

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION: 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— Father John Muir

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**August 24, 2025**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Apostles Pastorate**

**Fr. Thomas Clement, Pastor**  
605-337-3710  
Email Address:  
frthomasclement@sfcatholic.org

**Fr. Jim Friedrich, Parochial Vicar**  
384-5518 or 605-933-9042  
Email Address:  
frjimfriedrich@sfcatholic.org  
Parish Office: 384-5518  
Email Address:  
wagner@holypostlessd.org

**Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB**  
**Director of Discipleship & Evangelization**  
605-760-5295  
mwentzlaff@yanktonbenedictines.org

**Marty Royston, Facilities Manager**  
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**Bailee Mogck, Business Manager**  
parkston@holypostlessd.org

**JoNell DeHaan,**  
**Administrative Assistant/Communications**  
office@holypostlessd.org

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
107 High Avenue SW (PO BOX 637), Wagner

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Catholic Church**  
416 Haines Street, Dante

**St. Paul Catholic Church**  
102 Church DR (PO Box 266), Marty

**Connect with all 9 parishes within Holy Apostles Pastorate**  
**by visiting [holypostlessd.org](http://holypostlessd.org).**  
**Here you will find Mass times, bulletins, a calendar of events,**  
**faith formation information & more!**

**Check out Holy Apostles Pastorate on**  
**Facebook and Instagram!**



#### **St. John's Parish** **Contact Information**

Rectory/Basement Kitchen 384-5518  
CCD Center 384-5157  
Bulletin:  
Theresa Koupal 481-1565  
dkoupal@hcinet.net  
Prayer Chain:  
Dorothy Holzbauer 491-2699  
Parish Website: <https://stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.weebly.com/>



#### **St. Paul Parish** **Contact Information:**

*Catholic Mission*  
*of the*  
*Yankton Sioux People*

St. Sylvester Convent 384-3305  
Sister Miriam 384-3234  
Prayer Chain  
Alice Cournoyer 491-2453  
Kateri Circle/Judy Pena 469-5755  
Life/Rhonda Kuhlman 384-4257  
Faith Formation  
Cathy Kreeger 384-3234  
Amy Doom 469-5797



#### **Assumption Parish** **Contact Information:**

Rectory 384-5518  
Church/CCD Center 384-5155  
Bulletin:  
Danielle Krcil 491-2202  
daniellekrcil@gmail.com  
Prayer Chain:  
Cindy Krcil 384-3585  
Marilee Krcil 286-3907

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

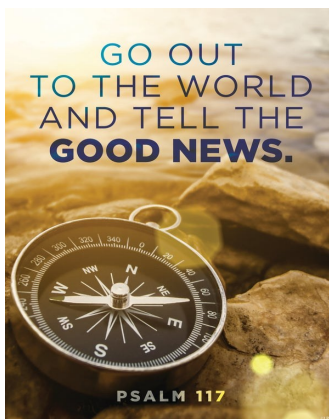
I've been hearing on the 10pm news of the Sioux Falls boys in the world softball competition and the joy of meeting boys from all around the world. Likewise, how encouraging and edifying for us to be in touch with amazing Christians from near and far. They are there at Mass or in parish groups, in Bishop's Bulletin and Catholic radio, in Scripture and lives of the saints. Jesus today speaks of those from the east and the west, the north and the south; the prophet Isaiah today speaks of gentiles of "all the nations" being an offering to the Lord "in clean vessels", even as priests and Levites - a stunning thing to Isaiah's first Jewish readers! This is the 'cloud of witnesses'; it can inspire us to really 'step up our

game' to be of their company, forever!

Many rightly pray for children or family members 'absent from the assembly' (Hebrews 10:25); this Wed (an 8:30am Mass) is the feast of St. Monica whose years of prayers bore the fruit of her son Augustine's return to the faith, even to being a saint. Our monthly "Mercy Hour" (adoration/confessions/usually song) is this Sunday and the CDofA hosts the Fellowship Feast at UMC on Thursday. We have a Tuesday Mass at Dante; in Marty the steeple repairs are going well. Be reminded that the monthly Mass (this Monday) at Grey Eagle is always open to all. For those unable to come to Mass, please let me know to contact them about bringing Holy Communion

as well as the monthly Scripture book, bulletins, and the presence of the parish to them.

Peace,  
Fr. Jim



#### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, August 26**  
5:00 p.m. - Assumption  
**Friday, August 29**  
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's  
**Saturday, August 30**  
4:30 p.m. - St. John's  
**Sunday, August 31**  
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

#### THIS WEEK ON FORMED: AUGUST 24

- ◆ *The Confessions of St. Augustine: Littlest Saints*
- ◆ *Feast of St. Monica: Catholic Saints*
- ◆ *The Confessions of St. Augustine*

Please keep the following in your thoughts & prayers: Mary Hurd, Rick Hurd, Brenda George, Joe Nedved, Keith Kuca, Sylvia Beeson, Jay Swatek. Contact Theresa Koupal if you would like a name added to the list. Names of those on the list are also added to the daily Rosary intention list at St. John's.



#### SAINT MONICA: HOLINESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Raising faithful children is no easy task. For St. Monica, it seemed nearly impossible. Her husband wasn't Christian and often mocked her faith. Their son, Augustine, fell quickly into wild ways. He and his friends drank, stole, and caroused throughout town. Monica never stopped praying for Augustine, no matter how far he strayed. Augustine became swept up in heresy, a false form of Christianity. He lived with a mistress and had a child out of wedlock. All the while, Monica kept praying. Conversion came slowly to Augustine, but at age 32, he was finally baptized. Augustine would go on to become a priest, then bishop, then world-renowned theologian whose works have stood the test of time. May St. Monica and St. Augustine inspire us to never stop praying for our loved ones.

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#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, September 2  
7:00 p.m.  
St. John's Church Basement

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	August 25	Monday of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time/ St. Louis/St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest	5:00 p.m. - Grey Eagle Apts.	Linda Zephier †
Tuesday	August 26	Tuesday of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - Assumption	Clara Kafka †
Wednesday	August 27	Memorial of Saint Monica	8:30 a.m. - St. John's	Don & Bonnie Novak †
Thursday	August 28	Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	NO MASS	.....
Friday	August 29	Memorial of the Passion of John the Baptist	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	David Pettit †
Saturday	August 30	Vigil of the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Janelle Novak †
Sunday	August 31	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Living & Deceased of FCCLA Elden Ridgeway

#### HELD: GRIEF THROUGH GRACE

This eight-week grief series will begin Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 6-8 p.m. at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in Sioux Falls. The series will blend education and faith surrounding the loss of a loved one through death. Each session will allow for small group discussion according to your particular loss (loss of a child, spouse, parent, sibling). Registration is required. Free-will donations accepted. Register online at [thelourdescenter.com](http://thelourdescenter.com) or call (605) 988-3775 for more information

#### 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BISHOP'S CHARITY HUNT

Monday & Tuesday, September 15-16  
Horseshoe K Lodge, Kimball

The event includes guided hunt with transportation, breakfasts & dinners on Sunday & Monday, on Monday & Tuesday, social on Sunday & Monday with open bar/unlimited heavy appetizers, one (1) night lodging, trap shoot, lunch in the field, bird cleaning, Mass with Bishop DeGrood.. To register or become a sponsor, please visit <https://ccfesd.org/events/bishops-charity-hunt/> Proceeds benefit Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in our Diocese.

#### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our local food pantries are in need of donations of non-perishable food items as well as personal care items (body wash, shampoo, laundry detergent). Parishioners of all parishes are asked to leave their donations in the containers in the entryways of their churches. The ROCS Community Closet is also in need of children's and men's clothes. Clothes can be dropped off at the Community Closet. Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations to this worthy cause!

#### RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual South Dakota Right to Life convention will be held September 26-27 at Faith Evangelical Lutheran church in Pierre. There is also a youth event on Saturday, September 27 for middle school and high school students. Register at [sdrighttolife.org](http://sdrighttolife.org).

#### BROOM TREE DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

September 16 – "Devotion to the Holy Face," directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer; October 14 – "Pro Sanctity: Holiness in Everyday Life," directed by Jackie Sempek; November 11 – TBD, directed by Dr. Chris Burgwald; December 9 – TBD, directed by Fr. Tom Anderson. This one-day retreat, directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer, begins with a conference in the morning followed by Mass. Lunch is served at noon. After lunch, there is a Holy Hour with the opportunity for Confession followed by a second and final conference. The value of the retreat is \$50. We ask each retreatant to prayerfully discern and make a donation to cover the retreat costs. Any amount given above the value helps to cover the cost for those unable to make the full donation.



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**"Serve the Lord  
with gladness"**  
- Psalm 100:2

**Saturday,  
August 30  
5:30 p.m. -  
St. John's**

**Sunday,  
August 31  
9:00 a.m. -  
Assumption**

**Sunday,  
August 31  
11:00 a.m. -  
St. Paul's**

<b>EM</b>	Mieke Slaba/ Don Koupal	Joe Sees	Tana
<b>Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions</b>	Kim Soukup	Joe Sees	Georgia/ Amy/ Sr. Pat
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Cooper Slaba/ Jaylee Kafka/ Avie Slaba	Easton Sees/ Hudson Sees	Kalea/ Emma
<b>Music</b>	Lisa Cihak	Bernie Koupal	
<b>Ushers</b>	Gene Niehus/ Jarred Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Richard Nedved	Bud Koupal/ Derek Koupal	Bennett/ Briggs
<b>Greeters</b>	Jay and Kim Kafka		Sr. Joan
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Jenni Soukup Family	Derek Koupal Family	Tim & Taya S.
<b>Rosary</b>	Don & Theresa Koupal		
<b>Sacristan</b>	Don Koupal		
<b>Collection Counters</b>	Ray Soukup/ Peggy Eggers	Josie Rezac/ Lynn Stather	Dave/ Jason

## LOOKING AHEAD Monday, August 25

Daily Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments  
Mass at 5:00 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments

## Tuesday, August 26

Confessions at 5:00 p.m. at Assumption  
Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Assumption  
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

## Wednesday, August 27

Morning Prayer at 8:10 a.m. at St. John's  
Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following

## Thursday, August 28

NO MASS

Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

## Friday, August 29

Mass at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's  
Adoration & Confessions at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's  
Benediction at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's  
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

## Saturday, August 30

Confessions at 4:30 p.m. at St. John's  
Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's  
Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

## Sunday, August 31

Confessions at 8:15 AM at Assumption  
Mass at 9:00 AM at Assumption  
Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's



## BASILICA VS. CATHEDRAL

### Question:

What is the difference between a basilica and a cathedral?

### Answer:

Basilicas are churches that are so titled because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance, or significance as centers of worship. A cathedral is the principal church of a diocese, which contains the chair of the bishop, or "cathedra" in Latin. The chair is the symbol of the bishop's teaching authority.

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### ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00  
August 15 & 16 \$1364.00  
**Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amount was also received:**  
Stole Fee \$ 300.00

### SEPTEMBER POTLUCK SUPPER

Saturday, September 6  
6:30 p.m. (After 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. John's)  
St. John's Church Basement  
Please join us for great food and fellowship!

### ST. JOHN'S MY PARISH APP

St. John's parishioners who have smartphones or tablets are encouraged to use the My Parish app, which comes to all parishioners FREE because the Altar Society has paid for the subscription. To download the app, simply text App to 55321. This will give you access to Mass times, the weekly bulletin, daily readings, favorite prayers and much more! We would like to use My Parish app groups to relay information regarding schedule changes, the prayer chain, funeral committee, and other parish groups. Contact Theresa Koupal if you have questions or need help downloading the app

### ST. PAUL'S MY PARISH APP

St. Paul's parishioners who have smart phones or tablets are encouraged to use the My Parish app, which comes to parishioners FREE. To download the app, simply text App to 55321. This will give you access to Mass changes, faith formation updates, and the ministry assignment list. Please pick up the cards that contain download information - the cards can be picked up in the church entryway.



### NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE



The Notre Dame Football Experience offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fans of Notre Dame Football to travel to South Bend, Indiana, and attend a Notre Dame Football game in person. There are two chances to win—each offering an incredible experience! Both packages are nearly identical and include:

- Round-trip flights on a private jet for four guests
- Four game tickets with seats on or near the 50-yard line
- Exclusive tailgating at the stadium
- A private guided tour of the Notre Dame campus
- All meals and beverages provided throughout the day

The drawing will be held on September 11 (you do not need to be present to win). A similar package will be auctioned off. To purchase a raffle ticket or learn more about the auction, call 605-988-3701 or visit [www.ccfesd.org](http://www.ccfesd.org). Proceeds benefit the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

### Happy Birthday to these Assumption parishioners who will celebrate birthdays this week:

August 25: Ann Rysavy, Ernest Rezac, Ali Kuca, Megan Soukup; August 28: Lane Koupal; August 29: Don Kotab, Marcella Rezac, Augustus Krcil.

### Happy Anniversary to these Assumption couples who will celebrate birthdays this week:

August 27: Dan & Kelly Cimply; August 30: Stacey & Christi Frank.



### TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Teachers and volunteers needed to help with the CCD program at Assumption Parish. Contact Norma Beeson 605-491-2961 for details.

### 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BISHOP'S CHARITY HUNT

Monday & Tuesday, September 15-16  
Horseshoe K Lodge, Kimball

The event includes guided hunt with transportation, breakfasts & dinners on Sunday & Monday, on Monday & Tuesday, social on Sunday & Monday with open bar/unlimited heavy appetizers, one (1) night lodging, trap shoot, lunch in the field, bird cleaning, Mass with Bishop DeGrood. To register or become a sponsor, please visit <https://ccfesd.org/events/bishops-charity-hunt/>. Proceeds benefit Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in our Diocese.

### PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LABOR

Dear Lord, Please bless and protect the men and women whose work contributes to the labor force and supports families and those in need. Give them strength when they face challenges, grace in times of stress, and renewal as they rest. Amen.

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# FAMILY FUN DAY

### SAVE THE DATE!!

St. John's Family Fun Day  
Sunday, September 28  
St. John's Catholic Church  
Food - Games - Music - Fun!  
Watch future bulletins for more information!



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

### PLEASE NOTE!

The Wagner-Dante Catholic Daughters will serve the Fellowship Meal at the Methodist Church on Thursday, August 28. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

### DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are prayers and meditations developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (commonly referred to as the Jesuits).

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1492-1556) was born to a noble Basque family. In his youth, he spent time at the Royal Court of Castile and fought in the Spanish army. He experienced a profound religious conversion during a long period of convalescence following a battle injury. Living in a cave outside of Manresa, he began to keep the journal that became the basis of the famous Spiritual Exercises.

The Spiritual Exercises are meant to accompany souls on a journey toward deeper contemplation of God's love and a more meaningful understanding of his call to discipleship in the life of each person. Divided into four stages, or "weeks," the exercises focus on the interior movements of the heart to unveil the will of God

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### WEEKLY READINGS: WEEK OF AUGUST 24

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30  
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22  
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26  
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32  
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51  
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29  
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

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### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS GET TO KNOW JESUS

When I speak and write, I mention my family quite often. Those of you who have been reading these reflections for the past 5+ years — or who have read my books — may think you know them. When I travel, I do get asked about my family by those who have entered my life through the words on a page. My hope is that by sharing stories about my family and life the reader gets a chance to see himself or herself in the story as well. Then the point being made in the article or reflection can take on stronger meaning because it hits home. However, no matter how much I write about my family and how much you read about them, you will only have a glimpse as to the real people. It will take an actual relationship with one of them to get you to the point where you can say you know them.

That is the same way with Jesus. First, more Catholics need to read more and learn more about Jesus. Bible studies should be the norm and not the exception in our lives. Second, too many of us in the Church can explain who Jesus is from our past formation classes and reading, but we do not actually know him. Jesus is not a topic, a theological term, or simply a historical figure. He is a real being who is alive! He is not dead, but alive! He calls us to do more than read about him. He calls us into an intimate relationship with him. We grow in relationship with Jesus by worshipping at the Mass, spending time with him in adoration, resting in him in the quiet, and by having the Jesus in us meet the Jesus in others. If you do not know him personally, get to know him. I would love for you all to meet my family in person someday, but I would much rather you get to know Jesus instead.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### Women's Silent Retreat "Encountering the Father's Love October 16-19, 2025

When: October 16-19, 2025

Where: Abbey of the Hills Inn & Retreat Center

Cost: \$435 - \$385 due at the time of retreat/ \$50 non-refundable deposit solidifies your spot!

The cost includes all meals and lodging. For further information regarding this event or for the link to register please visit <https://form.jotform.com/251588936520162>. Deposit can be submitted via PayPal, Venmo or by check. By PayPal: [missionaryofmercy@gmail.com](mailto:missionaryofmercy@gmail.com), by Venmo: @musicianlover, or by check: Please email me for address to send the check. Opportunities for Mass, Confession, Conferences, Adoration, Rest, Spiritual Direction and more!

### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE: HEAVEN & REGINA GEORGE By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie Mean Girls, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

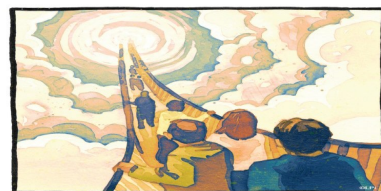
Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice.

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### PRAYER FOR HOLINESS

Good Shepherd, Guide me through the narrow gate. Remove from me anything that distracts me from You, Your love, Your invitation, Your mission. Keep me close to You, familiar at every step. Amen.

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