



Holy Trinity Catholic Church Historic St. Patrick Catholic Church



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



February 22, 2026

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Feb. 21	St. Peter, Damian Bishop & Doctor
HT 4:00PM	†Andrew Lenart (The Rickersons)
HSP 5:00PM	†Paula Wallace (Edie Gerdzen)
Sunday, Feb. 22	First Sunday of Lent
HSP 8:00AM	For the People of HT & HSP
HT 10:00AM	†Mary & Joseph Fitchorn (Anina & Thomas Engelhorn)
Monday, Feb. 23	St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
HT 8:00AM	†Joe & Bea Tomlianovich (Michael & Mary Kurka)
Tuesday, Feb. 24	
HSP 5:15PM	†Jim & Judy Carmany (Cynthia Starkey)
Wednesday, Feb. 25	
HT 8:00AM	†George R. Flynn (Katie & Mike Pizzamiglio)
Thursday, Feb. 26	
HSP 5:15PM	†Connie Ley (Dom & Kathleen Lipka)
Friday, Feb. 27	St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor
HT 8:00AM	†Carol Ann Hundman (John & Kathy Wieland)
Saturday, Feb. 28	St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
HT 4:00PM	For the People of HT & HSP
HSP 5:00PM	†Dolores Richardson (Phillip & Kathryn French)
Sunday, Mar. 1	Second Sunday Of Lent
HSP 8:00AM	†Elmo Quinn (Brendan & Gretchen Lee)
HT 10:00AM	†Roger Frey (Marilyn Kammler)

From the Pastor

At Mundelein Seminary for Studies

Bishop Tylka has asked me to take up a session of specialized studies at Mundelein Seminary from February 23 to March 5. Other priests from around the country will also participate. Mundelein is the seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and it is where our own Peoria seminarians attend. While I am away, Fr. Bo Schmitt – with a bit of help from Fr. Rogers Byambassa – will take on the pastoral care.

Pope Leo XIV on Education

Pope Leo XIV wrote a brief apostolic letter, "Drawing New Maps of Hope", on the 60th anniversary of "Gravissimum educationis", a Second Vatican Council document about education. True education includes God, genuine friendship, real happiness, via morally upright living and the path to Heaven. Conversely, reducing education to mere functional training – to become an efficient worker for corporate America – is the recipe for a stunted and frustrated human being. Here are excerpts from Pope Leo's letter:

The document warns against reducing education to functional training or an economic tool: a person is not a "skills profile", cannot be reduced to a predictable algorithm, but is a face, a story, a vocation...It also warned against subordinating education to the labor market and to the often harsh and inhuman logic of finance.

The Catholic school is an environment in which faith, culture and life intertwine. It is not simply an institution, but rather a living environment in which the Christian vision permeates every discipline and every interaction.

The family remains the first place of education. Catholic schools collaborate with parents; they do not substitute for them, because the duty devolves primarily on them.

Technologies must serve, not replace, the person; they must enrich the learning process, not impoverish relationships and communities. A university and a Catholic school without vision risks soulless efficiency.

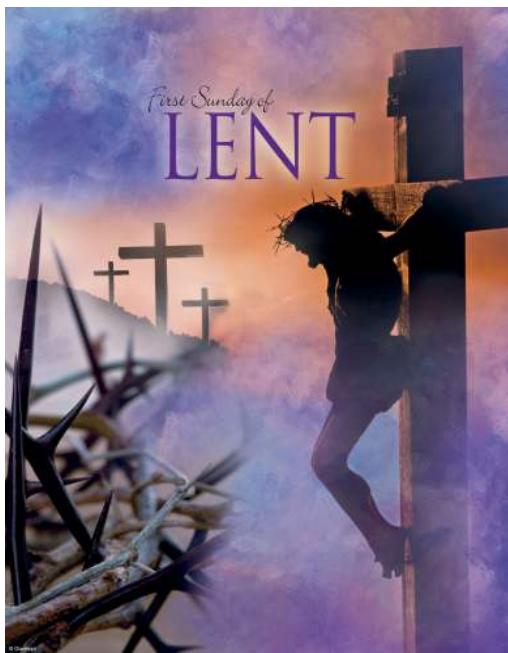
No algorithm can substitute what makes education human: poetry, irony, love, art, imagination, the joy of discovery and even learning from mistakes as an opportunity for growth.

Young people ask for depth; they need spaces for silence, discernment, and dialogue with their conscience and with God.

Holy Trinity Parish Center Chapel Availability

The Chapel in the Holy Trinity parish center will be open during office hours 9am-2pm Monday through Thursday for anyone who would like to spend time in quiet reflection or prayer.

First Sunday Of Lent • February 22, 2026



**Holy Trinity– Historic St. Patrick
Lent 2026**
Stations of the Cross – Fridays 5:15pm

2/20 – Holy Trinity
2/27 – Historic St. Patrick
3/6 – Holy Trinity
3/13 – Historic St. Patrick
3/20 – Holy Trinity
3/27 - Historic St. Patrick
4/3 Good Friday – Historic St. Patrick

GUIDELINES FOR FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Holy Trinity & Historic St. Patrick

CCD Calendar 2026

February 2026

Feb. 25 - Classes

March 2026

Mar. 4 - Classes

Mar. 11 - Classes

Mar. 18 - Classes – All Grades at HT church for Reconciliation Service and Stations of the Cross – Families are invited to join us!

Mar. 25 - No Classes – Spring Break

April 2026

Apr. 1 - No Classes – Holy Week

Apr. 8 - Classes - Pre-Registration Forms for 2026/2027 school year sent home.

Apr. 15 - Classes - 2nd grade Tour of the Church w/Father Loftus

Apr. 22 - Classe

Apr. 26, 2026 - Sunday - First Holy Communion - 10:00 am Mass at Holy Trinity Church for HT/HSP kids

Apr. 29 - Classes

Holy Trinity and Historic St. Patrick

Sacramental Events 2026

- March 7 - Saturday - Confirmation Retreat from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at St Patrick Merna
- April 26 - Sunday - First Holy Communion 10:00 am Mass at HT for HT/HSP kids
- May 3 - Sunday - Confirmation Rehearsal from 6-7:00 pm at St Patrick Merna
- May 5 - Tuesday - Sacrament of Confirmation Mass at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick Merna



Knights of Columbus
Fr. John D. Ring Council #574
1706 RT Dunn Drive
Bloomington



Lent Fish Fry's Dinner & Dessert

Feb 27, Mar 6, 13,
Mar 20, 27 & April 2

5:30 – 7pm or until we run out
Open to the Public

(Fish, Grilled Cheese, plus weekly extras)

Open to the Public



Weekly Game Day at Historic St.

Patrick Parish Hall

Starting March 11 at 1:00pm

Let's get together! Put down the phone,
Turn off the TV! Come to Historic St.

Patrick Parish Hall at 1 pm on

Wednesdays starting March 11th as Fr. Bo will be hosting a card/game day. Invite your Bunco players. How bout Euchre, maybe Pinochle is your game. Fr. Bo has a fav to share. Maybe you're a checkers player, or Scrabble, maybe Backgammon, Scattergories, Boggle, Yahtzee, Domino's, or are you a Solitaire player? Come for the games. Enjoy the fellowship. See you there!



Uncoupled Catholics meetings at Lvl Up will be on hold until after Easter. The group will resume Lvl Up meetings again in May 2026.

On February 27, we will meet at Historic St. Patrick's for Stations of the Cross at 5:15 pm. Then go to Knights of Columbus on 1706 RT Dunn Drive Bloomington, IL 61701 for their fish fry.

On March 6, we will meet at Epiphany for Stations of the Cross at 6 pm followed by the Epiphany Baked Tilapia or Fried Pollock Fish Fry or Cheese pizza options prepared by the Normal Knights of Columbus. Cost of adult meal is \$15.

Look for the Uncoupled Catholics sign at all of our events. Hosts typically know where we are located too. If you have any questions, please contact uncoupled catholics@gmail.com



YOUNG AT HEART
St. Patrick's Day Lunch
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Everyone is invited. Wear your green and join us for lunch at 11:30am at the Bloomington K.C. Hall, 1706 R.T. Dunn Drive, Bloomington, IL. Complete corned beef dinner or sandwiches available. Advance reservations are not necessary. Pay at the door.

Let Us Pray

For Our Sick

Cecilia Balderas
Liam Brady
Maria Bertrand
David Busch
Ronald Coleman
Lena Doering
Marina Escamilla
Beth Efton

Nadean Foley

Zach Freehill

Theresa L Fowler

Carolyn Gray

William Gustavson

Susan Hansen

Lisa Jarecki Harris

Mike Heffernan

Jerry Hoeniges

John Iliff

Mary Iliff-

Engelbrecht

David Flickinger

Fr. John Horton

Evelyn Johnson

Mary Jones

Serita Jones

Gretchen Knapp

Mary Kobylinski

Jerry Kusmaul

Mark Landsly

Dustin Lane

Gretchen Lee

Jen Lonergan

Leslie Manskey

Sandy Meini

Lucinda McCluskey

Brendan Quinn

Lyndon Rich

Randy Rohman

Bill Schuster

Brett Smith

Julie Smith

Darrell Sutter

Jane Stenger-

Tarleton

Sharon Torres

Sonia Torres

Karen Zangerle

Please call the

office at

309.829.2197 to

include a name on
our prayer list.



A "QCD" for Historic St. Patrick's Capital Campaign

Historic St. Patrick's Parish recently launched "Capital Campaign 2026" to fund needed updates to our church. Four projects are currently underway: a new roof, new doors, ramp repair, and steeple repair.

If you have an Individual Retirement Account, consider using an QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to support our parish in this effort.

A QCD allows individuals age 70½ or older to transfer funds directly from an IRA to a qualified charity and provides a unique tax benefit. *Because a QCD goes directly to the charity, it is excluded from taxable income.*

If you were to take the distribution, then gift it to the charity, you would need to report the distribution as income, and may not be able to deduct the contribution under current deduction limits.

A QCD allows all filers to know they will receive a tax benefit from their charitable gift.

If you are interested in making a QCD to support your parish's capital campaign, please consult with your IRA account administrator.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

At both Holy Cross Cemetery in Normal and St. Mary Cemetery in Bloomington



Our Cemetery Manager, Ellen Schroeder, and her crew will be removing winter ground covers and debris from gravesites beginning March 16th.

If you have any personal items on a loved one's grave we ask that you pick them up. Please contact Ellen Schroeder at 309-829-3019 for more information.



TAX LETTERS

If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions to our parish(es) for 2025 for tax purposes , please contact **Becky Vannatta:**

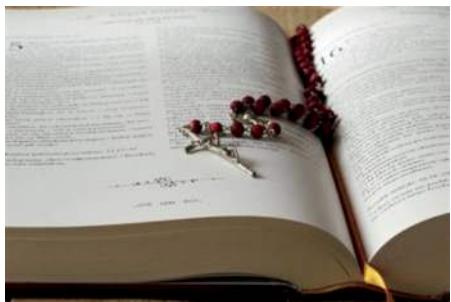
309-829-2197 X 235

or via email bvannatta@olytrinitybloomington.org

Statements will be sent **ONLY** upon request.

Monday Grow In Faith Evenings
Holy Trinity Parish Center 6:00-7:00pm
Beginning March 16

Join Father Bo on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm to discuss faith formation topics. Deepen your love for Scripture or maybe improve your connection with Christ. Bring a friend. Share in the fellowship. See you there.



IGNITE STUDENT MINISTRY

Ignite Student Ministry exists to reach all teens for Christ, and serves as the unified Catholic High School Youth Group in Bloomington-Normal. We're happy you're here!



Upcoming Events

2/15: Fellowship Night! Those not at TEC are welcome to join us from 6-7:30pm at Merna for a night of fellowship, worship, games and more!

2/22: Lenten Kickoff! Come get our Lenten season started off right with vision boards, small groups and group discussions from 6-7:30pm at St Patrick Merna!

3/1: Lenten Series: Fasting- Why do we fast? How does it bring us closer to God? Come learn about sacrifices like fasting with us at Merna from 6-7:30pm!

56th Annual Scouts
Pancake & Sausage
Breakfast

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MARCH 14th & 15th 6:30 AM - 12 PM

St. Mary's School gym
600 W. Taylor St., Bloomington

All you can eat!

A large image of a stack of pancakes with syrup being poured over them. To the right is a QR code with the text "Scan here for tickets".

Tickets

- \$10 adults
- \$5 children (5-10)
- FREE -- all kids 4 and under
- Bulk sausage also sold
(in advance, and at event)

Scan here for tickets.



Tickets also available:
• From members of Troop 920
• Or by emailing: t20pancakes@gmail.com



AJ De La Rosa is a Catholic speaker and former collegiate athlete whose life was radically changed after becoming paralyzed. Through his suffering, AJ encountered Jesus in a profound way and discovered the beauty of redemptive suffering, deep trust in God's plan, and the power of prayer especially through the Rosary and the intercession of Our Lady.

AJ has shared his testimony with youth and adults at churches, retreats, and Catholic events, and his story has reached thousands through podcasts, social media, and national Catholic platforms, including appearances on the Chris Stefanick Show.

With authenticity, joy, and bold faith, AJ speaks directly to the hearts of young people, encouraging them to walk with Christ through their struggles, embrace their crosses, and discover that suffering when united to Jesus can become a path to holiness and true joy.

LENTEN RETREAT

📍 Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saturday, February 28

8 a.m. - Maronite Catholic Divine Liturgy

9 a.m. - Breakfast in Church Hall

10 a.m. - AJ Talk 1

Suffering and Eucharist

11 a.m. - Q&A discussion

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. - AJ Talk 2

Family and Dating

3 p.m. - Adoration

RSVP

www.stsharbelchurch.org

St. Sharbel Parish | Peoria (Saturday, February 28)

All are invited to join us at St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church in Peoria on Saturday, February 28, as we welcome AJ De La Rosa, Catholic speaker and former collegiate athlete.

The day begins with **Divine Liturgy** at 8am and will include **two presentations** by AJ, along with **breakfast & lunch**, concluding with **Adoration** at 3pm.

We kindly request that you **RSVP** by the end of day on **Wednesday, February 25**, to help us prepare for the meals. RSVP at stsharbelchurch.org - thank you!

CATHOLIC ACTION SUMMIT



How, Then, Should We Invest?

PURPOSE: To advance the Kingship of Christ

We wish to awaken moral imagination in Catholic men, and network them together so that they may advance the Social Kingship of Christ.

TOPIC: Investing In particular, we want to discuss how to approach investment not just as something that gives a financial return, but as one of the key ways in which we shape the world around us and can give it over to the Kingship of Christ. We want not only to talk about principles, but also to encourage and spark action. Questions to consider include:

- Where should my money go? What should I invest in? - - -
- What should I expect from an investment?
- What structures can we use that align more with a Catholic vision of the common good rather than a secular vision of maximum shareholder profit (or maximal GDP, or a communist ideal)? What opportunities exist in my community for me to invest in?

TALKS: We want to talk theory, but ultimately so that we can act. Over the day we will move from abstract to concrete. We will have these talks (and are looking for speakers for them):

1. An intro to Catholic Social Teaching (basic principles of CST, breaking out of the secular paradigm)
2. Catholic Social Teaching as applied to investing (how should we be thinking about investing?)
3. An applied case study/story (or two) of good investing
4. A lightning round of 5-10 minute talks of people in the area, especially those looking for help on projects

COST: Free - just RSVP. Donations welcomed to help cover costs.

DATE: Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8AM-5PM

LOCATION: Holy Trinity Catholic Church lower level

LUNCH: We'll have soup and sandwiches served family-style.





In this week's Gospel, as we begin Lent, Jesus, led by the Spirit retreats into the desert. Our Lent is to mirror that solitude and focus or refocus to better connect with Christ. Fasting is one way. As we recall In Matt 17:19-21, the apostles couldn't exercise demons without prayer and fasting. "But this kind is not cast out except by prayer and fasting" St. Thomas Aquinas said, "fasting lifts the soul toward God while weakening the body's heaviness, countering demons' influence through temperance." That's the "giving up" part for Lent. How about the "doing" part for Lent. As Fr. has recommended many times, add another Mass to your week. How about attending OCIA ? Join us at OCIA where Dcn Al will present on: Loving the Lord's Day. Wednesday evening, 6 p.m. @ the parish center.

Rite of Election OCIA – Sunday 2/22 (2:00 p.m. at Cathedral)

3/8 First Scrutiny – 10:00 a.m. HT
3/15 Second Scrutiny – 10:00 a.m. HT (Cursillo Weekend)
3/22 Third Scrutiny – 10:00 a.m. HT

Feb 25th The Third Commandment: Deacon Al Lundy

Love the Lord's Day

The Third Commandment calls us to keep holy the Sabbath day. For Christians, the observance of the Sabbath is transferred to Sunday, the day that Jesus rose from the dead. God, through the Church, obliges us to make Sunday holy by participation in the Eucharist and by our being prayerfully reflective as far as possible. Sunday observance fulfills the interior law inscribed in the human heart to render to God visible and public worship as a sign of radical dependence upon God and as gratitude for all the blessing we have received.

Mar 4th The Fourth Commandment: Matt Sanders

Strengthen Your Family

The Fourth Commandment deals with all aspects of the family life – parental and filial duties and responsibilities; those of love from child to parent, including the duties of children toward their parents, of brother and sisters toward each other, and the responsibilities of adult children toward their older parents. This Commandment also addresses the duties of government, the duties of citizens including the responsibility of the state and society to **foster family values** and to strengthen the family in every possible way. A **traditional family** is a family structure that consists of a man, woman, and one or more of their biological or adopted children. In most traditional families, the man and woman are husband and wife. The percentage of traditional families in the U.S. has steadily declined over the past 40 years. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that only 20% of all U.S. households were traditional families.



150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Peoria

Bloomington-Lincoln Vicariate Mass

All are invited to celebrate this momentous occasion with Bishop Louis Tylka and area clergy.

Tuesday, March 3rd
Mass at 6pm; light reception to follow

St. Patrick Church of Merna
1001 N Towanda Barnes Road
Bloomington, IL 61705
(Part of Most Holy Eucharist Parish)

Lenten FISH FRY'S
at Epiphany Catholic Church
March 6th and 13th

Adults \$15 • Kids (12 and under) \$5
Menu Entree: Fried Pollock or Baked Tilapia
No Fish option: Cheese Pizza
Cole Slaw • Dinner Roll
Baked Potato • Applesauce • Mac & Cheese
Dessert: Cake
Beverage: Lemonade or Iced Tea
Hosted by
Normal Knights of Columbus &
Epiphany Parish
See kofc6498.org for information on how to volunteer to help

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Church Address

106 W Chestnut St.
Bloomington, IL 61701



Parish Center General Information

711 N. Main St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00am-2:00 pm

Mailing Address

711 N. Main St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Staff

Priests

Father Steven Loftus (Pastor)
frloftus@holytrinitybloomington.org
Father Bo Schmitt (Parochial Vicar)
frschmitt@holytrinitybloomington.org

Ext 230

Ext 228

Deacons

Dcn. Al Lundy
Dcn. Joe Knapp
Dcn. Bob Hermes (Senior Status)
Dcn. Mike Marvin (Senior Status)

Accounting

Joan Davis Ext 401

Administrative Assistant

Cyndy Garwood Ext 231

Facilities Manager

Jim Sallen
maintenance@holytrinitybloomington.org

Evangelization Discipleship Coordinator

David Liptak Ext 229
dliptak@holytrinitybloomington.org

Office Support

Becky Vannatta Ext 235

CCD Coordinator

Lucy Reynolds (HT & HSP) 309.829.8662

Historic St. Patrick Catholic Church

and Parish Hall



Church Address

1209 W. Locust St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone Number: 309-829-2197

Websites:

Holy Trinity / Historic St Patrick

www.hsp-hp.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityHistoricStPatrick

Instagram: @[holytrinityhistoricstpatrick](https://www.instagram.com/holytrinityhistoricstpatrick)

Email address

office@holytrinitybloomington.org

Music Director (Holy Trinity)

Dr. Cody Parrott
codysparrott@gmail.com

Tribunal Notary

Shaun Hermes 309-726-1381

Cemetery Manager for Holy Cross Cemetery, Normal, IL and St. Mary Cemetery, Bloomington, IL

Ellen Schroeder Ext. 236

Trustees

David Wochner and Denice McCalip (Holy Trinity)
Dave Richter and Alan McDowell (Historic St Patrick)

Confession Schedule

Tuesday (Historic St Patrick)	4:15-5:00pm
Thursday (Historic St. Patrick)	4:15-5:00pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Holy Trinity)	7:00-7:45am
Saturday (Holy Trinity)	3:00-3:45pm
Saturday (Historic St Patrick)	4:15-4:45pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday (Historic St Patrick)	4:15-5:00pm
Thursday (Historic St. Patrick)	4:15-5:00pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Holy Trinity)	7:00-7:45am



First Friday Association

Nolan Family	Lee Doyle	The Wall Family
Slabe Family	Mary Lou Doyle	Rapp Family
Mehmel Family	Timothy Doyle	Weinzierl Family
Estes Family	John Smith	Barbara Seiffert
Polk Family	Klein Family	O'Connor Family
Ferstein Family	Klachko Family	Ewa Martin
Irene Bourgerie	Gayln Sweet	Kevin Anthony Martin
Krynn Schupbach	Carol Hundman	Deal-Orsulak Families
Tristan Schupbach	Margaret Wieland	Palovic-Hartness Families
Herb J. Reis	Martin Wieland	Hickey - Fogle Families
Mary K Gould - Reis	Molly Moews	Leibach-Carter Family
Lamb-Bischoff Family	John Vericella	Jim & Rosemary Bavester
Wilma Garrison	McHugh Family	Guido & Sarah Nottoli
Mike Tamkin	Ron Pacha Family	Laane-Zwadlo Family
Jerry Kusmaul Family	Joseph Family	Dick & Minnie Waldorf
John Kusmaul Family	Meini Family	John & Mary Winkelmann
Krutke Family	The Migas Family	Stenger-Trauba Families

Kokosinski-Illiff Families	Frederick & Shoot Families
Sweeney-Mulcahey Families	Craig-Gizowsky-Jarock Families
Frederick & Gertrude Knapp	Socha Family
Helen & Albert Hoffman	Basil Humphrey
Michael Joseph Flanagan	Yogi Boberg
Connie Ley	Henny Schulz
Bill & Phyllis Dennis	Harold & Leona Schultz
Matt & Greg Dennis	Henry & Margaret Schuering
Daugherty & Dennis Families	Sanders Family
Lisa Underhill Prochnow	Tay Family
Paul & Dolores Richardson	Krol - Ostien Family
Eisele-Meyer-Graham Families	Donaldson-Szabados Families
Pence, Kelly, Moore Families	Abfalder-Bedoe-Richardson Families

Coyle & Waltrip Families	Lang-Weber-Sweeney-Webb Families
Rader-Graczyk-Haglauer Families	Totterer & Williams Families
Lipka-Toczek-Minneci Families	Harris - Ensenberger Families



Kibler-Brady-Ruestman Memorial Home

Catholic Funeral Directors: Dan Brady ~ Tim Ruestman
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Service, Organization
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