

# *Epiphany of Our Lord Church*

3050 Walton Rd., Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
Tel: 610-828-8634 ~ [www.epiphanyofourlord.com](http://www.epiphanyofourlord.com)  
~ [eol@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:eol@epiphanyofourlord.com) ~ [bulletin@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:bulletin@epiphanyofourlord.com)

## **Mass Schedule**

### **Saturday Vigil**

5 p.m.

### **Daily**

Monday to Friday

8:30 a.m.

### **Sunday**

8 a.m., 10 a.m.  
and 4 p.m.

### **Holidays**

8:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m.,  
7 p.m.

### **Confessions**

Sunday

2:30 -3:45 p.m... & by appointment

## **Parish Office Hours**

### **Monday-Friday**

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.& by appointment  
Closed for lunch: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday: By appointment only  
Sunday: By appointment only

*A mail slot is located in the front door of the rectory.*

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

# PEACE



©JPPC

**Rev. Thomas D. O'Donald, Pastor**  
[frodonald@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:frodonald@epiphanyofourlord.com)

### **Permanent Deacons**

Michael Pascarella, Jr.  
Emil J. Wernert (Retired)

### **Office Staff**

JoAnn O'Connor, Business Manager  
Constance M. Steuer, Music Director  
Anthony R. Mashaintonio, Facilities Manager  
Gretchen Krawczyk, Communications Coordinator  
Sheila Curristin, New Evangelization Coordinator  
Barbara Ebling, Admin. Assistant/Safe Environment

### **Youth Ministry Staff**

[youth@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:youth@epiphanyofourlord.com); (484) 545-0209  
Kevin Kozeniewski, Youth Minister

### **Religious Education Staff**

[rep@epiphanyrep.com](mailto:rep@epiphanyrep.com); (215) 367-5853  
Linda DiCampli, Coordinator  
Maryann Schieve, Administrative Assistant

### **Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School**

[www.holyrosaryregional.com](http://www.holyrosaryregional.com)  
(610) 825-0160  
3040 Walton Road,  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
[amyporter@holyrosaryregional.com](mailto:amyporter@holyrosaryregional.com)  
Frances Luthy, Principal

## **Parish Activities for the Week**

**Monday, Dec. 9:** PREP at 6:30pm, S

**Tuesday, Dec. 10:** WWP at 9am, RMR; SVdP at 6:30 RMR

**Wednesday, Dec. 11:** Prayer Group at 3:30 pm, RMR; Cub Scouts at 6:30 pm, PC; Choir Rehearsal at 6:45, C;

**Thursday, Dec. 12:** WWP 7pm, PC; Boy Scouts 7pm, UH; Gospel for Men 7pm CM; KofC at 7pm RMR

### **Location Key**

C=Church CM=Convent Meeting Rm S=School PC=Parish Center  
GH=Grady Hall RMR=Rectory Meeting Room L=Parking Lot/Fields  
UH=UFCW Union Hall

## **Parish Activities & Events**

### **Second Collection**

This weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

### **Prayer Group**

Our Parish Prayer Group meets on **Wednesdays** at 3:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room.

### **Men's Gospel Reflection Group**

Our Men's Gospel Reflection Group meetings on **Thursdays** at 7pm in the Convent.

### **Walking with Purpose**

Our women's bible study meets on **Tuesday** mornings at 9am in the Rectory meeting Room and **Thursdays** at 7pm in the Parish Center and the Rectory Meeting Room.

### **Parish Life Committee**

The Parish Life Committee will meet on **Wednesday, Dec. 4** at 7p.m. in the Parish Center.

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

The next St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 10** at 6:30 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room.

### **Knight of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus will meet on **Thursday, Dec. 12** at 7p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. New members welcome.

### **Closing Early**

The Rectory and the Adoration Chapel will close at noon on **Friday, Dec. 13**.

### **Nourish for Caregivers**

Time to celebrate Christmas. Nourish for Caregivers will have their Christmas party on **Wednesday, Dec. 18** at 1:30 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima in North Wales.

## **From Father:**

Advent is a season of waiting, of lifting our hearts and souls to God with the hope that His presence will transform our lives. From early times, the Church's liturgy has beautifully expressed this longing in the words of Psalm 24: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust." These words capture the boundless anticipation of Israel, but they also invite us into the same spirit of hope and trust today.

Reflecting on this psalm, I was reminded of a powerful insight shared by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI). He noted how we often neglect the great adventures that lead us into the depths of our own souls. While humanity has mapped the physical world in remarkable detail, our inner selves often remain uncharted territory. Yet, it is within this interior journey that we can encounter the greatest discoveries.

Ratzinger uses Julien Green, a French writer who chronicled his conversion to the Catholic faith, to illustrate this beautifully. In his youth, Green was consumed by worldly pleasures and resisted the call of faith. Yet, despite his resistance, he found himself drawn to churches, quietly hoping for a miracle to liberate him. While no instant miracle occurred, he described sensing a mysterious presence that offered warmth and hope—a presence he would come to recognize as God.

Green's journey was not without struggle. Like many today, he sought liberation through self-reliance or the novelty of exotic spiritualities, but these paths left him unfulfilled. His true awakening came unexpectedly, during a Hebrew lesson with a rabbi. In his study Green felt as though the words of the prophets were calling him home. He realized, "I was Israel, whom God was entreating to come home." He saw himself reflected in the words of Isaiah: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know..." (Is 1:3). This profound recognition led him to embrace the faith he had long resisted.

Advent invites us to lift our souls to God, not as a routine or "hackneyed phrase," but as a daring act of trust and hope. It challenges us to recognize the restless longing within us for true freedom, a longing that no modern lifestyle or fleeting pleasure can satisfy. Advent is not about instant miracles or dramatic revelations. Rather, it is about God patiently knocking at the door of our hearts, waiting for us to respond.

In the quiet moments of Advent, we are called to confront the reality that, like Israel, we often fail to recognize our true source of hope and belonging. Yet, when we lower our pride and lift our souls to God, we open ourselves to His transformative presence. This presence does not impose itself but gently penetrates the tangled complexities of our lives, leading us step by step toward true freedom.

As we begin this holy season, let us allow Advent to awaken within us a renewed sense of wonder and anticipation. May we take the risk of stepping forward in faith, trusting in the God who patiently waits for us, whose presence alone can make us free.

**Oremus pro invicem,  
Father O'Donald**

# SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

# PEACE



*Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and the second coming of Christ.*

*It marks the beginning of the Catholic Church's liturgical year.*

*The word "Advent" comes from the Latin phrase ad-venire, which means "to come to".*

**8**

## The Second Sunday of Advent

On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.

**9**

This year, the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception* is observed today. Attend Mass and pray the Rosary, if possible.

**10**

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

**11**

In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the **peace** of the Lord at Christmas.

**12**

Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God's unfailing love encompasses all of us, regardless of immigration status, race, nationality, and all other differences.

**14**

"We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope."

-Pope Francis, Jubilee Bull of Indiction, no. 7

**13**

On this Memorial of Saint Lucy, patron saint of persons who are blind, consider ways that your parish, community, and other groups can become more welcoming to persons with disabilities.





Come for the Donuts & Coffee  
Stay for the company!



Second Sunday Social



8 December, after 10:00am mass (~10:45am)  
in Church Vestibule hosted by  
our Parish Life Committee



## Pancake Breakfast

in GRADY HALL



SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 15

8:30 am - 12:00 pm



Funds raised will support our parish  
Knights of Columbus  
charity activities

Please support the Knights of Columbus by  
attending the breakfast and enjoying good food  
and good company.

Cost is \$8/person or \$20/family.

Menu includes all you can eat pancakes, bacon,  
sausage, juice, coffee, desserts and more.

Tickets will be available at the door.

### Low Gluten Hosts

For our parishioners or visitors who  
are in need of a low gluten host, please  
use Father O'Donald's, or guest cele-  
brant's line for communion. They will  
have a separate pyx of consecrated  
low gluten hosts.

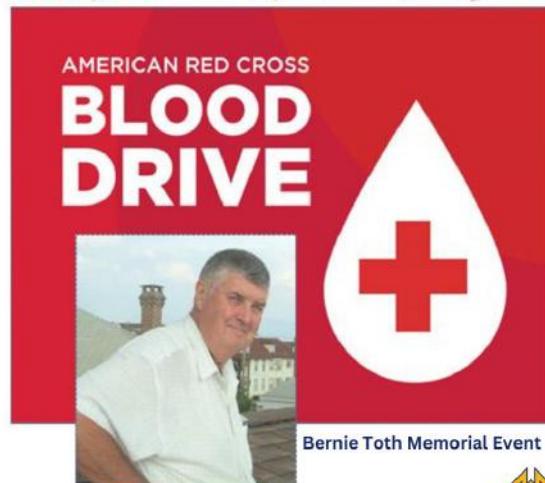


### The Immaculate Conception

Since December 8, 2024 is the  
Second Sunday of Advent, the So-  
lemnity of the Immaculate Concep-  
tion of the Blessed Virgin Mary is  
transferred to **Monday, December  
9**. Mass is at 8:30 am. The obligation  
to attend Mass, however, does not  
transfer.

**Monday, December 23**

**12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Grady Hall**



Bernie Toth Memorial Event

Walk-ins welcome or sign-up to reserve  
a time spot at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH, 3050 WALTON ROAD, PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462



## FRANCE

Lisieux Holy Year 2025:

Centenary of the Canonization Of Saint Thérèse Of Lisieux &  
10th Canonization Anniversary Of Her Parents  
Saint Louis and Zélie Martin

A PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. O'DONALD AND CLOVERDALE TRAVEL



OCTOBER 12-25 2025

ITINERARY: PARIS – ROUEN – LISIEUX – NORMANDY BEACHES –  
MONT-SAINT-MICHEL PARIS – PARIS

Full trip details will be available shortly;  
in the meantime, Fr. O'Donald is happy to answer your questions.



# Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School

## School News



### Holy Rosary 8th Grade Class of 2025 Christmas Poinsettia Sale



Pick-up for pre-orders will be at Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School during the Annual Craft Show on **Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday Dec 8.**

We will also be selling plants at Holy Rosary's Annual Craft Show and after Sunday Masses on **Sunday, Dec. 8** in the church vestibule. *Poinsettias are available in pink, red, or white, \$12 per plant or 2/\$22.*

### **CRAFT SHOW:**

Holy Rosary's annual craft show! You haven't experienced a craft show until you visit ours!

**Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9am—4pm  
Sunday, Dec. 8 from 8am—2pm**

There will be a variety of handmade items from approximately 100 vendors. Enjoy breakfast or lunch from our kitchen and a cocktail from our Sip and Shop! We hope to see you there!

Please see our website for more information:  
[www.holyrosaryregional.com](http://www.holyrosaryregional.com) or contact  
[hrcraftfair@gmail.com](mailto:hrcraftfair@gmail.com)  
[hasa@holyrosaryregional.com](mailto:hasa@holyrosaryregional.com)



### **WINTER COAT & ACCESSORY DRIVE**

Too many coats and winter accessories like hats, gloves, mittens, socks, boots, scarves taking up too much room in your closet? Start that winter cleanup now and prepare them for our new or gently used/ clean, **Coat and Winter Accessories Drive**. Drop off at school between Dec. 1—19 between 8:14 a.m. and 2:40 p.m.

*Thank you for your support!*



The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **Keep Christ in Christmas** poster contest for Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School. All posters will be on display at the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, Dec. 15.**

### **EOL Youth Ministry Christmas Party**

**Sunday, Dec. 15  
7:00-8:30 pm  
In the Parish Center**

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL  
[Youth@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto>Youth@epiphanyofourlord.com)



# GAUDEAMUS

*Please join us for a Joyful  
Candlelight Christmas Concert  
Featuring Sacred, Classical and  
Traditional Music of the Season*

*Epiphany of Our Lord Church*

*December 15, 2024  
7:00 PM*

This concert is free and open to the public

A free-will donation will benefit 'A Room for Vera' at  
the Ronald McDonald House, Philadelphia Region



 IGNITE FEED SPREAD

## Las Posadas



Are you familiar with this Advent devotion that originated in Mexico but is now celebrated in many countries including the USA? Some ministry members from our St Vincent de Paul Society are joyfully doing it together for this first time this year!!!

Las Posadas are traditional devotional celebrations during the 9 days leading up to Christmas. They remind us of the hard journey that Mary & Joseph took and how they sought welcoming shelter; Las Posadas include seeking lodging on that symbolic Nazareth-Bethlehem road. Pope Sixtus V allowed Friar Diego Soria to hold 9 extra masses (symbolic of Mary's 9 pregnancy months) in the days before Christmas to facilitate conversions of the Aztecs.

During the 18th century it became popular for communities to host Las Posadas in their homes.

The Truth &amp; Beauty &amp; Goodness of God

New Evangelization Apostolate

## *Family Tree Lighting and Nativity*

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

After 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

\* Meet & Greet Santa

\* Cookies &  
Hot Chocolate

\* Christmas  
Carols



## **2025 Calendars**

The Epiphany of Our Lord 2025 Living Saints Calendar are available. Look for them in baskets at the church doors. Please note there are a limited amount of calendars available.

# *Christmas Schedule*

## *Confessions*

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7-8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

## *Masses*

### *The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*

*Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24*

*Vigil Masses: 4 & 9 p.m.*

*Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25*

*8 & 10 a.m.*

## **Lighthouse Kiosk**

As the Christmas season approaches, be sure to check out our kiosk for great gifts for all ages and on a variety of topics. All materials are available for a free-will offering.



C H R I S T M A S  
*Giving Tree*

The Giving Tree will be on display in the church vestibule beginning the weekend of **Nov. 30/Dec. 1**. The tags on the tree will be gifts for Project H.O.M.E's After School program in North Philadelphia and gift cards for clients of Project H.O.M.E. The After School program gifts should be placed in gift bags with the tag attached. The gift cards should be placed in small gift bags with the tag attached.

All gifts should be placed under the tree no later than **Sunday, Dec. 15** at the 10 AM Mass. Any questions, please contact Kathy at 610-279-3504.

## A Big Thank You!

Our Turkey Drive this year was an incredible success. We delivered 287 turkeys and meals to feed 1,148 neighbors in need.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year- handing out the flyers, sending checks, donating food, collecting the food, sorting the food and for waking up early to load the trucks to deliver the meals!

*You all are a blessing to our community. May God bless you!*



# Thank You!

# Gospel Reflection for Men

7:00 pm Thursdays

in the former convent/future parish center building next to Grady Hall, use front door

## Unleash the Power of Faith, Friendship, and Virtue

- Focus is on the weekly Sunday Gospel readings; this is different from a Bible study. The leader facilitates a discussion recognizing Christ's presence in our everyday life journey
- Reflection prayer booklets and weekly worksheets are provided
- Email: gospelreflectiongroup@epiphanyofourlord.com



The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
the righteous man runs into it and is safe.  
**Proverbs 18:10**

**Martha's**  
Choice Marketplace & Community Farm  
Catholic Social Services

## ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

WHAT WE NEED....

Drop off 353 E. Johnson Hwy., Norristown from Tue.-Fri, 9am– 1pm, Dec. 2-20



- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Canned Ravioli
- Canned Vegetables
- Cooking Oil
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti/Pasta
- Granola Bars
- Nutritional Drinks
- Toothpaste/brushes
- Diapers, sizes 4-6
- Wipes
- Feminine Products

Please, no glass jars. Thank you

We are excited to announce our Advent Food Drive, where we come together as a community to make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity.



# Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

For more information about Epiphany's Walking with Purpose Bible study for women, contact [wwp@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:wwp@epiphanyofourlord.com)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Our Policy is to keep you safe when the weather causes hazardous conditions for travel. Your safety is our concern. Our clergy, staff and members will work with you to reschedule important meetings.

## CLOSING INFORMATION

- Our parish follows the lead of the Colonial School District with regard to weekday Mass and the delayed opening/closing of the parish office due to inclement weather.
- When Colonial has a two-hour delay, or closes, our 8:30 a.m. weekday Mass will be cancelled, and the Mass intention will be celebrated privately by the priest.
- In the event of a Colonial School District two-hour delay, the parish office and chapel will open two hours late.
- If Colonial is closed, the parish office and chapel are closed. Scheduled meetings will be canceled unless otherwise notified.
- If you have questions or need help rescheduling appointments or meetings you can call the parish office when we return. Or if it's an emergency, please call Father O'Donald.



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## Weekly Tithing Report—November 24, 2024

**Sunday In-Pew Collections:** \$8,184

**Sunday Mailed in Envelopes:** \$1,313

**Sunday E-Giving:** \$1,678

**TOTAL:** \$11,175

## 2024 Stewardship Appeal

*Thank you for the incredible kindness and generosity you've shown to Epiphany of Our Lord Parish.*

*For those who have not yet responded to our Fall Stewardship Appeal, I ask you to prayerfully reflect on the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to you. A follow-up letter will be sent to you as a gentle reminder to review with your family and prayerfully consider your commitment to our parish's mission.*

*Your continued support helps sustain the ministries and services that make a difference in our community.*

*Thank you for your generosity & prayerful consideration.*



## Poor Boxes

Contributions made to the Poor Boxes located at the church entrances are given to the **Saint Vincent de Paul Society** and directly help those in need in our community of Plymouth Meeting.

*Thank you for your support!*

## Need Assistance?

Are you, or is someone you know in our community, in need of assistance? Our **St. Vincent de Paul Society** may be able to help! We encourage you to call or email us. All requests are kept in the strictest of confidence. Phone: 267- 627-4436 Email: eolsvdp@gmail.com

## LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance program helps Pennsylvanians living on low incomes pay their home heating bills in the form of a cash grant provided to their utility company. This heating assistance will begin on **November 4, 2024 and end on April 4, 2025**. These grants range between \$300 and \$1,000. If you are interested in more information, contact our Saint Vincent de Paul Society at 267-627-4436.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Wednesday, December 11**

8:30 a.m.

*Ray Marcil*

**Thursday, December 12**

8:30 a.m.

*Paul, Rosaria & Karen Colletti*

**Tuesday, December 10**

8:30 a.m.

*Ann E. O'Neill-Melamed*

**Friday, December 13**

8:30 a.m.

*Ann Griffith*



*Adoration Chapel Votive Candles are Dedicated for:*

*Anthony Vigna*

## Please Pray for the Sick

Parishioners listed in bold.

Lenn Catley

**Frank Campolongo**

John Cogan

Lisa Connally

Marie DiDomizio

Donna Jenkins

**Patrick J. Kenney**

Harry Morrione

**Gary Warecky**

**Carol Campolongo**

**Geraldine Connor**

Kinleigh Connally

Michael Cross

Linda Hernandez

**Fr. James Kelly**

Connor McDevitt

Barbara Pearce

*Contact the Parish Office to update the list.*



## Baptism

*We welcome to our parish family*

*Emma Julianne Stremmel*

*Baptized on December 1, 2024*

## Please Remember in Prayer

*Therese Kueny  
who passed*

*November 2, 2024*

*Wife of Joseph*

*Mother of Jacqueline & Joe*



## Pregnancy Hotline

Pregnant and need help? Call or text the hotline at (610) 626-4006 or text (484) 451-8104, 24/7, for assistance with pro-life options, supportive counseling and other resources.

## Spiritual Support for Addiction

If you or someone you love is seeking spiritual support on the road to recovery from addiction, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia invites you to visit [archphila.org/hope](http://archphila.org/hope) for information on events and resources.



**Martha's**

Choice Marketplace & Community Farm

Catholic Social Services

Martha's Choice Marketplace, a part of Catholic Social Services, operates a food pantry on Johnson Highway in Norristown. Food and personal care items are distributed to those in our area who are in need.

In December we are in need of...

**Diapers, all sizes needed, except for newborn,  
Ensure Protein drinks, feminine products  
And canned chicken, tuna and beef**

There is a bin in the back of church to leave your donations. No glass jars or expired food can be accepted. Thank you!



#### ESTATE PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION and FAMILY LAW

Marybeth O'Connor Lauria, Esquire



[www.lauria-law.com](http://www.lauria-law.com)

Brandon J. Lauria, Esquire



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**Cindy O'Neal**

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#### Parish Office Requests

To register in the parish, arrange for a baptism, or request a Certificate of Eligibility for sponsorship at Baptism or Confirmation, contact the Parish Office during office hours at [eol@epiphanyofourlord.com](mailto:eol@epiphanyofourlord.com).

Also, please advise our office staff of any change of address, telephone number or family status.

#### Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the sick is by request. Please notify the Parish Office as soon as possible when any parishioner becomes seriously ill or is admitted to the hospital.

#### Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays upon request. Both first-time parents need to attend a Pre-Jordan class, which is held the first Wednesday of every month.

Pre-Registration for the class is required by contacting the Parish Office. Sponsors not from Epiphany are required to submit a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish two weeks prior to the Baptism.

#### Matrimony

Notify the Parish Office of your intention to marry at least six months before the date of the wedding to assure sufficient preparation and to arrange for Pre-Cana sessions.

#### Holy Communion for the Sick and Homebound

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring Communion to the sick and homebound. Call the Parish Office at (610) 828-8634 to provide the office staff with the name, address and phone number of the sick or homebound parishioner.



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October 5, 2024  
October 26, 2024

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