

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

(718) 886-0201 - Fax: (718) 886-0882

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, November 19, 2023

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Joseph G. Fonti, S.T.L., Pastor
Rev. Italo Barozzi, In Residence
Msgr. Kevin B. Noone, In Residence
Deacon Joseph A. Freda

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday - 9:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. (Vigil)
Sunday - 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M. (Italian),
10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M.

WEEKDAY MASSES

September - June

Monday - Friday: 7:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M.

July - Labor Day

Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M.

CONFESSION

Saturday 11:00 - 12:00 P.M.
and by appointment at the Rectory.

ST. MEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

154-24 26th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 539-8211 Fax (718) 539-6563
www.stmelsacademy.org
Board Chair: Dominick Yezzo
Principal: Mrs. Amy Barron, M.A., M.S.Ed.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Kelsey Sheldon

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Paula Migliore
Faith Formation Office - (718) 461-9840

BAPTISMS

Call the Rectory Office for information at least one month in advance.

MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory Office for information and appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date you wish.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We are always happy to welcome new parishioners into the family of St. Mel. Stop in at the Rectory to register, ask questions and meet the priests who gladly serve you.

PASTORAL CARE TO THE HOMEBOUND

We are concerned about parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. If you are homebound, or if you know someone who is unable to come to Mass - please do not hesitate to contact the Rectory -718-886-0201. Visits will be happily arranged for you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & NOVENA

Each Monday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.
Blessed Sacrament Devotions:
First Friday Adoration 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Daily Recitation of the Rosary: 8:30 A.M.

EVANGELIZATION

If you know of any Catholic, who is not attending Church or receiving the Sacraments and desires help in returning, please call or refer them to one of the priests at 718-886-0201. All information is confidential.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Weekends by Appointment Only
Emergencies any time.



As we look forward to feasting at tables of plenty this coming Thursday, let us remember that the most important aspect of the day is voicing our gratitude to God for all that He has done, for all that He has given us.

It is a long-standing Catholic tradition that prior to eating a meal we would say a prayer of blessing over the food, remembering those who prepared it and those who go without.

It is equally a tradition that at the end of our meal we would say a prayer of gratitude for the gifts we received, namely the food's nourishment and the love of those around us.

Most Catholics do not practice these traditions anymore. The fast-pace of life and the demand for our attention from competing influences (tv, social media) prevents quiet-reflection and prayer at our tables even if just for a few minutes.

Thanksgiving is a perfect day to resurrect within our households the tradition of praying before and/or after meals.

Aware of the great suffering and plight of many in our world today, it is important to remember/ to recall that: "There but for the grace of God go we."

Enjoy...Mangia Bene!

A culinary tip: Turkey is best served with a side of gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Father Fonti





Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

November 3, 2023

To the Clergy, Staffs and the Faithful parishioners of Brooklyn and Queens,

Recently, I met with our Vicar General, Regional Vicars, local Deans and priests during our annual Priest Convocation in Douglaston. During this gathering, we discussed important issues that we will need to address in the near future, like new models of parish life, possible collaborations among parishes regarding Religious Education and other ministries, as well as assessing the current Mass schedules at all our parishes.

Allow me to share with you some statistics that were shared with the priests:

- In 2017, Mass attendance in our Diocese was reported at an average of 205,502 people per weekend. In 2022, the average was reported at 124,031. Due to demographic changes as well as the overall national trend of fewer Catholics attending Sunday Mass regularly, we see a decrease of nearly 40 percent in Mass attendance in our diocese in the last 5 years. This decline in Mass attendance means that we have in many parishes throughout the diocese large capacity churches with a significantly reduced Mass size.
- Due to a high number of priest retirements and deaths in recent years, there are fewer priests serving in our 175 parishes.
- In our diocese Mass is celebrated in 14 different languages on a weekly basis and in 26 languages monthly. This unique pastoral challenge in combination with the reduced number of clergy with bi-lingual skills further complicates the ability to best serve our parishes with specific language needs.

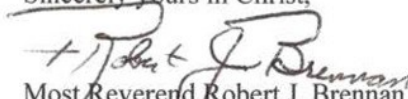
There is no simple solution to these issues. In many of our parishes it is evident that we do not need so many separate Masses to accommodate the number of parishioners in attendance at Sunday Eucharist each week. We are asking pastors and administrators throughout the diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, in consultation with their pastoral councils, to review and evaluate their Mass schedules. In many parishes, the number of Masses celebrated each weekend could be reduced by at least one or maybe more Masses, depending on the number of people attending and the capacity of each church.

Additionally, your pastor in coordination with your Regional Vicar and local Dean, are beginning discussions at the deanery level concerning possible collaborations among neighboring parishes regarding Religious Education programs and other ministries, that could possibly lead to formal parish partnerships.

I ask for your openness and cooperation with these possible changes. Not every parish will be affected, but most will go through some sort of adjustment, in order to be able to most effectively serve the current needs of the People of God in our great Diocese.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you, and may I humbly ask for your prayers, especially for our pastors and administrators, and all those who will be part of these discussions taking place throughout our parishes and deaneries.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Mass Intentions – November 19, 2023

SAT	11/18
5:00	Lucia, Tomazo, Renato, & Mario Ljubicic
SUN	11/19
7:30	The People of The Parish
9:00	Mario Codispoti
	Francesco Baldo
	Jenny, Matteo, Francesco, Francesca, & Santina Calabro & Family
	Umberto & Nicoletta Guadagno
	Kathleen Hyer
	Carmelo Giardina & Angelo Bacarella
	Raffaele Nuzzi
	Frank Skuse
	Santa D'Angelo, Guglielmo & Gandolfo Cascio
10:30	Stanley Hom
12:00	Camillo Carullo (Happy Heavenly Birthday)
MON	11/20
7:00	Dorothea Addeo
9:00	The Deceased Members of The Colalillo Family
TUES	11/21
7:00	Regina Peterman Watterson & Mark Watterson
9:00	John Wunsch (32 years in Heaven)
WED.	11/22
7:00	Louis Fonti
9:00	Luke Butterfield
THURS.	11/23
9:00	In Thanksgiving
FRI.	11/24
9:00	James Brady
SAT	11/25
9:00	DiBenedetto Family, Ricotta Family & John & Pietro DiBenedetto
	Rocco & Nicoletta Signore & Roseann Genese
5:00	Dominick Galeota & Robert Galeota
SUN	11/26
7:30	Scott Brower (Happy Birthday in Heaven)
9:00	Francesco Canale
	Antonio Lalicata
	Ernesto DiMarco
	Giovanni Salonia
	Carmelo Vasta
	Francesco Leone (1st Anniversary)
	The People of The Parish
10:30	Julia Chao
12:00	Giuseppe D'Amico, Pietro Gagliano, Francesca Gagliano



Bread & Wine

*This week the Bread and Wine
are donated in Loving
Memory of:*

***John Fennell & Family &
Ari Ortiz***

***Given by: The Fennell
Family & Ruderman Ortiz***



Altar Candles

*This week the Altar Candles
are donated in Loving Memory
of:*

Camillo Carullo

***Given by: Daughter, Rosa
Greco***



Sanctuary Candles

*This week the Sanctuary
Candle is donated in Loving
Memory of:*

Gloria Scelso

***Given by: The Scelso
Family***



***Newly Enrolled in the
Purgatorial Society***

October, 2023

***Mario Andreani
Flavia Contratti
Marie Guerriero
Carmen Rivera
Bob & June Murphy***

*The Purgatorial Mass is offered on the
First Friday of each month at 7:00am.
Enrollment in the Purgatorial Society is
for the period of one year.*

In your prayers...

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amen

We pray for all those who are sick, especially:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Matt Z. | • Susan Caraher |
| • Lisa Sperazza | • Brian Finnerty |
| • Susan Trezioso | • Robert Muller |
| • Nick Roberto | • Lee Ragusa |
| • Pasqualina Lucciola | • Paul Adessa |
| • Julia Rollo | • Joanne Perricelli |
| • Francesca Cecile | • Drenckhahn |
| • Angelo Ragonese | • Dottie Giordano |
| • Nick O'Donnell | • Siena Rose Romagnuolo |
| • Patricia O'Donnell | • David G. |
| • Kristian Mendez | • Rosa Annibale |
| • Jennifer Russo | • Patricia White |
| • Roseann Orlando | • Mia Elizabeth Skaats |
| • Barbara Ann Luisi | • Nicky O'Donnell |
| • Tom Sammel | • Jimmy Caraher |
| • Freda Cassini | • John Holmes |
| • Jacinta Carolan | • Venice Hernandez |
| • Assunta Goldone | • Eileen McBride |
| • Kruno Pandzic | • Cami Yandoli |
| • Carol Sturm | • Lynn Gallagher |
| • Martha Catul | • John Paul Yezzo |
| • Dominick Fortino | • Niki Angelopoulous |
| • RoseAnn Dell Apenna | • Valerie Albano Krug |
| • Alida Addeo | • Bryan Day |
| • Yolanda Gatti | • Theresa Bedell |
| • Patricia Parrish | • Karen Youdell |
| • Carmen A. Leites | • Angela Infantino |
| • Carolynn Freeda | • Carol VitoBello |
| • Anthony Marino | • Giovanna Palmese |
| • Mario Sumberac | • Anthony Rubinch |
| • Helen Sumberac | • Olga Scopa |
| • George Behringer | • Tom Hummel |
| • Avery Santiago | • Edda Iacona |
| • Ari Ortiz | |

**We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:
Rosaria Battaglia, John Nagri, & Evon Lamagna**

Parish Partnerships are seriously being considered for our deanery and throughout our diocese. To help us understand the process, I will be publishing in our weekly bulletin our Sunday Mass attendance numbers so that if in the future there is a change made to our Mass schedule, we will understand that the change was not solely predicated on the number of parish priests, but on the data.

November 12, 2023

Mass Attendance Total = 758

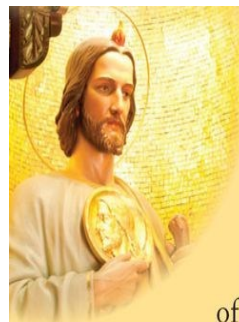
5:00 PM—147

7:30 AM—96

9:00 AM—117

10:30 AM—218

12:00 PM—175



St. Jude Prayer of Thanksgiving

I receive the gifts of God with a grateful spirit. St. Jude, help me to see the blessings that surround me and give me life. I offer you my prayer of thanksgiving. Give me the grace to be ever thankful for the love and mercy of God and the gift of life each day. May this gratitude inspire me to give generously in all ways to others. Be with me now, St. Jude. Linger with me in gratitude, and let thanks fill my heart, washing away all pain and trouble. May I desire nothing except to be in your presence, walking with you in the world to spread hope, love and thanksgiving among all of God's children. Amen.



In observance of
Thanksgiving
there will only be one Mass
at 9:00AM on Thursday,
November 23rd and Friday,
November 24th

The rectory office will also
be closed on Thursday,
November 23rd and Friday,
November 24th.





November 2023

Dear St. Mel's Families and Friends,

The Christmas season is quickly approaching and just as the birth of Jesus illuminates our lives, we hope to illuminate St. Mel's Catholic Academy and Church. With a \$10 donation per bulb, a light will shine brightly at St. Mel's in honor of your family, relative, friend, special occasion or special intention. You may request as many bulbs as you would like to help us celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to donate a bulb, please fill out the slip below and return it to school, or place in Church collection basket, in an envelope marked "Christmas Illumination" by **Monday December 4th**.

As Jesus is the light for all of our lives, we can symbolize his light by illuminating St. Mel's with thousands of bulbs. May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts, school, Church and community during this Christmas season and always. Thank you for your support and dedication to St. Mel's Catholic Academy and the greater St. Mel's community. We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Amy Barron

Name _____

Address _____

Number of bulbs _____

Amount enclosed _____

Special intention for the bulb(s). \$10 per bulb



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



You can now pay us with Venmo!
Please write your name and
"Christmas Illumination"
in the description.

@ Saint-Mels



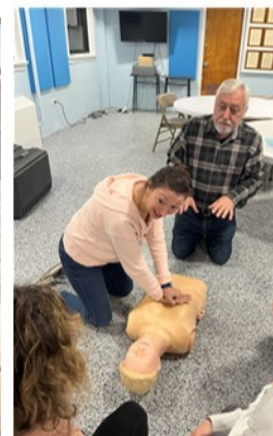
venmo

At St. Mel's Catholic Academy Our Teachers are Superheroes!

Superheroes don't always wear capes. Sometimes they wear a doctor's stethoscope, a policeman's badge, a firefighter's helmet, a soldier's uniform, or even a St. Mel's hoodie. Today, our teachers trained to be superheroes. We didn't take flying lessons or learn how to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but we did learn how to save lives. At our professional development day our K-6 staff earned their adult/child/infant CPR certification and were trained in using an AED and LifeVac (life-saving anti-choking device). We would like to give a special shout out to Anthony Chairamonti and Peter Kwiath from the St. Mel's Men's Club for facilitating the CPR certification course. These are skills we hope we never have to use, but knowing them help to not only make our school, but also the world a safer place.



*"Don't wait for any hero to save you, become one" - Matshona
Dhlwayo, South African philosopher and author*





Giving Tree

November 27th through December 17th

The Giving Tree last year was a great success. Together we were able to gift each group of religious women with \$1,472, and thirty of our homebound parishioners, each with gift cards in the amount of \$100—\$150.

Anticipating another year of generous outpouring and love, we invite you to join us as we brighten Christmas for these special groups: our parish Homebound, The Bridge to Life, and our friends: The Sisters of St. Joseph, The Sisters of St. Dominic and The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

If you wish to support our outreach to the Homebound and The Bridge to Life you can purchase a gift card (any amount) from: Raindew, Met Fresh, Marino's, CVS, or a children's store for The Bridge to Life. Your gift will not only benefit our local merchants; but it will also make it easier for our Homebound parishioners to buy what they need. If you prefer, please make a check out for your desired gift and a member of the parish staff will purchase the gift card for you. The check should be made out to St. Mel's. In the memo, please indicate which business you wish to support.

Similarly, if you wish to support our religious women, please write your check to St. Mel's and indicate in the memo which community you wish to support.

Please place your gift in the wooden boxes located at the entrances of the church. Or if you wish, you can bring it to the rectory office.





CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

WE ARE UPDATING OUR ALUMNI LIST AND NEED YOUR INFO!

If you're a former wildcat, please scan the QR code below or email Ms. Dani (class of 2000) dvanarsdale@stmelsschool.org

And we'll send you the link to update your contact info!



154-24 26TH AVENUE
FLUSHING NY, 11354



(718) 539-8211



WWW.STMELSACADEMY.ORG

Religious Education Program

St. Mel's Office of Faith Formation oversees the St. Mel School of Religion Program which provides Religious Instruction to children in grades 1 through 8 who attend public schools. Through our Religious Education program, we seek to increase children's awareness of the presence of God in their daily lives through Scripture, prayer and an appropriate curriculum that teaches Catholic doctrine necessary for children to become good, practicing Catholics. The program also prepares the children to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm for Grades 1-5 and from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for Grades 6-8. If you have any questions regarding St. Mel's Religious Education program, please email us at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com and mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org



SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023 at 10:30 am Mass

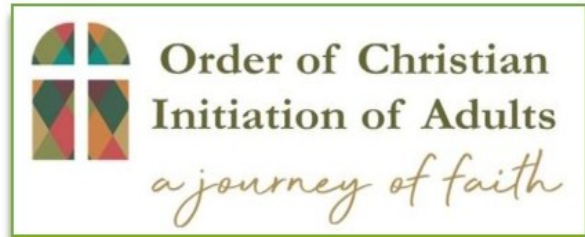
Family Grade Mass for Children from St. Mel's Academy and School of Religion – Grade 4

All are invited for light refreshments and breakfast treats following Mass in O'Malley Hall.



- ◆ Are you a practicing adult Catholic (18+) seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, who has been baptized and have received your first Holy Communion?

If you answered yes, to this question, we invite you to participate in our Adult Confirmation Program which would prepare you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. The Adult Confirmation Program presents an overview of the essentials of the Catholic Faith, focusing on immediate catechesis for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. The program includes presentations, group discussion, reflection, and prayer.



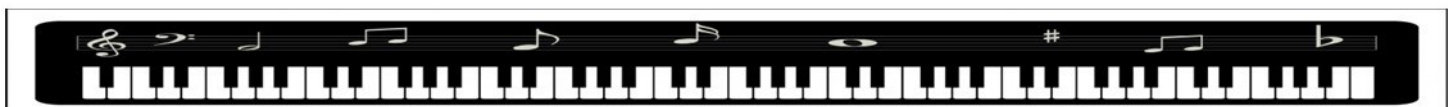
- ◆ Are you interested in the Catholic faith?
- ◆ Have you been coming to church for a while but are not Catholic?
- ◆ Have you been baptized Catholic or validly baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion?

If you answered yes to this question, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith through a process called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults ("OCIA") It is also adapted for older children.

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, contact the Office of Faith Formation at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com or at 718-461-9840



Class 4-1 in Religious Education came marching in with their All Saints Day Assignments. Each Student selected a Saint they wanted to learn about and shared their findings with their class mates. It was a fun learning experience!





St. Mel's Leisure Club

Saint Mel's Leisure Club meets every Monday at 1:30 PM in Father O'Malley Hall. Some come for bingo. Some to play cards or board games. All come for what the Club offers: friendship and camaraderie.

Defensive Driving

Saturday, December 9th

In the Men's Club
9:00AM—3:30PM

\$50

Call Marty: 631-360-9720



Holy Cross Women's Guild

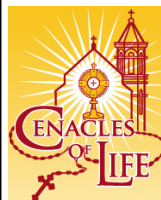
HOLIDAY FAIR

FREE ADMISSION
CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS, JEWELRY,
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December 2, 2023
12p.m.-4p.m.
26-20 Francis Lewis Blvd,
Entrance on 29th Ave

JennMakes * Angel Creations * Two Cats Creamery
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Maria's Little Boutique * BorikenCoquito
Russo Wood Works * A Lid As You Wish
S & D Crocheted Gifts * Awesome Prints Gift Shop
Zaira Lippgloss Boutique

The Cenacles of Life



The Cenacles of Life are prayer groups that pray as the Blessed Mother and the Apostles prayed in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They pray – as should all Catholics – to stop the killing of the unborn, sick, and disabled. The goal of the Prayer Group: restore respect for the sanctity of life which has so frighteningly eroded in our country and world. Please come and pray with St. Mel's Cenacle of Life: Thursdays @ 11:00 AM in the church.

I Cenacoli della Vita sono gruppi di preghiera che pregano come pregarono la Madonna e gli Apostoli nel Cenacolo, in attesa dello Spirito Santo a Pentecoste. Pregano—come dovrebbero tutti i cattolici—per fermare l'uccisione di nascituri, malati e disabili. L'obiettivo del gruppo di preghiera: ripristinare il rispetto per la santità della vita che ha così spaventosamente eroso nel nostro Paese e nel mondo. Per favore, venite a pregare con il Cenacolo della Vita di San Mel: giovedì alle 11:00 in chiesa.

SAVE THE DATE
2nd Annual Parish
Christmas Party

December 9th

Sponsored by:
The Men's Club

Details to Follow



Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

Go to: <http://stmelsrchurch.flocknote.com> or you can find the app, Flocknote

This will bring you to the sign up page to enter your name, email address, and mobile phone number. You will be asked to verify your email or mobile number or both if given.

Once you have your information verified you will be asked to create a password.

Then you will just follow the directions on the site.

Once all is complete you will be set up to receive updates from Fr. Fonti.

Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella



Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/ Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

If you currently receive parish communications through Flocknote, be sure to download this app to your phone as it will eventually replace Flocknote for parish communications. This app is very easy to use and when there is a post from us you will get a push notification on your phone. In the meantime, use all the resources available on this app to nurture your faith.

Step 1: Just scan the QR code to the left.

Step 2: Find and Follow St Mel Church. Use the Communities tab and search for "11354" Then click the "follow" Button on our church profile. You are now all set.

RACHEL'S HELPERS

A Post-Abortion Ministry for Women
Forgiven and Set Free is a program for women
who had an abortion and are seeking spiritual
healing. Sponsored by the Diocese of Brooklyn,
participants meet in small group settings.

For more information: 347-702-2352

No Fee & All Calls are Confidential.



AA Meetings

The First Step is always the
hardest. It's made easier when
it is not taken alone.

St. Mel's hosts 2 Weekly
Meetings:

Mondays – 7:30 PM (Beginners)
Thursdays – 8:00 PM

Meetings are held in Serenity
Hall. Entrance on 26th Ave /
School Yard

PLEASE

TURN OFF

CELL PHONES



Thank you!

I prayed for you today

O Almighty Eternal God,
Look upon the face of Thy Christ,
and for the love of Him, Who is the Eternal High Priest,
have pity on Thy priests.

Remember, O most compassionate God,
that they are but weak and frail human beings.
Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is
in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands.
Keep them close to Thee,
lest the enemy prevail against them,
so that they may never do anything in the slightest
degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Altar or Sanctuary Bells

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states: “A little before the Consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation [that is, the showing to the faithful the consecrated Host and chalice filled with the Precious Blood] by the Priest, according to local custom.” (150)

As is so often discovered when exploring the Church’s ritual, the instruction is clear that bell ringing before and at the Consecration is an option, not an obligation. It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop who usually delegates it to the local pastor along with Parish Staff in consultation with the larger community to determine what is “appropriate.”

The use of bell ringing as a “signal to the faithful” might seem more suited to an era when Holy Mass took place in a language that was not commonly comprehended (Latin), or when the Priest-Celebrant faced East along with faithful (perhaps behind a rood screen or grill) or even before the use of adequate audio systems but there are now modern impediments and distractions that can hinder our awareness of what is taking place at the Altar clearly before us.

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