



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-eighth 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.”

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 they 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.

October 31, 2021 Reformation Sunday 38th Anniversary Year B

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: Revelation 7:9-12 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 249

Responsorial Psalm 150 inside this bulletin.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 193

Gospel: Luke 11:9-13 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 72

*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.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bells 1st ring. Once the bell rings please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. 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 are in honor of 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 always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.

** We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells are rung.**

Bells 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. We welcome you 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests. We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as feel comfortable. We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

Leader -1: Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. **During COVID we may simply wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: (introduction of the theme of the day*)**



Pastor: We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG:

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

ALL: Jesus said: “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 -1: Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

Leader -2: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We remember them here and pray for their families.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. (Names are read at this time.)

Leader -2: We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle’s flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us 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 website where you can visit over 48,000 panels, over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

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

SECOND SONG:



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.
(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 God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader - 2: Almighty and Eternal God, you sent your Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour to be the offering for the sin of world. All humanity should give you unending thanks and praise for giving us Salvation. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader - 3: Christ Jesus, you personally are with us every minute of our lives. You continue to form and grow your church. All people should be pounding down the doors to get in and hear your Word and receive you in the Sacraments. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader - 4: Holy Spirit, you are with us, and live within us. Help us to use the spiritual gifts you give us to show forth God's living presence to those who need it most. Help us to encourage people who do not understand your love for all of us. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

Song:

Glory be to the one God, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. (Traditional Gloria Patri hymn with inclusive language.)

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.

+ First Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The first reading is in the Book of Revelation, chapter 7, verses 9-12. The reading is on page 249 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

The Multitude from Every Nation

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The Psalm today is number 150, with a responsorial verse. The response today is sung together. The melody is based upon the piece Priestly People by the late Lucien Diess, C. S. Sp.

Psalm 150

R. Priestly people, you are Kingly people, you are Holy people, you are God’s chosen people, Sing praise to the Lord.

**God's own special people, called to proclaim God's praises,
God who called you, out of darkness, in-to God's mar-ve-lous
light. (1 Peter 2:9)**

Praise God in this holy place,
Praise God in the mighty heavens
Praise God's powerful deeds.
praise God's surpassing greatness.

**R. Priestly people, you are Kingly people, you are Holy
people, you are God's chosen people, Sing praise to the
Lord.**

**God's own special people, called to proclaim God's praises,
God who called you, out of darkness, in-to God's mar-ve-lous
light. (1 Peter 2:9)**

Sing praise with sound of trumpets,
Sing praise with lute and harp.
Sing praise with drums and dancing,
Sing praise with strings and pipes.

**R. Priestly people, you are Kingly people, you are Holy
people, you are God's chosen people, Sing praise to the
Lord.**

**God's own special people, called to proclaim God's praises,
God who called you, out of darkness, in-to God's mar-ve-lous
light. (1 Peter 2:9)**

Sing praise with resounding cymbals,
Sing praise with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to Lord. Alleluia!

**R. Priestly people, you are Kingly people, you are Holy
people, you are God's chosen people, Sing praise to the**

Lord.

God's own special people, called to proclaim God's praises, God who called you, out of darkness, in-to God's mar-ve-lous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The second reading is in the Book of Ephesians chapter 2, verses 19-22.

The reading is on page 193 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ 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 Gospel Acclamation.

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 72 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11, verses 9-13.

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

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

Gospel: Luke 11:9-13 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 72

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,

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how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask him!"

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God! You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more! For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!"

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+ Sermon

NOTES

*** 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."



Salvation is God's purview.

Romans 9:14-16 ¹⁴What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”
(Exodus 33:19)

¹⁶ So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy.

Salvation belongs to the Lord. (Ps. 3:8)

Only in God will my soul be at rest. From God alone comes my salvation.
(Ps 62:1)

They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:10)

After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude in heaven, shouting: “Halleluiha! salvation and glory and power belong to our God.”
(Rev. 19:1)

All souls are mine says God (Ezek 18:4)

All the animals and the birds are mine says God (Psalm 50:10, 11)

In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thes 5:18)

For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that **He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.** (Romans 14:9) (NJKV)

38th anniversary— beginning our 39th year of ministry.

UFMCC

Calling people to new life through the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Confronting the injustice of poverty, sexism, racism, and homophobia through Christian social action...

Creating a community of healing and reconciliation through faith, hope, and love

Perfect day: Reformation Sunday—an ongoing way of life in the Holy Spirit, every year, every month, every day should be a reformation, a reorientation, a new and focused emphasis on God's holy will in our lives and the lives of

this congregation.

Feast of All Saints—the absolute full and complete message of the work of God made known through God’s own Eternal Word Incarnate, our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ, that all will be resurrected, and that there will be a New Heavens and a New Earth where God will be “all in all.”

Renew our commitment to the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose.

Prayers for salvation of all people to be made holy and live forever.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have the most need of your mercy. (Fatima prayer)

Lord Jesus Christ, with faith in your love and your mercy we partake of your Body and Blood as you command. May this not bring us condemnation, as Scripture warns, but bring us health in mind, body, soul and spirit. And we pray that all people will be re-assembled without the loss of anyone in your Kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

WHERE DID THE IDEA OF PURGATORY COME FROM?????

What about 1 Cor 3:9-16

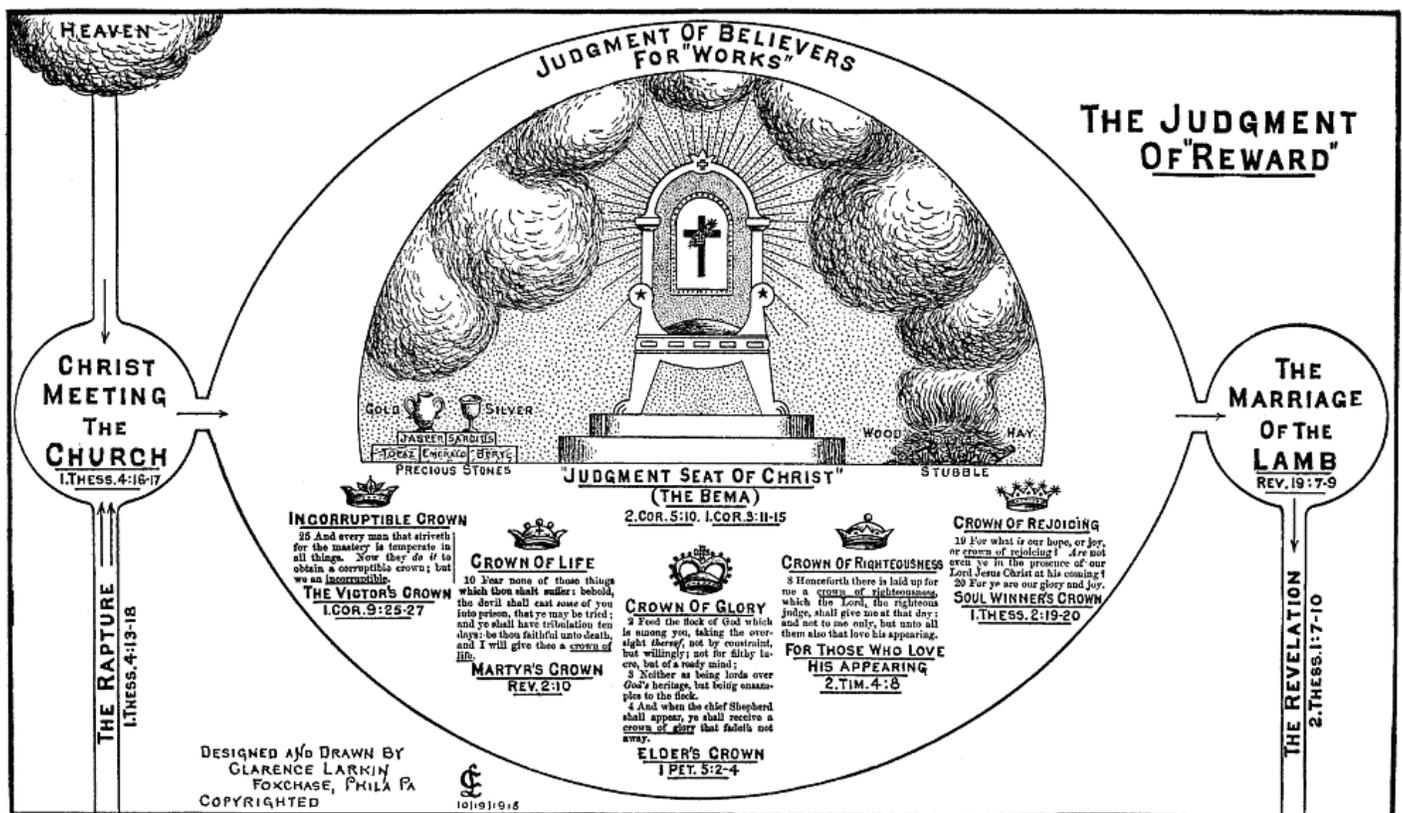
⁹ For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. ¹⁴ If what has been built on the foundation survives, **the builder will receive a reward.** ¹⁵ If the work is burned up, **the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.**

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

2 Corinthians 5:10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Here is a teaching difference of understanding. You may observe from this chart that many theologians expect this particular judgement of the believers works to take place after the "rapture" the Blessed Hope at the end of the Church Age, during the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. Others, and I side with this group, understand the particular judgement of the believers works and the rewards given will take place immediately after one's last breath here on Earth. This is a JUDGMENT OF REWARDS BEMA.



BBC reports there are an estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in the world. Pew Research estimates there approximately 260 million Orthodox Christians in the world. That is One billion, four hundred sixty million looks like this: 1,460,000,000 people living now under the dogma of purgatory.

What is a Catechism? (<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catechism>)

Until the second half of the twentieth century, for millions of Catholics in the United States the

word *catechism* meant the *Baltimore Catechism*, which originated at the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 when the bishops of the United States decided to publish a national catechism. The *Baltimore Catechism* contained 421 questions and answers in thirty-seven chapters and gave unity to the teaching and understanding of the faith for millions of American Catholics. Its impact was felt right up to the dawn of the Second Vatican Council in 1962.

At that time, Blessed John XXIII articulated a vision for the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council that charged them to guard and present more effectively the deposit of Christian doctrine in order to make it more accessible to the Christian faithful and all people of goodwill in the contemporary world.

In 1985, a synod of bishops in Rome convened to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council's proposal to develop a universal catechism for the Catholic Church was made and accepted. The fruit was the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, first published in 1992. Subsequent language editions were published in 1994. A new edition with some modifications was released in 1997.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Part one, Section III, #'s 1030 - 1032

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. 606 The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on

III. THE FINAL PURIFICATION, OR PURGATORY

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.⁶⁰⁶ The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on

603 1 Cor 2:9.

604 St. Cyprian, Ep. 58, 10, 1: CSEL 3/2, 665.

605 Rev 22:5; cf. Mt 25:21, 23.

606 Cf. Council of Florence (1439): DS 1304; Council of Trent (1563): DS 1820; (1547): 1580; see also Benedict XII, *Benedictus Deus* (1336): DS 1000.

Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence (1439) and Trent (1563).

Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire.⁶⁰⁷

As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.⁶⁰⁸

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin."⁶⁰⁹ From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.⁶¹⁰ The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead:

Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.⁶¹¹

IV. HELL

1033 We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against him, against our neighbor or against ourselves: "He who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."⁶¹² Our Lord warns us that we shall be separated from him if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor and the little ones who are his brethren.⁶¹³ To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him for ever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "hell."

607 Cf. 1 Cor 3:15; 1 Pet 1:7.

608 St. Gregory the Great, *Dial.* 4, 39; PL 77, 396; cf. Mt 12:31.

609 2 Macc 12:46.

610 Cf. Council of Lyons II (1274): DS 856.

611 St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. in 1 Cor.* 41, 5; PG 61, 361; cf. Job 1:5.

612 1 Jn 3:14-15.

613 Cf. Mt 25:31-46.

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The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire: 607

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Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them. 611 (St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. i.*)

From the Compendium of the Catechism

210. What is purgatory?

1030-1031
1054

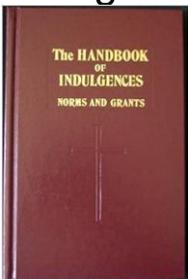
Purgatory is the state of those who die in God's friendship, assured of their eternal salvation, but who still have need of purification to enter into the happiness of heaven.

211. How can we help the souls being purified in purgatory?

1032

Because of the communion of saints, the faithful who are still pilgrims on earth are able to help the souls in purgatory by offering prayers in suffrage for them, especially the Eucharistic sacrifice. They also help them by almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance.

Indulgences is a current teaching and practice. Show the



https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Indulgence-Grants-Authorized-English/dp/B0012C9I7G/ref=sr_1_2?crid=3CUJ1SDS9LZTX&dchild=1&keywords=handbook+of+indulgence&qid=1635616216&prefix=Handbook+of+Indu%2Caps%2C101&sr=8-2

“The Sisters and I here at Our Lady of Solitude Monastery foster a year-long devotion to the Holy Souls, first in praying for their release from the merciful state of purification, and second, in requesting their intercession for our spiritual needs and protection. We refer to the Poor Souls in Purgatory as the Holy Souls for they are now in a permanent state of grace and can no longer sin and offend God. In this sinless state the Holy Souls are pleasing to God and their prayers for us are powerful. Our devotion to the Holy Souls intensifies during November when the daily Mass intention and all our ongoing prayers and sacrifices are offered for these dear and beloved Friends and their speedy entrance into Heaven.”

(further in the same newsletter)

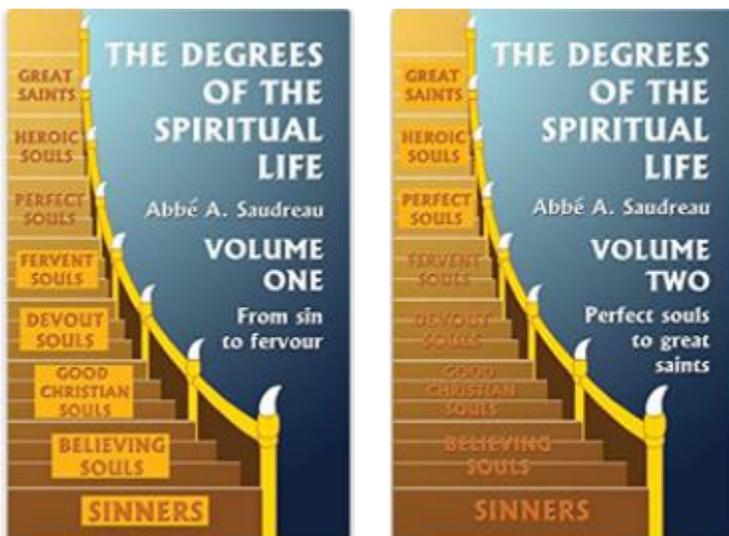
“St. Joseph was appointed as their (the dying) special mediator and patron. God further granted that St. Joseph would continue to manifest his love for and service to these dying souls until the end of time. The day before he died, St. Joseph attained the degree of holiness God predestined for him. In his dying hour, Our Blessed Lord said to St. Joseph, “My father, rest in peace and in the grace of your Eternal Father and Mine. To the Prophets and Saints, who await thee in Limbo, bring the joyful news of the approach of their redemption.” St. Joseph died before Our Blessed Lord’s public life began. He was assigned the mission to enlighten the Holy Souls in Limbo about their long-awaited redemption and their entrance into Heaven. Even though he lived in silence here on earth where little is recorded about his life, Saint Joseph merited a most active eternity interceding for the living, the dying and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Let us invoke St. Joseph under the title of Comforter of the Afflicted this November for our beloved Dead and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. A holy card with a prayer to St. Joseph for the Holy Souls is enclosed..” Poor Clares of

WHO WILL PRAY ME OUT OF PURGATORY?

HOW LONG WILL I BE THERE?

HOW WILL MY FAMILY KNOW I WAS SET FREE TO HEAVEN?

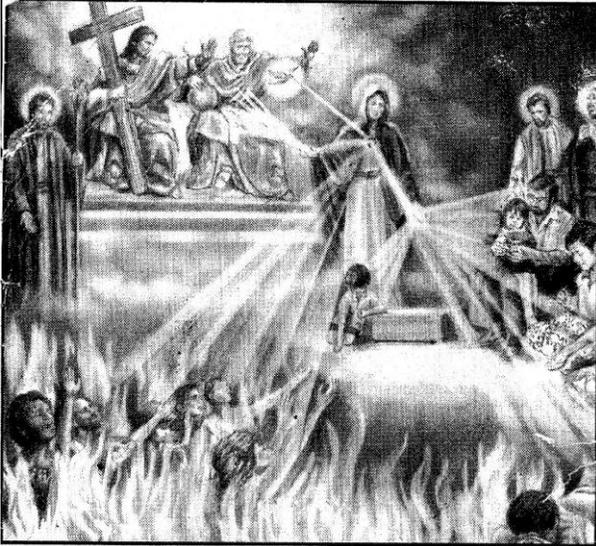
PURGATORY IS CLOSED AT THE “SECOND COMING” and the “FINAL JUDGEMENT”



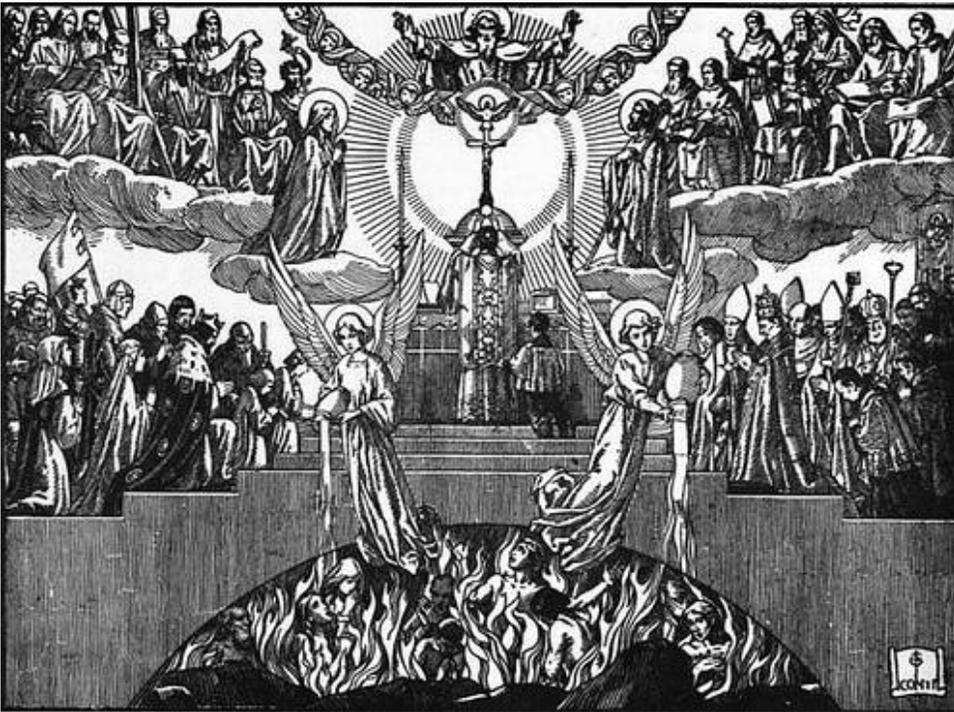
Dogmatic Teachings of the RC

Church that inform and formed the Western Church concepts of salvation. These are UNIQUE to Roman Catholic Tradition and informed November 1 “All Saints Day” and November 2 “All Souls Day” on the calendar. These books are currently available on Amazon.





*They need our prayers
and sacrifices!*



THIS IS A MAJOR MARKER THAT SEPARATES RAY OF HOPE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, INC. FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

We are catholic and Christian but we are not Roman Catholic and these teachings and dogmas reviewed here today are some of the main reasons we are not in union with the Roman Church.

How can you help free a person from this fear of death?

Jesus said: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8.32

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Isaiah 25:7, 8 The Lord will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.

with

Hebrews 2:14 and 15 ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

with

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Romans 14:8,9 If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For Christ died and rose to life in order to be the Lord of the living and of the dead. Good News Translation.

The verses at the end of the bulletin every Sunday.



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ (optional) Profession Of Faith

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving,
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,
our Lord and Saviour.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus
Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.

I believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

+ The Prayers Of The People: Shared Prayer

Leader – 4: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City

of _____ in the State of _____. Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others with prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with _____
(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)

Leader – 4: (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you in 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 - 5: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, while those worshipping with us on the internet may go to our website and use the PayPal link or you may mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901. Please give what you can, but never give your last. At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side

napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. 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, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*)

Each of you in the chapel will find at your seat a small plate, communion wafer, plastic chalice of grape juice and a napkin. Please take the plate and wafer from the baggie and shake the chalice gently in case there has been settling of the contents. Please do not remove the top from the chalice until the Celebrant announces that Communion is served. Once you have received Communion, place the plastic chalice on top of the plate and someone will collect it while the Table of the Lord is being cleared.

(* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set.
A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. *)

SONG: I Really Love The Lord

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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

Pastor: Lord God, we ask you to receive our worship this day. We pray that you will be pleased with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

ALL: May the Lord accept our lives as a sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's people. Amen

Pastor: Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.
(*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.*)

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this bread, 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), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.(*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.*)

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this 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 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), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

Pastor: We offer ourselves, with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind unto you Almighty God. Accomplish your desires for us in our lives. Mold us to be more like you every day. Receive us along with these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine to be made holy, and through them make us into a perfect offering to you, One and Only Holy God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us, 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.

******* the people may be invited to offer prayers of thanks and praise.**

******* the Pastor continues with a Eucharistic Prayer.**

It is right that we should give you thanks and praise always and everywhere through our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus.

He is the image of you the invisible God, He is the first-born over all creation. In Him, all things consist and have their being.

Christ has called us into this place, into his very Body, the Church. Christ continues to build His Church as He said He would, and be with us until the end of this Age.

We are grateful to celebrate Christ's Lordship over our lives and our deaths. In Christ, we have experienced the power of your love, Almighty God. Through that love, we are now able to join our voices with all the Beloved Community from every time and every place who have already passed through the valley of the shadow of death and are forever secure in your eternal presence. Accept our song as we join in their unending hymns of praise. We sing

holy to You our God, holy to You our Christ, and holy to you the One Holy Spirit of God as we move and have our being in your Divine Presence.

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high est.
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
22 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
27 san - na in the high est.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Pastor: Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I 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 Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Pastor: Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

(** pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

(** pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)

Pastor: Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

+ Optional Christological Canticle:

#1 Philippians 2:6-11
Though He was in the

#2 Colossians 1:15-20
Christ is the image of the

form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.

Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend

(optionalgenuflect or bow**)**

in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

invisible God, the first-born of all creation. In Christ everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible.

**All were created through Him;
all were created for Him.
Jesus is before all else that is.
In Him, everything continues in being.**

**It is Jesus who is head of the body, the Church!
He who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be His in everything.**

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in Christ and, by means of Him, to reconcile everything in His person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of His cross.

+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith

a) Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**b) Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

c) When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

d) Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the savior of the world.

e) Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord. He is joy for all ages.

f) Jesus Christ has died for us, Christ our Lord is risen, Christ will come again someday. Oh deep in my heart, I do believe that Jesus Christ will come again.

g) Christ has spoken in times past. Christ is speaking to us today. Christ will speak and take us into the future.

+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.

Pastor (or other person designated): While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

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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The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

+ Sign Of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

+ The Lamb Of God

Pastor: Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Pastor: You may set the bread down and pray silently as I pray this prayer.

+ Priestly Prayer For All People

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but brings us sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit.

We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN

+ Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor: At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life, and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this Cup though they die they shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed. (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

Pastor: Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. 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.

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.

Pastor Benedict: Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

When you come forward, the person serving you will say; “The Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ for you.” Respond with “Amen” or “Alleluia” or some other acclamation of appreciation or faith. Then take a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup and serve yourself. If you are here with family or friends you may come to Holy Communion together and serve each other. Please wait after you receive Holy Communion because the person serving you will pray with you before you return to your seat.

Serving Holy Communion today will be: _____
We sing during Holy Communion and maintain our worship. We begin.
The Table of Christ is served.

SONG:

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.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: 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)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

SONG:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

General Offering for the week of October 24, 2021 \$300.00. Attendance 8. **We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

November 2 Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment. Study on Abraham, Part 3 Michael leading.

November 21 Feast Of The Kingship of Christ (4 weeks away)

November 28 Advent WK I

Hanukkah Starts at sundown Day 1

November 29 Hanukkah Day 2

November 30 Hanukkah Day 3

December 1 Hanukkah Day 4

December 2 Hanukkah Day 5

December 3 Hanukkah Day 6

December 4 Hanukkah Day 7

November 30 Tuesday @ 2:00 p.m. Council workshop on 2021 budget. Open to the public.

December 3, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council for the November Meeting.

December 5 Advent WK II

December 5 Hanukkah Day 8

December 6 Hanukkah ends at sundown.

December 12 Advent WK III Gaudete Sunday Pride in the Winter

December 17 Friday @ 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 19 Advent WK IV

December 26 NATIVITY

December 27 Kwanzaa day 1&2 8:45 PM service online

December 28 Kwanzaa day 3 8:45 PM service online

December 29 Kwanzaa day 4 8:45 PM service online

December 30 Kwanzaa day 5&6 8:45 PM service online

December 31 no service

January 1 Kwanzaa day 7 8:45 PM service online

January 2 Holy Name

January 9 Epiphany— Visitation of the Magi

January 16 The Baptism Of The Lord—30 yrs. old

January 23 new Memorial of Saint Marianne Cope of Syracuse, NY

38th Annual Meeting of the Congregation and burning of the mortgage.

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

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.

Below is a rendering of John chapter 16, verse 7 by the translators of the Amplified Bible that I find particularly enlightening. This verse gives many of the attributes of the Holy Spirit, in English, that are all packed and hidden in the original Greek Word parakletos. Each of the capitalized words in the verse below tells us how the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. All we have to do is ask with a short prayer like this: "Oh God, give me the awareness to know you are with me in all these ways through the Holy Spirit, Amen."

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible

Jesus taught, saying: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]." John 16:7

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? If we understand the Real Presence of God is with us in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love of ourselves and our neighbors, and be able to feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

Signed: Pastor Benedict, 3-6-21. Read this on our website.

[Right Click Here.](#)

=====

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

Everyone is invited to 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.

It is not required that you 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 really 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 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 would 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.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to 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 teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **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 in that life.

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

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God's help in special ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been 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)

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

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



The following information, published by the Secular Coalition for America, is included by me, personally, as part of my response to the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose. Ray Of Hope has not endorsed the Secular Coalition For America in any way, officially or implied. I am including this information here to assist people who may want to take action now to encourage their members of the Senate of the United States to know the facts and identify the false information being put forth in the hearings that are happening now on the Equality Act. SIGNED: Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, Pastor, 3-20-21 7:00 p.m.



Dear Friend,

Last month the House passed the [Equality Act \(H.R. 5\)](#). For those unaware, this important legislation would amend existing civil rights laws, such as the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, to include sexual orientation, and gender identity as protected characteristics under law. The bill also expands federal non-discrimination protections regarding discrimination based on race, color, national origin, **religion**, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity in public settings, and protects against sex-based discrimination in government services and federally-funded programs.

This week, the Senate held its first ever hearing on the [Equality Act](#) and as expected, the debate was heated. It seems opponents of the bill (Senate Republicans) are promoting [several misconceptions](#) about its purpose and scope which include:

- *“The Equality Act would destroy religious freedom in this country.”*
 - **NOT TRUE.** Freedom of religion is already protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Nothing in the *Equality Act* would change that. The bill simply extends those rights that most vulnerable groups are already afforded to those who have been denied them, such as the **LGBTQ community**. In fact, the bill actually protects freedom of religion by preventing the imposing of one’s religion upon another.
- *“The Equality Act will make athletics unfair for females.”*
 - **NOT TRUE.** Schools across the nation already have policies in place to ensure a level playing field for all students, and they are working. Additionally, except for a very small percentage, most students who participate in high school sports do not continue on with their athletic endeavours after high school. The possibility that perhaps one or two transgender students in an entire student body would ruin that opportunity for another is [almost nonexistent](#). *Title IX* is extremely important in regards to girls athletics, and the bottom line is that **nothing in the Equality Act changes that**. Instead, we should be calling for increased funding for girls athletics.
- *“The Equality Act will allow men to harass women in public restrooms.”*
 - **NOT TRUE.** We already have laws in place to prevent such acts, and the *Equality Act* does

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nothing to change that. Additionally, **21 states** have had similar nondiscrimination laws on the books for decades now and they have worked, as there have been no increases in public safety incidents in bathrooms since they were codified.



[Tell the Senate to Support the Equality Act - Secular Coalition for America](#)

It is important that we dispel these untrue myths about this legislation, which seeks only to provide the same protections that most of us already are afforded to those who are not. We must always push back against these false narratives whenever they are presented. Only by doing so will we be able to do away with the myths and focus on the facts of the issue, which is equal treatment under the law for everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation.

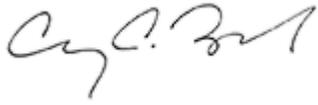
If you would like to contact your Senators in Washington to tell them that you would appreciate their support of the *Equality Act*, you can do so by clicking the link provided below. We are closer than we have ever been before, and now is the time to voice your support!

[**Please click here to tell your Senators in Washington to support the Equality Act!**](#)

To be a part of our team, and celebrate with us when we secure the passage of the Equality Act in the Senate, please click the **"I want to help"** button below. Every dollar goes to representing you on Capitol Hill, and strengthening the wall of separation between religion and government. With *your* help, we can make even greater progress on the issues we care about!

[**I want to help!**](#)

Your advocate on the Hill,



Casey C. Brinck

Director of Policy & Government Affairs
Secular Coalition for America



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- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

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. [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 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 not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtgs

—————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)