

St. Francis de Sales Parish

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Jeremy Merzweiler
Pastor

Fr. David Verbsky
Parochial Vicar

Raymond Herrick
Deacon

Richard Butz
Deacon, Retired

Kathryn Dougherty
Principal

Colleen McVicker
Director of Music Ministry

School:
330-644-0638 or stfparishschool.org

Parish Registration:
Please see the Priest
after any of the weekend Masses
or call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Hours:
Monday through Friday,
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Masses:	Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m., Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 8:15 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 p.m.
Confessions:	Thursday, 5:30-6:15 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00-9:45 a.m.; or call the office at 330-644-2225 for an appointment.
Baptisms:	Please make arrangements with the Parish Office.
Weddings:	Arrangements with the Parish Priest are to be made at least six months before the wedding date.
Anointing of the Sick:	At any time. Please call the Parish Office at 330-644-2225.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
NOVEMBER 26, 2023



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
 KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

- 7:30 a.m. Fred Schillinger & Deceased Members
 of Schillinger Family (Zaratsian Family)
 9:00 a.m. Betty Geig (Geig Family)
 11:00 a.m. Pro Populo

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- 8:15 a.m. Gary Heller (Roy & Martha Conner)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- 8:15 a.m. Alice Fernandez (Lisa Holl)
 6:30 p.m. Bernie & Leona Adams
 (Claire & Pat Dunegan)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 8:15 a.m. Michael Shearer (Sherry Shearer)
 Helene Volosen – Anniversary of Death

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, ST. ANDREW

- 8:15 a.m. Leonard "Mooch" Morlan
 (Dan & Sue Wargo)
 6:30 p.m. Ivan & Donna Weber (Jeff & Gail Angeletti)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 8:15 a.m. Ellen Kurek (Louis & Laurene Scala)
 9:00 a.m. Tom & Lois Keplinger (Anne Williams)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 8:15 a.m. Faustina & Lydia Thompson
 (Testa, Kinsman, Erby, & Maiert Families)
 5:00 p.m. Patricia Bryant (Deal Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30 a.m. Pro Populo
 9:00 a.m. Robert Docs (Jane Didonato)
 11:00 a.m. Mary Lou Clark (Agape Prayer Group)

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

"Come, you who are blessed by My Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me."

I hope and pray that your Thanksgiving feast was filled with joy, peace and love! If you were the host, you literally lived the Gospel we hear this weekend. I took this photo last week as our kids celebrated their Thanksgiving feast in the school. Amidst the organized chaos of serving a great number of youth, we experienced joy, excitement and love. Take a look back at your Thanksgiving gathering this year. Was it a similar experience? Did you experience unity and love? Or did you experience discord?



Not all family encounters are filled with joy. That is why around this time of year, I like to pray Eucharistic Prayer II for Reconciliation. I love the line: *"Holy Father, we humbly beseech You to accept us also, together with Your Son, and in this saving banquet graciously to endow us with His very Spirit, who takes away everything that estranges us from one another. May He make Your Church a sign of unity and an instrument of Your peace among all people..."* Do you believe that the power of the Holy Spirit can take away everything that estranges us from one another? God can do this in your life! Sometimes it is simply praying, "Come, Holy Spirit." While we are in the midst of all the holiday gatherings, thank the Lord for all the goodness and peace your family brings. And in those areas that might be divided, pray "Come, Holy Spirit" and give God permission to be an instrument of peace among your family. He is the King of our lives after all!

**Peace and blessings to your family,
 Fr. Jeremy**

P.S. Don't forget to partake in the different prayer opportunities coming to this blessed parish beginning in Advent. Thank you!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9;
 Mk 13:33-37

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PARISH THIS WEEK...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- Prayers for healing after the 11:00 Mass, meet by the St. Anthony statue

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- No School
- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- Young Women's Discernment Group, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (Archangels Room)
- Men's Basketball, 8:30 p.m. (Gym)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- Women's Study Group, 9:00-10:30 a.m. (St. Gerard Room)
- Parish Cluster Confessions, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (St. Paul Parish, Akron)
- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- RCIA, 7:00 p.m. (Holy Family Room)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m. (Church)
- AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m. (Upper Room)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- SVdP Food Pantry Open, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- Youth Choir, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Church)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

- Men's Group, 7:00 a.m. (Holy Family Room)
- First Saturday Devotion, following 8:15 a.m. Mass
- Advent Women's Morning of Reflection, 8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Church & Beatitudes Room)
- Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner, 4:00-7:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- Donut Sunday, following 7:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses (Gym)
- Donuts with Santa, following 9:00 a.m. Mass (Gym)
- Adoration between 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- Boy Scouts, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Gym)
- Youth Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (Upper Room)
- Nine Nights of Night Prayer, 8:15-9:00 p.m. (Church)

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers **Dorothy Herman, Virginia Drew, Chase Smith, Bob Gardner, and Deacon Frank Lonteen**. May the Lord welcome them into His eternal kingdom and console their families.

ADORERS NEEDED

We are in need of an Adorer for the following time:
Thursday, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
If you are able to fill this, please call Joanne at 330-338-4810.

VOCATION CRUCIFIX

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38).

Receiving the Vocation Crucifix and praying for vocations is a beautiful and simple way to ask the Master to send out more laborers for His harvest! Please contact the parish office any time to get your name on the list; there are many slots to be filled – 330-644-2225.

Jan Dodson received the Vocation Crucifix this weekend.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

The collection information from November 18 & 19 will be published in the forthcoming bulletin.
Our parish is blessed by your generosity!

A GIFT TO OUR PARISH

Did you know you can make a gift to our parish using your IRA? If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help our parish and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator or visit catholiccommunity.org/IRA to learn more. Questions? Call Therese in the parish office, 330-644-2225.



**WELCOME TO
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
PARISH**

Are you new to the parish? To register as a new parishioner, give our parish office a call at 330-644-2225, see the priest after Mass, or join us at Donut Sundays to meet with a fellow parishioner.

"BE WHO YOU ARE AND BE THAT WELL."

St. Francis de Sales

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY:

For some, this past Thanksgiving holiday brought to mind many blessings for which they are thankful. Others are too busy dealing with difficulties that life has brought their way to focus on thankfulness. If you or someone you know is struggling with a life crisis such as divorce, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a challenging health concern, or any other life struggle, being paired with a Stephen Minister can offer you the support you need. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders for more information: Ann Clark at aclark2@stfparish.com or Bill Dickey at wdickey@stfparish.com.

HEARING LOOP

St. Francis de Sales Church is equipped with an active Hearing Loop System. This system can enhance your worship experience if you have a hearing aid with an activated tele-coil (T-coil). Please be sure that your hearing aid with an activated tele-coil is on the correct setting. If you are unsure if your hearing aid has a tele-coil, contact your audiologist to inquire. Each section of pews in the main church area has been wired for the hearing loop. The following are tips to maximize the hearing loop experience with an active tele-coil in your hearing aid:

1. Sit toward the front of the pew sections. This ensures proximity to the hearing loop wires; therefore, the signal is stronger.
2. Sit toward the end of the pew closer to the aisle. This additionally ensures you are closer to the hearing loop wires since the hearing loop wires are where the carpet and tile meet.

If you have any questions, please contact Colleen McVicker, Director of Music at the Parish Office, 330-644-2225.



Advent Women's MORNING OF REFLECTION

Women of the parish, reserve your place at this year's Women's Advent Morning of Reflection. Our theme is Holy Eucharist, Bond of Love. Plan now to enter into the season of Advent bonding with The Lord and with women in the parish as we pray together, eat together and adore together. We will gather in the church on Saturday, December 2nd beginning with Mass at 8:15 and end around noon. The morning will include:

- Holy Mass and the Rosary with meditations in the church
- A light breakfast in the Memorare Center
- A presentation on the Holy Eucharist, Bond of Love
- Praise and Worship in the Church
- Adoration and Confession
- Benediction

Please rsvp to the Parish Office (330) 644-2225 no later than November 27th.



Advent

CONFESSIONS

- Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Cluster Communal Penance, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
November 28, St. Paul, Akron
December 5, Nativity, Akron
December 12, Queen of Heaven, Green
December 19, St. Francis, Akron

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
(breaking for Mass)

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday from December 10 through Easter, join us for Night Prayer from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

ADVENT WOMEN'S MORNING OF REFLECTION

Saturday, December 2, 8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon

MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, Vigil – 5:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 24 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

Sunday, December 24, Vigil – 4:00 p.m. (Youth Choir)
6:00 p.m.
Midnight (Choir Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)
Monday, December 25 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Saturday, December 30, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 31 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.
& 11:00 a.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Adoration, 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.; 11:00 p.m.-Midnight,
Praise and Worship with Benediction
Monday, January 1 – 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6, Vigil – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 7 – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL OPPORTUNITIES



NINE NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 8

- Our parish, along with eight others in the diocese, will pray Night Prayer for nine consecutive nights, 8:15-9:00 p.m. After prayer on December 8, come to the Memorare Center for an Ice Cream Social!

SUNDAY ADORATION

- During Advent, between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses, we invite you to spend some time in Adoration! The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from the end of 9:00 a.m. Mass to 10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY NIGHT PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- Every Sunday from December 10 to Easter (except Christmas Eve), come for Night Prayer and Benediction, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

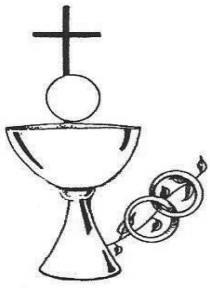
MONDAY PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

- 1:30-2:00 p.m. on December 18, January 22, February 12, & March 18
- Parents and Grandparents are invited to come pray for their students, whether in our parish school, PSR, or homeschool.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER NIGHTS

- Every Thursday night from December 7 to Easter, the following prayer opportunities will be offered:
- 5:55 p.m. Rosary
- 6:30 p.m. Mass
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Half-hour of Adoration & Prayer for Healing (1st Thursday), Priests (2nd Thursday), Families (3rd Thursday), The Protection of Life (4th Thursday).

To find out more about Eucharistic Revival events in our Diocese, visit <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharistic-revival/events>. To learn about the National Eucharistic Revival and find great resources to enrich your faith in the Eucharist, visit <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>.



December 2023



Seminarian Calendar prepared by Parents of Priests—Diocese of Cleveland
 Calendar at: seminarians.parentsofpriests.net
 Priest & Seminarian calendar online at: priests.stpatrick.cc

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Unto Us a Child is Born</i>					1	2
					Sean Homcy Theology I	Alexander Krukemeyer Theology I
3 <i>Pray for All Parish Priests</i>	4 Daniel LaPolla Theology I	5 Billy Reed Theology I	6 Joseph Rohan Theology I	7 Joshua Stecz Theology I	8 Craig Ziobert Theology I	9 Johannes Benninghoff Pre-Theo II
10 <i>Pray for Our Safety Forces</i>	11 Jake Cermak Pre-Theo II	12 Steve Zbiegien Pre-Theo II	13 Gregory Hovan Pre-Theo I	14 William Martzaklis Pre-Theo I	15 John Scantling Pre-Theo I	16 Connor Trout Pre-Theo I
17 <i>Pray for Missionaries</i>	18 Christopher Villarreal Pre-Theo I	19 Samuele Cefaratti	20 Maxwell Giori	21 Jeremy Vinluan	22 Dc. Kevin Bertleff Theology V	23 Dc. Michael Garvin Theology V
24 & 31 <i>Pray for Peace and Goodwill Among All</i>	25 Dc. William Wainio Theology V	26 Ryan Arto Theology IV	27 Christopher Cotone Theology IV	28 Anthony Donatelli Theology IV	29 Jon Hawkins Theology IV	30 Jeff Lindholm Theology IV



★ OFFICIAL ★
 Invite to Spaghetti
 with Santa &
 Boy Scout Troop 215

Please join us for some Christmas Cheer!

St. Francis de Sales School
 4019 Manchester Road
 Saturday, December 2nd
 4:00pm - 7:30pm (last seating)
 Carry-out is Available!

Presale tickets: \$10 adults & \$8 kids (12 and under)
 At the door: \$12 adults & \$10 kids
 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs, Salad,
 Dessert, and Beverage
 (Gluten Free Option available at Presale)

*All funds will go towards the Troop's once
 in a lifetime trip to Philmont Scout
 Ranch, a high adventure base in New
 Mexico. Please join us for dinner with
 Santa and support the St. Francis Boy
 Scout Troop 215!*

SHOP WITH SCRIP AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

When you buy Scrip gift cards, you get your "gift" card at full face value. Our participating retailers donate 4-15% of your purchase to our school and the needs of our students! We have many restaurants and retailers in stock. Acme, Amazon, Best Buy, Bed Bath & Beyond, Bravo, Chipotle, CircleK, Dunkin Donuts, Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Honeymoon Grille, Kohl's, Longhorn, Lowes, Marathon, Olive Garden, Panera, Starbucks, Speedway, Subway, Taco Bell, Target, TJ Maxx/Marshall's/HomeGoods, Walmart/Sam's Club, and many more! Scrip cards can be purchased in the Parish Office.

A UNIQUE PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN AND HEAL YOUR MARRIAGE

Beginning January 26, 2024

The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling frustrated, hurt, distant, or even hopeless.

Retrouvaille, which means "rediscovery," is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and is open to couples of all faiths. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow-up sessions. For more information concerning the program, or to register, visit www.helpourmarriage.org or call Shelly or Rob at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810.

ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Through the Angel Scholarship Fund, you can now contribute funds that will be used to provide tuition assistance for students to attend our school, and you will receive a 100% Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750.00 (single) and \$1,500.00 (married), against your state tax liability. In other words, the state of Ohio allows you to "spend" some of the state income taxes you must pay anyway to provide tuition assistance for students seeking an education in our Catholic schools. The Angel Scholarship Fund is a win-win-win for taxpayer donors, scholarship recipients, and our diocese. If you would like to contribute, see the form on the following page.

WAYSIDE FURNITURE MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

The Peter Maurin Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose focus is to provide assistance and shelter, food and clothing to those who suffer from hunger, addiction and homelessness. Once a year, Wayside Furniture in Akron has an After Thanksgiving Matching Funds Event where if anyone who walks into their store at 1367 Canton Road, Akron, OH 44312 on Saturday, November 25, Sunday, November 26 and Monday, November 27 and drops off a personal check, money order, or cashier's check made out to THE PETER MAURIN CENTER, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100.00 per check, per individual. If the check is for more than \$100.00, they will match the first \$100.00 of that check. If it is under \$100.00, they will match dollar-for-dollar for whatever the amount is on the check. This is such an important opportunity for us with all of the different programs we have: Food Pantry, Hot Meal Dine-in Programs, Street Ministry and Camp Visits for meals and clothing, Toiletry and Clothing Distribution, Emergency Shelter, Bus Pass Program, etc. If anyone is unable to drop off a check, please call or text Karen McNeill, Director of Community Relations at 330-814-4320 or Dave Churbock, PMC Director 330-328-3199 to arrange pick-up. In addition, our St. Francis de Sales St. Vincent de Paul Society was also chosen as a recipient of Wayside's Matching Funds Event. If you wish to write a check for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please indicate in the memo that your donation is for St. Vincent de Paul of St. Francis de Sales, Portage Lakes. Thank you for your consideration.

FRANCE PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES

June 9th-20th, 2024: Fr. Alex Clark will be serving as spiritual director on a pilgrimage to holy sites in France, including Lourdes, Lisieux, Normandy, Chartres, Paris, Ars, and more. The trip depart from Cleveland (CLE) June 9th. Tickets are \$6,379 per person. To learn more about this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the some of the greatest French saints, visit www.pilgrimages.com/travelconnection, and use the login "Saint" and the password "Francis206" to sign in.

September 23-October 4, 2024: Fr. Norm Douglas and Fr. Dominic Gideon will be serving as spiritual directors on a pilgrimage to holy sites including Lourdes, Toulouse, Rocamadour, Paray Le Monial, Nevers, Chartres, Lisieux, Normandy, Mont Saint Michel, and Paris. The trip will be led by Deacon Robin Adair and will depart from Cleveland (CLE) on September 23rd. Find more information and register for the trip at www.206tours.com/deaconadair.



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation

2023 CONTRIBUTION FORM

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023 to be eligible for a 2023 state tax credit.

Donor Information

First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Spouse Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Parish: _____

THANK YOU!

We will share your contact information with the school so they are able to thank you for your support. I wish to remain anonymous

Donation

General Scholarship Fund for
 Schools in Most Need: \$ _____
 School of my choice:
St. Francis de Sales \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Payment Information

I am paying by:
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)
 Credit Card:
 Visa Mastercard Discover AMEX
 Card Number: _____
 Expires: _____ CVV Code: _____
 Signature: _____

U23ASUNK1

Spouse Information (if additional donation)

First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Check if address is the same
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Parish: _____

THANK YOU!

We will share your contact information with the school so they are able to thank you for your support. I wish to remain anonymous

Spouse Donation

General Scholarship Fund for
 Schools in Most Need: \$ _____
 School of my choice:
St. Francis de Sales \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Spouse Payment Information

Check if payment information is the same
 I am paying by:
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)
 Credit Card:
 Visa Mastercard Discover AMEX
 Card Number: _____
 Expires: _____ CVV Code: _____
 Signature: _____

U23ASUNK2

or Monthly Contribution

Would you like to STRETCH your contribution into smaller monthly payments?

Register for monthly contributions at www.catholiccommunity.org/angel, email asinfo@dioceseofcleveland.org
 or call our office for assistance at 216-696-6525 x3670

COMPLETE AND MAIL CONTRIBUTION FORM TO:

Angel Scholarship Fund, Catholic Community Foundation • 1404 East Ninth Street • Cleveland, OH 44114

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE & BAKE SALE

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 1044 Brown Street, Akron 44301 is holding their annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Come peruse a large selection of Christmas decorations, wreaths, and more. You can also buy homemade baked goods and participate in a gift basket raffle.

THE ITE PROJECT

Join The ITE Project on December 9th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Stow (Lower Church Hall) to celebrate St. Juan Diego and create your own Milagros Heart in his honor! ITE will provide a taco bar, a short presentation on milagros (intention and purpose), local artisans to lead the session, and all materials needed for this incredible event! All you need to do is RSVP! For more details, visit our website: <https://www.theiteproject.com/events/milagros>.

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