



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 Thirty-sixth year of Ministry.

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory in 2017.”
Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

A very 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)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you feel 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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

January 6 Epiphany Wk 1, Nativity Wk 3 Year C

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.”

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 690

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-13 responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Eph 3:1-6 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 193

Gospel: Matt. 2:1-12 NRSV 2ND Testament page 2
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(We suggest you find these Scripture readings in your Bible and place a marker in them before the Worship begins. The readings are also printed in this bulletin for your convenience.)

****We use the term 1st for the “Old” Testament and 2nd for the “New” Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion of the Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.***

Opening Invitatory

P: We begin in the name of the Creating, the Saving, and the Sanctifying Eternal God.

ALL: Amen

P: We have come to give God praise, thanks, honor, and glory.

ALL: On this day we consider the visitation of the magi who recognized the divinity of the Son of God.

L-1: God sent the Only Begotten Son to live among us and set us free so we can grow into the fullness of God's vision for us.

ALL: Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Alleluia, Alleluia.

L-2: Here we are, ready to hear your voice, O Divine Holy Spirit. Like the magi, Joseph and Mary we desire to do your holy will.

ALL: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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Confession and Forgiveness:

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to show forth the Christ of God. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-3: With Christ living in us we are called to bring His presence to every situation in life. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-3: The birth of Christ into the world is central to our belief that Jesus is Lord. For the times we have failed to openly share this good news, we pray Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 690

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: Eph 3:1-6 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 193

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ In former generations this mystery

was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matt. 2:1-12 NRSV 2ND Testament page 2

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Benedict

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THE POWER OF THE NAME OF JESUS
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: In the Name of God, the Christ,

and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Luke 2:39, 40

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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Some quotations from “Born To Be King” by Dom Bernard Orchard, O. S. B. beginning on page 51.

“We now come to an incident in the early life of Jesus that is related only by Matthew; Luke, who knew our Gospel of Matthew, makes no mention of the flight into Egypt at all, thus ignoring entirely a period of some four to five years in the childhood of Jesus. But then there was no need for him to repeat what the evangelist Matthew had already adequately recorded. The child had already grown into a toddler; and everything was going on nicely when all of a sudden a party of distinguished visitors came to the village and knocked at their door. ... They proved to be a deputation from the East, and had been guided to the door by a special star which they claimed to have first seen in their own country, and which had led them to Jerusalem in their search for the king promised of old to the Jews.”

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BE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY

===== Here is something else you can “DO” from home:

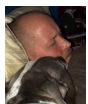


Continue to keep Chad Stanbro in your prayers that his legs be restored to health and that he follow a good path in his life.

This begins the 19th week we are praying for Jay Brown. Jay did not receive good news at Wills Eye Hospital and is completely blind at this time. Let’s keep praying for his eyes to completely heal. <https://www.gofundme.com/kck5ct-team-jay>



Update on August Faulk, pictured here with the family dog named Rosie. August’s family is very thankful for all the continued prayers we are offering. He is grateful and hopeful. We continue to pray for healing and freedom from all pain.



We continue to hold Trinity Lucas in prayer, the little girl on the right. Her father, Stephen Lucas tells us she was born addicted to opioids. Trinity is having difficulties in many areas of her



life due to these exposure before she was born. Her father describes her as “very mentally handicapped.” We continue to pray for her and all the children born into the disease of addiction and their families. We ask God to heal all of the people involved. These children are innocent and need healing so they can be healthy.

Ellandra Kaci Corbin received a kidney transplant on December 12. We are praying that her body will accept the transplant and that Ellandra has full recovery.

Robb Bacon, one of the Founders of Ray Of Hope Church, passed into Paradise Sunday morning, December 23, 2018. Robb was buried Saturday, December 29 at 11:00 AM in Newfield, NY. Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, officiated. You can see some of the event divided into three short videos by going to our church web site and following the instructions in the paragraphs about Robb. Be sure to refresh your browser when you visit our church web site so you are sure to have the latest information at any given time. A memorial celebration will be held sometime in the next 30 or so days. It is likely the Memorial Service will be held this Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Syracuse. Watch your email for confirmation and location. Robb was a Member of Ray Of Hope for 35 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

General Offering for the week of December 23, 2018 — \$130.00
Attendance— 6. One special donation:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday January 7 7:00 PM December / January Council Meeting.

Bible Enrichment Session Tuesday January 8—6:30 PM

Thursday January 10 6:30- 8:30 Movie: “Milk” - The story of Harvey Milk, and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official. <https://www.meetup.com/Elmira-gay-lesbian-bisexual-trans-str8-social-group/?scroll=true>

Sunday January 27 the 35th Annual Meeting of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. in our 35th year of ministry. Worship at 10:30 AM, shared dinner following, Annual Meeting between 1:30 and 2:00 PM

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery. Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

Syracuse Worship- Sunday 10:30 AM— 2121 E. Genesee St. Apt. 4 (the home of Robb Bacon)

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15 PM.

**** 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 web site; 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 open daily from about 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM most days of the year. When the door is unlocked the public is welcome to come in and pray, read a book, meditate, read Scriptures, and enjoy the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Visitors are invited to use the kneelers or sit in the chair or couch of their choice. Please maintain holy silence in the chapel.

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*.

Name: _____

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 on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com

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 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**..

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)