. Hundreds and thousands of innocent people are suffering and dying. People in the surrounding region are beginning to speak of a Third World War; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: The lives of all these children who might survive these wars are changed forever and will undoubtedly result in physical and psychological long-term injuries; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of the Church is peace and respect between all people. Yet churches are staying quiet for the most part and not wanting to make statements out of fear; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader -4: Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our

hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able, and we pray.

Spoken:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on Earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the Universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the World:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: Eternal Word of God, help us to listen to your Holy Word that we may truly understand it; that, understanding your Word, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read **God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading:

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The first reading is Wisdom, chapter 6, verses 12- 16, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles do not include the Book of Wisdom. Here begins the reading.

¹² Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her
and is found by those who seek her.

¹³ She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

¹⁴ One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.

¹⁵ To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from
care,

¹⁶ because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths
and meets them in every thought.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Wisdom+6%3A12-16&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm: ***** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Today's Psalm is 63 selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response today is, " My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God , for you I long;
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night.
You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

(Source: this psalm is based on the Revised Inclusive Language version of the Grail Psalms.)

+ Second Reading

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The second reading is in First Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 13 - 18, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 204 in

the Second Testament. This is the primary text for the Doctrine nicknamed "The Rapture" by many. Here begins the reading.

The Coming of the Lord

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,^[b] so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.^[c] ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.^[d] ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up in the clouds together with them** to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [4.13](#) Gk *are asleep*
- b. [4.14](#) Gk *fallen asleep*
- c. [4.15](#) Gk *fallen asleep*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+4%3A13-18&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the

Opening Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the
6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your
11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our
16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 25:1-13 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 28 in the Second Testament.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] **2** Five

of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those young women^[c] got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other young women^[d] came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.^[e]

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A1-13&version=NRSVUE>. Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

Closing Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

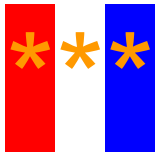
"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the
 5 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
 9 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
 13 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
 17 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10



To Our Veterans

We all want to thank our Veterans who have served

in the Military to protect us and the freedom we enjoy. We are particularly grateful for those who served and found the inner dedication to serve while staying in the closet. We are grateful to our Trans members serving and those who have served in the past who have had their status raised to officer, then removed from office, and then returned to office all over gender issues change one way or the other. This evening MSNBC Films will premier the film "Serving in Secret," which focuses on the history of LGBTQ discrimination in the Military.

<https://www.advocate.com/news/serving-in-secret-screening#rebellitem15>)

<https://www.msnbc.com/ServinginSecret>)

The HISTORY of VETERANS DAY: Source: VA (<https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>)

First Reading: Wisdom is portrayed as the Divine in the feminine. She is "easily discerned," "found by those who seek her," and "hastens to make herself known.." Anyone who wants her "will have no difficulty" finding her; she waits in the morning to be let in. She promises "perfect understanding," if you seek her with vigilance, you "will soon be free from care" even. In fact, according to the Scriptures, she "goes about seeking those worthy of her, shows up "in their

paths, and meets them in every thought."

WOW, what a deal! We are reminded of the letter to the Church of Laodicea, Revelation Chapter 3:20 "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me."

Here, we have two members of the Trinity just waiting for us to open the door of our person, set aside our desire to concentrate on ourselves, and let the Wisdom of God and the Son of the Most High in. God is ready and waiting for our invitation.

I find it very interesting that this first reading was selected to match the theme of the second reading and the Gospel. It indicates to me that the framers of the Lectionary knew very well that the misunderstanding around the concept of "The Rapture" is easily explained, and anyone who sincerely sought to see it would be guided to the understanding by God.

In my email to you, I wrote:

Is "The Rapture" in the Bible? Really? Isn't this some "fundie goofy invention" or something cultish?

Well, the reading that is the basis of this Doctrine is scheduled for tomorrow in the Lectionary. Many preachers will skip right over it because their denomination will not allow them to tell the people the truth. Tomorrow starts the season in the Lectionary for Eschatology. I often say it is the season when pastors, preachers, and priests say "I don't know. We don't know. or Just NO" more than any time of the lectionary year. Fortunately, I can tell the truth and not face discipline for teaching this Doctrine here at Ray Of Hope.

Come in tomorrow, and sharpen your tools to be able to explain and clear up the misinformation that is often circulated with this reading.

So, here it is in the Lectionaries: Roman Catholic:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111223.cfm>

The Revised Common Lectionary:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=168>

Episcopal Lectionary:

https://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Pentecost/AProp27_RCL.html

The Gospel reading is a parable to exhort the church to be on the watch for the Bridegroom. The Church is the Bride of Christ. See the summary at Revelation

19:7 (John 3:29; Romans 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:6-9; 21: 9-10)

In John 14: 3, 18 Jesus said ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

So, we are to wait for the Bridegroom and keep our lamps lit, trimmed, and filled with oil. The images are pretty obvious: the wick is our life, trimming the wick is staying active in our Faith and the Church, hearing and learning the Word of God, confessing our sins, and continually practicing conversion. The oil is always the symbol and even the chosen instrument of the movement of the Holy Spirit. We were anointed with oil a couple of weeks ago, and we prayed for the Holy Spirit to give us a fresh and renewed start, healing, and so much more.

The event we are discussing is the Second Coming of Jesus. He has promised to come and take us to Himself on a day at a moment when we least expect Him.

WILL SOME BE LEFT BEHIND? Based upon this parable that explains the Doctrine of the Blessed Hope. Based upon the first few sentences of Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians:

The Man of Lawlessness

2 As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one^[a] is revealed, the one destined for destruction.^[b] ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? ⁶ And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed when his time comes. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is

already at work, but only until the one who now restrains it is removed. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus^[c] will destroy^[d] with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, ¹⁰ and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion, leading them to believe what is false, ¹² so that all who have not believed the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.

Finally, based upon the fact that after the seven letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation, the letters then turned out to be an outline of the record of the church up to today, the following verse is COME UP HERE, AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE THINGS THAT WILL SHORTLY TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.

In other words, after the seventh church phase, the one we are in, the church is removed to Paradise, and the subsequent events on Earth unfold, covered in Chapters 4-19 where the church is not mentioned on Earth.

Revelation 3:21 - 4:1+++++

²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

The Heavenly Worship

4 After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the spirit,^[b] and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne!

Clearly, the story of the remaining people on Earth continues for chapters 4 - 19 until Christ returns TO THE EARTH.

Even Popes John Paul II, Benedict VI, and Francis are telling Roman Catholics to prepare to live through the reign of the Anti-Christ on Earth before Christ returns, which they teach as the Final Judgment. See the CCCC #675.

People will be unnecessarily left behind. It is unnecessary to be left behind, KEEP YOUR WICKS TRIMMED, AND LAMPS FILLED WITH THE OIL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BE LOOKING TO THE HORIZON.

Watching and waiting is the reason Mount Saviour Monastery is up out of bed at 4:00 a.m. and in their chapel at 4:45 a.m., because today may be the day the Bridegroom is coming, and they want to be ready to greet Him.

Our Daily Schedule

Calling to mind the Gospel precepts and the traditions of the earliest monks, we welcome guests to our monastery. Our guests are invited to structure their own day according to the monastic schedule of the Divine Office, Eucharistic celebration, silence and reflection. At times the guests are invited to join the monks in the daily work.

Vigils	4:45 AM
Lauds	7:00 AM
Breakfast	following Lauds
Mass	9:00 AM (7:00 on Mondays)
Sext	12:00 noon
Dinner	following Sext
None	3:00 PM (circa 1:15 on Sundays)
Supper	5:30 PM (circa 6:45 on Sundays)
Vespers	6:30 PM (6:00 on Sundays)
Compline	8:15 PM



https://www.msaviour.org/daily_schedule.php

The second reading describes the event in detail in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 13-18.

As I said in the introduction today, the subject is life and death. Verse 13: Paul states we want you to understand, you can understand this, you too can have

this Wisdom. All we have to do is ask for clarity. We want you to understand this so that your grieving for the death of someone does not overtake you and control the rest of your life, as if there is nothing to wait for.

We do have someone to wait for. We have promises from Christ that He is preparing a place for the Church to be received up to Himself.

At this point, we are going to use our website, where all of this information is already gathered for you.

- 1) Go to www.rayofhopechurch.com
- 2) Click on the Bible Enrichment Announcements and Information link in the left side column. <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/BibleEnrichment.htm>
- 3) Scroll down the page to find the gold box that reads; "The Rapture... WHAT? Is that really in the Bible? Read our study notes Right Click Here <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Blessed%20Hope%20The%20Rapture.pdf>

=====STUDY TEXT =====

The Holy Quran's Message To Jews & Christians. Sixth Edition 2001
 Compiled and Edited by: Dr. Arafat El-Ashi COPYRIGHT © 1996 By Arafat El-Ashi First published Dec. 1995 5,000 copies Second reprint February 1996 10,000 = Third Edition May 1996 10,000 = Fourth Edition June 1997 10,000 = Fifth Edition 1999 10,000 = Sixth Edition 2001 10,000 = Printed in Canada All Rights Reserved. For permission to reprint contact the author at Muslim World League
 191 The West Mall, Suite# 1018
 Etobicoke, Ontario
 M9C 5K8, Canada

EL-Ashi, Arafat. The Holy Quran's Message to Jews & Christians . UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

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Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition STIC
<https://sticinterfaith.org/>

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*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

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+ The Prayers of the People

CNN REPORTS on November 7, 2023 (Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html#:~:text=At%20least%204%2C104%20children%20in,Hamas%20as%20of%20November%206.&text=Note%3A%20Palestinian%20Territories%20include%20Gaza,2023%20is%20not%20yet%20available.>)

"More than 1,400 Israelis were killed in the assault, and more than 240 were taken hostage, according to a count by Israeli officials. The Ministry of Health in Ramallah says more than 10,000 Palestinians have died in the military campaign launched in response by Israel." "The latest violence has caused more than 1,200 deaths in Israel and at least 11,026 in Gaza as **of Nov. 10**, according to authorities on both sides."

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Violence and Crime will decrease when respect, empathy, awareness, and care among all people increases; we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 596th day. We pray that world leaders will continue to support the people of Ukraine as they try to maintain their independence and avoid an advance attack into the NATO Nations of Europe. Today marks the sixth Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. The loss of human life is inexcusable. There are roughly thirty-three Countries at war this morning. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end all wars and find diplomatic solutions to conflict; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

Leader – 2: We thank you, Lord, for the praise report that Gillie Waddington is in remission from Cancer. We ask you to continue helping Gillie. At the same time, we continue praying for people we know who need healing and support, including Cheryl, April, Hennrietta, Trudy, Gilbert, Jacob, Ed's Sister, Allena McGlaughlin, and all who have asked for our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/>)

Leader – 2: We pray that leaders of world Governments will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change with compassion and plans for change that are short and long-term in scope; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 2: As our nation celebrates Veterans Day weekend, we ask for a blessing on all serving and serving in our Armed Forces. We also ask for a blessing of strength for the families of those who have died in service that they may grieve, but with the knowledge of the Resurrection, the Blessed Hope, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lisa Frost: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with _____

Lisa Frost: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader: At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance,

taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual

worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday,
December 13, 2020.*))

OFFERTORY SONG Christ, Be Our Light. Words and Music Bernadette Farrell
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Praise Second Edition #656. Onlicense Song # 80229. Used with Print
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Leader -2: (* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving
thanks and praise.***) (When your prayer is complete, please say:)
" Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of
God with a doxology."

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all
creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Leader: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two
prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup
if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water
to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this
fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your
goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth
has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will
become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32,
41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the
Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-

57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and just....

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

(SONG: REMEMBER ME. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.)



The Reception of Holy Communion

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES BEHOLD THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP

Lord, you make me worthy to receive you and by your Word, I am healed.

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader -4: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,**

forever and ever. Amen

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty
5 God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia
11 A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd, Moderator: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica Floyd: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Veronica Floyd: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion: Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

COMMUNION SONG: Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair

- 1) Alleluia
- 2) Lord, we praise you.
- 3) Lord, we thank you.
- 4) Alleluia

Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair © 1972 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management). CCLI Song #16811. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

General Offering for the week of September 24 \$1068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 11
General Offering for the week of October 1 \$218.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 8
General Offering for the week of October 8 \$688.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 11
General Offering for the week of October 15 \$88.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 13
General Offering for the week of October 22 \$78.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 9
General Offering for the week of October 29 \$1743.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 12
General Offering for the week of November 5 \$108.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 10

****Special Gifts recently given.****

New Gifts This Week:

April Struhm donated a Toughbook computer that will be used for new music orchestrations and possibly other digital mixing board uses, to be determined. This brings April's total up to six computer devices, and one screen to help us with our visual ministry on the Internet. Thank you, April.

Ed Askins donated time and labor this week, refinishing the Frasier Room floor, and working on the windows. Ed also painted over the vandalization of the exterior of our building where someone painted "666" in red numbers and defaced the white Cross that is on the back door with red paint. Ed is managing a project to replace the damaged back exit out of the Carley Room. Ed has identified the contractor, and managing the entire project. Thank you, Ed for all of your donated time and labor.

There has been a substantial donation made for the immediate replacement of the back exit and having it brought up to fire code regulations. We want to thank the anonymous donor.

Kaiden has been donating many extra hours of help this week, especially with our new project of Wednesday Noon Mass, Kaiden has to set up the building on Wednesday as she sets up for Sunday. Kaiden has helped in the background with many extra tasks this week and we are grateful.

Recent Gifts:

April Struhm donated \$150.00 toward the liability insurance due in December. Thank you, April.
Veronica Floyd donated \$50.00 toward the liability insurance due in December. Thank you, Veronica.
April Struhm donated another Chromebook to help people see the Order of Worship and Music Edition for Sunday worship.

Phillipa Askins donated \$230.00 to the new annual Internet Hosting costs. Phillipa also donated \$130.00 to be used at the discretion of the Treasurer. Thank you, Phillipa.

We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

** See the Q.R. Code on last page.**

Second Tuesday, November 14, 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. Bible Enrichment Ordinances, and Rituals part 8.

Wednesday, November 15, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Sunday, November 19, The Feast of Christ The King, Eschatology - 2 of 6 and is Veronica Floyd's Birthday. Happy and blessed birthday, Veronica.

Sunday, November 19 at 3:30 pm. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition. First Congregational United Church Of Christ. 171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830. See the flyer

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 22, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 26, Advent, week 1 Eschatology - 3 of 6 (backed up one week) - World Peace Sunday

NOVEMBER 26, MONDAY Gaudete Party exchange NAMES DUE.

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 29, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 30, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration Eschatology - 4 of 6

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 6, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Thursday, December 7 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 1

Friday, December 8 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 2

Saturday, Decmber 9 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 3

December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride Sunday in the Winter Eschatology - 5 of 6

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 4

Monday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 5

Tuesday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 6

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 13, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 7

Thursday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 8

Sunday, December 17, Advent, week 4 – Love, Holy Women

and Mother's Day in the Winter **Eschatology - 6 of 6**

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 20, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

December 24, Sunday, 10:30 A.M. NATIVITY – Celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

December 29, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

As for the Gaudete Party exchange we agreed to the following: Our practice this year for the Gaudete gift party exchange will be as follows so we can incorporate both on-line and in person participants.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the \$10 limit gift exchange needs to submit their name to the Moderator/Clerk - Veronica Floyd either via email (veeflo@aol.com) or just let her know at an upcoming Worship service or Bible Enrichment. If you are an on line participant, Veronica will need your mailing address to pass onto the person who receives your name.

Participant names must be received no later than Sunday November 26th. Veronica will take all names and put in a bowl and match the names of participants with the names she draws out of the bowl. Veronica will contact each participant and let them know whose name they have no later than Monday November 27th. If you receive the name of a person who is participating on-line, you will need to send them their gift via mail or delivery service so it reaches them by Saturday December 9th. (An option may be to find a small gift item on Amazon and have it sent directly to the person). The gift exchange will take place on Gaudete Sunday December 10th.

Thank you
Veronica

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> In celebration, we launched the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

******* INTERESTING WEB INFORMATION TO KNOW:**

<https://www.loreal.com/en/articles/commitments/our-partners/>

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NOTE: Whitney Tipton recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: **SAINTS** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Romans 15:13)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SONG: How Great Thou Art.

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

BROTHER: All of our freedom of Scientific inquiry, social studies, psychological research, Biblical research, and laws came to us by voting. All of it can be overturned by vote; that is how a democracy works.

Religion is invoked in the presentations of the rationale for reversing rights

gained in social, educational, healthcare, and even religious settings. The only way to protect what we have is to stay informed and involved in the process. (Br. Benedict 8-5-23)

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia?_t=8UgoVv5ekqg&_r=1 Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

*** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."

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11-12-23 Veterans Day Weekend Sunday, Year A Page 38 of 42
We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.
WE ARE YOU!
THIS is the Church where YOU belong.
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

=====Who can receive the Holy Spirit=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

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WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us

saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer/device. [Right Click Here](#)

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;
http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered Love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own Love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing Salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.


Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)





Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)

Is Pleased To Announce the Hosting of The

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19th, 2023 @ 3:30 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830

A reception with dessert and fellowship will follow the service.

This service is free for all who wish to attend.

A free will offering will be collected and donated to Doctors Without Borders.

All are Welcome!

