



# OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Woodbridge/Bethany  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
March 29, 2026



81 Center Road  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525  
203-387-7119

ASSUMPTIONCHURCH.COM  
parishsecretaryoloa@gmail.com

Rev. Cornelius Kelechi Anyanwu  
Administrator  
*fr.anyanwu@aohct.org*

Deacon John "Jack" Mordecai  
Deacon Mario DiRienzo

Our Lady of the Assumption  
Roman Catholic Parish  
*Forming Disciples. Increasing Prayer.*  
*Building Community. Fostering Love.*  
*Proclaiming Jesus Christ.*

### Mass Schedule

Weekdays: 8:30 A.M.  
Tuesday: 6:30 P.M.  
*(No Mass on Thursdays)*  
Saturday: 8:30 A.M.

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 P.M.  
Sundays:  
8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M

### Confessions:

Monday: 9:00 A.M.  
Tuesday: 7:00—8:00 P.M.  
Friday: 9:00 A.M.  
Saturday: 9:00 A.M.

## Procession with Palms

### A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: *Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."* The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

### The Gospel of the Lord.

### Opening Hymn: Hosanna To The Son Of David

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Son of Da - vid! O

blest is he, O blest is he who comes in the name of the

Verses

Lord!

1. Re - jice, daugh - ter of Zi - on,
2. Re - jice, all who are thirst - ing
3. Re - jice, all who are long - ing
4. Re - jice, all who are search - ing
5. Re - jice, all who are hop - ing
6. Re - jice, all who are wait - ing
7. Re - jice, all who are call - ing
8. Re - jice, all who are hun - gry

1. in the One who brings great joy!
2. for the streams of liv - ing joy!
3. to be - hold the face of God!
4. for the truth of ho - ly light!
5. for the reign of peace and love!
6. for the dawn of heav - en's light!
7. on the name of God on high!
8. for the taste of liv - ing bread!

Sing praise, chil -

1-8. - dren of Ju - dah, for the Lord is close at hand!

to Refrain

## First Reading

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Smolinski



## Second Reading

### A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **The Word of the Lord.**

## The Holy Gospel

### A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.'" The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me.

The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed*; but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to him in reply, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me."

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!"

Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him." Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and he kissed him. Jesus answered him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me?

Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'" The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood.

Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, *And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me.* Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!"

When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha—which means Place of the Skull—, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

***Here all kneel and pause for a short time.***

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can." So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

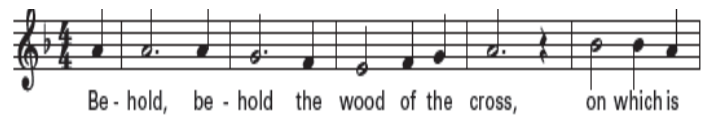
**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *and by the Holy Spirit was Incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Offertory Hymn: Behold The Wood**

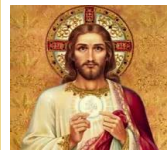


1. Un - less a grain of wheat shall fall up - on the ground and die, it
2. And when my hour of glo - ry comes as all was meant to be, †
3. For there can be no great - er love — shown up - on this land than
4. My Fa - ther, if it be your plan, this cup might pass me by; yet
5. For sure - ly he has borne our tears, is wound - ed by our sin, and
6. My bod - y now is torn with pain, my friends have left and gone. O



1. shall re - main but a sin - gle grain and not give life.
2. you shall see me lift - ed up up - on a tree.
3. in the one who came to die that we might live.
4. let it hap - pen as you will if I must die.
5. yet he o - pens not his mouth that we might live.
6. lov - ing Fa - ther, take my life in - to your hands.

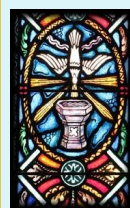
**Prayer after Communion**



Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from the side of Christ, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus hear me; within your wounds hide me; separated from you, let me never be; from the evil one protect me; at the hour of my death, call me; and close to you bid me; that with your saints, I may be praising you forever and ever. Amen

**Prayer after Mass**

My good and dear Jesus, I kneel before You, asking You most earnestly to engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends. As I reflect upon Your five wounds, and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, I recall, good Jesus, the words the prophet David spoke long ago concerning You: "They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have counted all My bones!" (Ps 21:17)



**Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday. Please call the Parish office at 203-387-7119 for information and for the necessary forms.**

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Heavenly Father, You have created us for a definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for each of us in this life, and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make my parish, my home, and my heart fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. May our young men respond to your call with courage and zeal. Stir among them a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. We make our prayer for priestly vocations to You, Father in the Holy Spirit through Christ our Lord. Amen. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St. Joseph, patron of our Archdiocese, pray for us. Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

### Closing Hymn: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, The pain and
4. Were ev - 'ry realm of na - ture mine, My gift would



1. Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
2. death of Christ, my Lord; The vain things that now
3. love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
4. still be far too small: Love so a - maz - ing,



1. count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
2. tempt me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
3. sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
4. so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.



**First Saturday Devotions begin after the 8:30 AM Mass.**

Our Lady said, "Announce in my name that I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, recite the rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the rosary with the intention of making reparations to me." **Please note: Devotions will not be held on Holy Saturday, April 4th.**



**24 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION RESUMES IN MAY**



### CALLING ALL ADULTS

#### IN NEED OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Adult Confirmation

Sessions for those adults preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin on Tuesday evening, April 14, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The sessions will run for four weeks, ending on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Confirmation Ceremony for all adults will be held on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford on May 12. This will include all adults throughout the archdiocese. In the last few years there have been well over 100 adults receiving Confirmation, the last of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Registration forms, found on the archdiocesan website (catholicedaohct.org), are to be sent to Sr. Carolyn BEFORE the first session which begins on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the registration and sponsor form, Baptismal and First Communion certificates are also needed. If applicable, any marriage convalidations/paperwork must also be provided. Any questions/concerns, please contact Sr. Carolyn at the parish office or at carsev2000@yahoo.com

## MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, March 28 Vigil , Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:30 P.M. +John Murphy (Family)

SUNDAY, March 29 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 A.M. +Lucille Lenskold (Bob & Klara Potkay)

9:30 A.M. +Wanda Luciani Kesses (Willa Ridinger & Tim Fusco)

11:30 A.M. +Noemia & Jose Medeiros (Family)

MONDAY, March 30 Monday of Holy Week

8:30 A.M. +Elisa Gaudio (Rossi Family)

TUESDAY, March 31 Tuesday of Holy Week

8:30 A.M. +Judy Esposito (Bruce & Cindy Marien)

6:30 P.M. People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, April 1 Wednesday of Holy Week

8:30 A.M. +Edward Maum (Ellie Sheehy & Family)

THURSDAY, April 2 Holy Thursday

7:00 P.M. Mass of the Lord's Supper

FRIDAY, April 3 Friday of the Passion of the Lord

3:00 P.M. Commemoration of the Passion

SATURDAY, April 4 Easter Vigil

8:00 P.M. People of the Parish

SUNDAY, April 5 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 A.M. Dec. Members of the Paolino/Rowland Families (Dwight & Rosalie Rowland)

9:30 A.M. +Sally DeGennaro & +Suzzie Gray (Willa Ridinger & Tim Fusco)

11:30 A.M. People of the Parish

### PARISH GIVING

Have you considered online giving? With online giving a weekly offering is never missed.

March 22: \$7657

*We are grateful for your continued generosity!*

## Catholic Prayers

### The Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

### The Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name. My God have mercy. Amen.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### An Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith, I intend to live and die. Amen.

### An Act of Hope

O Lord God, I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins, and after life here, to gain eternal happiness because you have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind and merciful. In this hope, I intend to live and die. Amen.

### An Act of Love

O Lord God, I love you above all things, and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, the infinite, and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love, I intend to live and die. Amen.

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Parish Staff: **Father Kelechi Anyanwu**  
*Administrator*

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**Sister Carolyn Severino, ASCJ**  
*Director of OCIA, Adult & Family Formation*  
carsev2000@yahoo.com

**Emma Belske**  
*Faith Formation Director Grades 1-6*  
oloareligiousdirector@gmail.com

**Margo Smith**  
*Faith Formation Director Grades 7-10*  
oloafaithformation9and10@gmail.com

**Mary Federico, Faith Formation Secretary**  
oloafaithformationsecretary@gmail.com  
(Rectory Office)203-389-9863; (Hall)203-397-5250

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**Mary Federico/Anita Bellmore**  
*Parish Secretaries*  
parishsecretaryoloa@gmail.com — 203-387-7119  
*Parish Office Hours:*  
Monday-Thursday: 9 AM to 2 PM  
Friday 9 AM-12 Noon

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**Dr. Keith Smolinski, Director of Music**  
smolinsk.keith@snet.net

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Parish Trustees: **Robin Kenefick**  
**Christopher Bartels**

**Parish Council President: Kristen Turkosz**  
**Finance Council Chair: Mark Guerra**  
**Ladies Guild President: Debbie Siena**  
**Grand Knight: Bill Fortin**  
**Respect Life Director: Sharon Bailey**  
**Altar Server Coordinator: Mary Grace Crisci**  
**Faith, Hope, & Charity Committee Chair: Margaret Hamilton**  
**Rosary Warriors Coordinator: Lor Ferrante**  
**Hospitality Committee Chair: Barb Bessinger**  
**Bereavement Ministry: Paulette Belletto/Barb Bessinger**  
**Parish Nursing: Debby Crisculolo/Barb Bessinger**  
**Midnight Run Ministry: Kathleen Williams**  
**Mission Trips: Octavio Goncalves**  
**Elderly Ministry: David Cadelina**  
**Youth Ministry: Paul Gattinella**  
**Altar Flower Committee Chair: Linda Reilly**  
**Vacation Bible Camp: Mary Hill**  
**Senior Lunches: Joan Murphy**  
**Children's Choir: Margaret Hamilton**  
**Bible Studies/Book Clubs: Sister Carolyn**  
**Mom's Group/Ministry: Kris Edwards**  
**Ushers Ministry: Anthony Monelli**

## Parish Pastoral Council

**Fr. Kelechi Anyanwu- ex officio**  
**Kristen Turkosz--President**  
**Kristen Turkosz-- Children Formation**  
**Rachel Guerra-- Events and Family Ministry**  
**Michael Crisci-- Discipleship and Evangelization**  
**Paul Gattinella-- Teens and Youth Ministry**  
**David Cadelina-- Elderly and Homebound**  
**Mary Hill-- Arts and Environment**  
**Kathy Jackson--Faith, Hope, and Charity**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK



Ed Rish, Steven Rish, Danielle Esposito, Sandra Overlock, Pamela Willis, Frank DeLucia, Michele Schioppo, Laura Daddio, Michael Cosenza, Joseph Moore Jr., Susan Costa, Jonathan Glassman, Susan Hurley, Michael Egan Mullen, Michael George Healy, Vanessa Pero, Alice Regan, Mickey Shields, Michelle Freeman, Lisa Lawler, Vanessa Levesque, Norma Jean Lynch, Louise Peck, Leo James Mastin, Elizabeth Garvey, Steve Armstrong, Debbie Guodowski, Lisa Bender, Charles Schultz, Phyllis Tramantano, Carol Anderson, Judy Esposito, Mary Parcella, Matthew Collins, and Dawn Sardi.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



SEA BEE Nicholas Listro, (Navy) Lieutenant John Philip Morrissey (Army, Lieutenant Matthew Hansen, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Morrissey, (Air Force) Lieutenant Colonel Seth Krummrich (Army) Lieutenant Sean Leary, Kevin Murphy, Pfc. J. Adams, Emily O'Hara, Jonathan Sanchez, Alice Mary, Eric Trivette, Meara O'Hara, Zachary Simpson, Jon Farwell, Sergeant Brian Streit, Ryan Rausch, Mary O'Connell, Andrew Gnidula, CPL Glenn Warner, Trevor Connelly (Marine) and Specialist 4th Class Josh Lisi, National Guard Reserve.



## Eucharistic Adoration Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday:  
9:00-9:30 AM

Tuesday: 7:00-8:00PM

Friday: 9:00-9:30AM

1st Friday into  
1st Saturday:  
24 hours

## Parish Ministries and Events

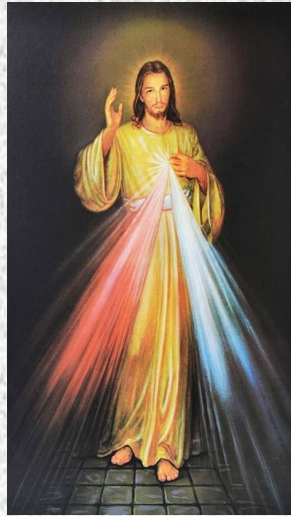
<p><b>SUNDAY MARCH 29-PALM SUNDAY</b>  <b>SECOND COLLECTION-MISSION TRIP COLLECTION</b>          Holy Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:30am          Children's Mass-9:30 A.M.          Faith Formation-Grades 9 &amp; 10-Classrooms          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Eagle Scout Ceremony-1:00 to 4:00 P.M.-Hall</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY</b>          Holy Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:30am          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          No Faith Formation classes</p>
<p><b>MONDAY, MARCH 30</b>          Holy Mass 8:30 AM          Confessions—9 AM          Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00-9:30 AM          No Faith Formation Classes          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Zoom Rosary Group—7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>MONDAY, APRIL 6</b>          Holy Mass 8:30 AM          Confessions—9 AM          Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00-9:30 AM          No Faith Formation Classes          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Zoom Rosary Group—7:00 PM</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY MARCH 31</b>          Holy Mass-8:30 A.M.          Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00-9:30 AM          Scripture Study-9:45 A.M.-Rectory Meeting Room          No Faith Formation Classes          Midnight Run-3:00 P.M.-Hall          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Holy Mass-6:30 P.M.          Holy Hour-7:00-8:00 P.M./Confessions-Church</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY APRIL 7</b>          Holy Mass-8:30 A.M.          Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00-9:30 AM          No Faith Formation Classes          Midnight Run-2:00 P.M.-Hall          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Holy Mass-6:30 P.M.          Holy Hour-7:00-8:00 P.M./Confessions-Church</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 1</b>          Holy Mass-8:30 A.M.          No Faith Formation Classes          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 8</b>          Holy Mass-8:30 A.M.          No Faith Formation Classes          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY, APRIL 2 HOLY THURSDAY</b>  <b>No Morning Mass</b>          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM          Mass of the Lord's Supper-7:00 P.M.-Church</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 9</b>          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY- HOLY LAND COLLECTION</b>  <b>No Morning Mass</b>  <b>No Eucharistic Adoration</b>          Confessions: 9:00AM          Stations of the Cross-12 Noon-Church          Commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord-3:00 P.M.-Church          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY APRIL 10</b>          HOLY MASS-8:30 A.M.          Confessions: 9:00AM          Zoom Rosary Group—4:00 PM</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY APRIL 4-HOLY SATURDAY</b>  <b>NO MORNING MASS/NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</b>          Blessing of the Food-10:00 A.M.-Church          Confessions-10:15 to 11:30-Church          Easter Egg Hunt-12 Noon-Grounds of the Church          Easter Vigil-8:00 P.M.-Church</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, APRIL 11</b>          Holy Mass-8:30 A.M.          Confessions-9:00 A.M.</p>

## Sister's Corner – Reflections



Imagine what stories Jesus would tell you about each person you meet: their hopes and dreams; their kindnesses toward others; their hidden fears and shame; their longing to be good; their loneliness; their desire for someone to love them. So often we live as though life were a busy airport, rushing to catch a plane, carrying baggage too heavy for them. The journey is pleasant when we carry less and enjoy our fellow travelers more.

**Challenge: It's Holy Week. Slow down. Pray!**



*JESUS,, I TRUST IN YOU*

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 2026

3:00 P.M.

HOLY HOUR,  
CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY,  
CONFESSIONS,  
AND BENEDICTION

Holy God,  
Holy Mighty One  
Holy Immortal One  
Have Mercy On Us,  
And On  
the Whole World.

## HOLY WEEK 2026

HOLY THURSDAY  
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
7:00 P.M.

*NO MORNING MASS*

GOOD FRIDAY  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
12 NOON  
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION  
3:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY  
BLESSING OF THE FOOD  
10:00 A.M.

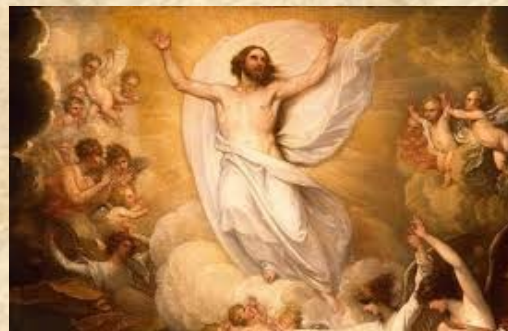
CONFESSIONS  
10:00 –11:30 A.M.

EASTER EGG HUNT  
12 NOON

EASTER VIGIL  
8:00 P.M.

*NO MORNING MASS*

EASTER SUNDAY  
MASSES:  
8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.



# Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

MARCH 28 - APRIL 3, 2026

## Guilford Parish Offers Support for Those Living with *Mental Illness*

- Story by Joe Pisani

Almost 25 years ago, Deacon Adam Michaele was moved by a heart-breaking situation when a young woman had her engagement broken and lost her friends because of mental illness.

"She had nothing and no one to go to, and we knew we had to do something," he recalls. That's when he and his wife Rose began a mental health ministry to offer people suffering from loneliness to depression, stress, autism and anxiety a place to turn for support. Since then, they have assisted dozens of people, most of whom had nowhere to turn.

The Mental Health Ministry Spiritual Support Group is hosted by St. George Parish in Guilford and has members from the shoreline parishes. Meetings are held on the campus of St. George Church.

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*"People in the group offer support for each other"*

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"The group offers a safe and confidential environment where people who live with mental illness can meet and share their experiences, their concerns and their faith," says Deacon Michaele. "It is not group therapy, and behavioral health professionals are not involved, but through support, prayer and reflections, members can grow closer in their relationship with our loving God."

Deacon Adam is a certified Catholic mental health minister with a master's degree in spiritual and pastoral care. He was a founding board member of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, and three years ago received the Archdiocese of Hartford's social justice award for his work.

Rose Michaele provides spiritual accompaniment and previously facilitated a group for caregivers.

"My wife Rose has been there every step of the way and offers a gentle touch and womanly perspective that I cannot provide," Deacon Michaele says.

"People in the group offer support for each other, and a camaraderie has built up," Rose says. "Some of them live alone and don't have family, some can't drive, and older members are lonely and feel their vulnerability. Many suffer from the stigma associated with mental illness and don't want to speak about it because they're afraid of being ostracized."

Meetings begin with a prayer, and Deacon Michaele asks them to share their experiences while members offer suggestions when someone has a problem. Later, they discuss a spiritual reading or the Gospel. The meetings end with a blessing, and Rose gives them treats to take home. The Michaelaes also take members to events, such as the St. George Thanksgiving Day dinner and the parish annual carnival.

"We support them and try to get them out so they're not home alone," Rose says. "Sometimes we treat them to lunch and a movie, which they look forward to."

Members are required to adhere to certain rules.

"We have rules about confidentiality," Deacon Michaele says. "If they have a therapist, they can't abruptly stop treatment without having a plan to get another one. They also can't abruptly stop their medication."

During the week, the Michaelaes make themselves available to members.



Deacon Adam Michaele and his wife Rose oversee the Mental Health Ministry Spiritual Support Group hosted by St. George Parish, Guilford. They are members of St. John Bosco Parish in Branford.

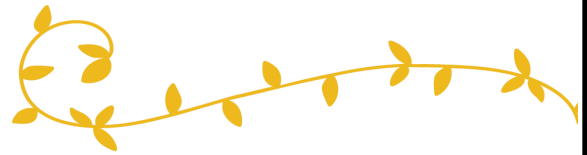
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"Anyone can come in any time and sit with us if they have a problem," Deacon Michaele says. "We get calls and support them with our prayers and understanding. The door is always open."

*The Mental Health Ministry Spiritual Support Group meets the second and fourth Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Ruiz Center on the campus of St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St., Guilford. For dates and more information, contact St. George Parish, 203.453.2788.*



# Upcoming Events



MARCH 29 @ 11:30AM  
**PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT**  
St. Mary Church, Derby

Free Breakfast of egg sandwiches, pastries, coffee after Mass. Bring your own basket!



MARCH 30 @ 7PM  
**DIVINE MERCY TALK WITH MEG BAILEY**  
St. Mary Church, Derby

Come and hear about the extraordinary graces Jesus has promised when we honor His Divine Mercy. In this special PowerPoint presentation we will be introduced to the message of Divine Mercy. Following there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession.



MARCH 31 @ 11AM  
**CHRISM MASS**  
Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford

Archbishop will bless holy oils for use in sacraments throughout the year. All are invited to join in celebrating in this special Mass.



APRIL 11 @ 8:30AM \$75  
**CONTEMPLATIVE ENRICHMENT DAY**  
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford

Inspired by Rilke's "Sonnets to Orpheus," this retreat explores themes of transformation and the courage to "live the questions." Join us to practice "heart-work" and discover how to belong to "the Whole." In-person and online via Zoom. Two Centering Prayer sessions and lunch. Visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar).



April 11 @ 10AM - 4PM \$75  
**SPRING WREATH MAKING**  
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford

Make yourself a decorative wreath for Springtime. Using colorful paper, you will create a beautiful wreath to take home and use on front door or inside the house. You will need no experience in wreath making to complete this special wreath and you can hang it year after year! Supplies and Lunch provided. Visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar).



APRIL 17 @ 6:30PM  
**YOUNG ADULT 21+ GROUP**  
Our Lady of Knock Parish, St. Patrick Church, Farmington

Candlelight Mass will be held at 6:30 PM with Trivia, Tacos, Drinks, and Social following the Candlelight Mass.



APRIL 17 - 19  
**INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT OF EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES**  
St. George Church, Guilford

Fri, 17 April, 4:30 - 9 pm | Sat, 18 April, 10 am - 8:30 pm | Sun, 19 April, 9:30 am - 3 pm  
Talks on St. Carlo Acutis & St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia. 1st class relics of both St. Carlo and St. Manuel will be available for veneration. For more information, contact Donna Yatchko at 203-453-2788.



MAY 1 - 3 @ ALL DAY  
**RETROUVILLE MARRIAGE WORKSHOP**  
Windsor

If your marriage has become distant, troubled, unloving or uncaring; if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, Retrouvaille can help. Visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org).



APRIL 27 @ 7PM  
**SPEED NETWORKING AND MENTORING**  
Holy Angels Center, Meriden

Join Young Catholic Professionals Central Connecticut and meet inspiring professionals, connect with other young adults, and walk away with practical insight for your career and faith. Food and drink will be provided. We will be having Stations of the Cross and prayer at 7pm, and the speed networking and mentoring will start at 7:45.



MAY 8 @ 6PM  
**SEEN: A NIGHT OF HOPE & HEALING**  
The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Waterbury

All are welcome for a night of prayer and support for those experiencing infertility or pregnancy/child loss, whether you are personally carrying this cross or desire to intercede and accompany others. We will have welcoming remarks, Mass, a reflection, Adoration with Praise and Worship, and a reception to follow with light refreshments, veneration of relics, resources, community, and opportunities to meet with Religious Sisters and Prayer Teams.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda at [Hello@waterburybasilica.org](mailto:Hello@waterburybasilica.org). Use [www.tinyurl.com/3832yxtz](http://www.tinyurl.com/3832yxtz) to RSVP.



MAY 10 @ 10AM Adults \$50  
**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford

Children 4-12, \$15 | Children under 4, Free  
Let us help take care of Mom on her special day. Come celebrate Mother's Day with a special Mass for mothers and families, and then enjoy a delicious gourmet brunch prepared by our chef. Visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar).

## 2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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ONE



[www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal)

## Holy Week

Did you know that this week is the most important one in the whole year? Holy Week has Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On these days we remember and celebrate the most important things that Jesus did before His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

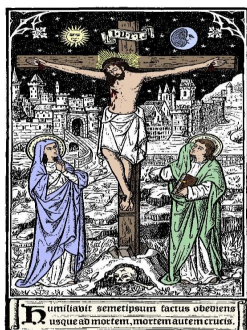
On Holy Thursday Jesus said the first Mass and made his apostles the first priests. Go to Mass on Thursday if you can, and think about what Jesus did- He made bread and wine into Himself so that He could still be with us after He went back into Heaven.

On Good Friday Jesus suffered terribly and then died on the cross because of our sins. He offered up His life, even though He had never sinned, so that all of us could go to Heaven. That's why we call it "Good" Friday. Can you offer some sacrifice to Jesus in return for what He did for you?

On Holy Saturday Jesus' body was in the tomb. His friends were all shocked by what had happened and were afraid and sad. They did not remember what was going to happen next... Do you remember what happened after Holy Saturday?



Answer to Puzzle on Front: This is my blood of the New Covenant which will be shed for many.



www.thekidsbulletin.com

## The Kids' Bulletin

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday  
March 29th, 2026

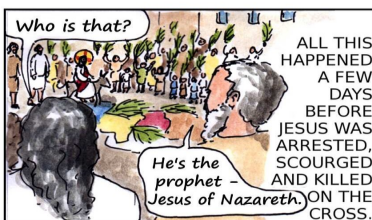
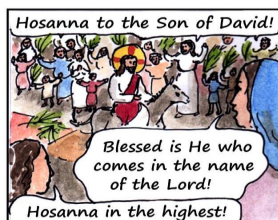
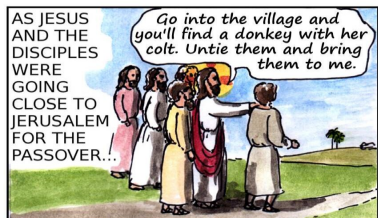
T A H B I C S D I E S F M G Y H B I L J  
O K O L D M O N F O T P H Q E R N S  
E T W U C W O X V Y E Z N A A B N C T  
D W E H F I G C H H I W J I K L L L M  
B N E O S P H Q E R D S F T O U R V  
M W A X N Y Y Z



Use every second letter to fill in the blanks.

T H \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Palm Sunday



ON PALM SUNDAY EVERYBODY CHEERED FOR JESUS, BUT A FEW DAYS LATER THEY SHOUTED AT HIM AS HE WAS LED TO HIS DEATH. WE MUST BE FAITHFUL TO JESUS WHEN IT'S EASY AND EVERYONE AROUND US IS, AND WE MUST ALSO BE FAITHFUL WHEN IT'S REALLY HARD AND EVERYONE ELSE IS AGAINST HIM.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com



## Good Friday Word-Find

H H W E D B H E A V Y  
D I E D M U E S J I V  
J L P C A R R I E D E  
O L T A R I O M S N R  
S E D L Y E D O U I O  
E S A V E D F N S C N  
P I L A T E O F R O I  
H S C R O S S E S D C  
I N C Y R E N E T E A  
N E H A N D S T O M B  
N A I L S J O H N U R  
M A G D A L E N E S S

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle.

Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks:

What did Jesus do on the cross?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On Good Friday JESUS was taken before King HEROD and the governor, PILATE. Even though He had not committed any crime He was scourged and condemned to die on the CROSS. He CARRIED the cross as far as He could up CALVARY hill, but when He got too weak a man named SIMON of CYRENE was forced to help Him. On the way He met His mother, MARY, who WEPT at seeing her Son in such pain. A woman named VERONICA wiped the blood and sweat from His face with a cloth. At the top of the HILL Jesus was thrown onto the cross and His HANDS and FEET were fastened to it with NAILS. They raised the cross, where Jesus hung for three hours before He DIED. He did all this to SAVE us from Hell. At the cross were JOHN, Mary MAGDALENE, His mother, and some other women. At the moment He died the curtain of the old Temple was TORN in half. When His body was taken down from the cross JOSEPH of Arimathea and NICODEMUS BURIED Him in a new TOMB and rolled a HEAVY STONE in front of the door.





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