

Diocese of Columbus
**The Roman Catholic Parish of
Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church**
“Growing the Catholic Faith in the Heart of Columbus”



SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH
OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

212 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 224-1295

Fax: (614) 224-1176

www.sjchcc.org

www.cathedralmusic.org

**ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND
HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS**

OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE
CATHEDRAL

Monday-Thursday – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday – 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday & major holidays

CATHEDRAL LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday – 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.

Monday-Friday – 12:05 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and Holidays:

Will be listed in the bulletin, as they occur

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday & Thursday – 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Sunday – 9:15-10:00 a.m.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
WITH CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
COLUMBUS

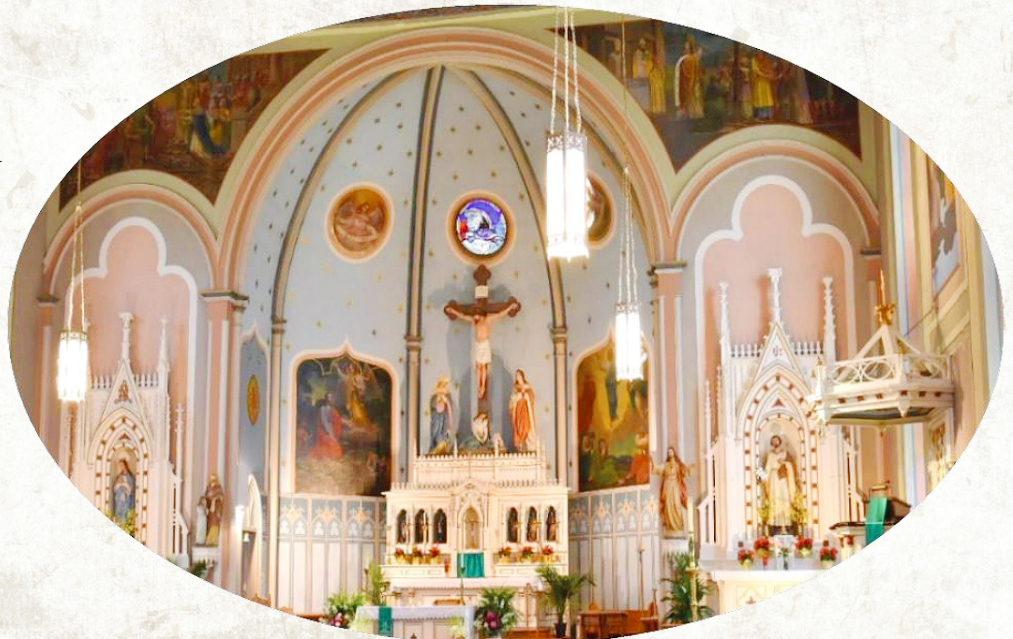
204 South Fifth Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.sjchcc.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Saturday – 11:30 a.m.

followed by Adoration and Confessions



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 3, 2023

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH

- + Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus
- + Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus
- + Most Reverend James A. Griffin
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

PRIESTS

Reverend JCP Sullivan

Cathedral Rector

Reverend Michael Hinterschied

Parochial Vicar

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SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office. Contact the Cathedral Office at 614-224-1295.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS: DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 3

Holy Cross Church:

9:00 a.m. Intention of Arlene Cucculelli

Cathedral:

10:30 a.m. Soul of J. Richard Lumpe

12:30 p.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral
and Holy Cross Parish

5:15 p.m. Soul of Katherine Vandenberg

Cathedral:

Monday, December 4

12:05 p.m. Soul of L. Boucher

Tuesday, December 5

12:05 p.m. Soul of James Powers

Wednesday, December 6

12:05 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

Thursday, December 7

12:05 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

Friday, December 8

12:05 p.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral and
Holy Cross Church

5:15 p.m. People of the Dioceses

Holy Cross:

Saturday, December 9

11:30 a.m. Soul of Margaret Duckworth

WEEKLY READINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Monday, December 4 ~ Saint John Damascene

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6 ~ Saint Nicholas

Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7 ~ Saint Ambrose

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8 ~ The Solemnity of

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9 ~ Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8

THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE**First Sunday of Advent ~ DECEMBER 3**

	9:00 a.m. HCC	10:30 a.m. SJC	12:30 p.m. SJC	5:15 p.m. SJC
Altar Servers	John Feher	Lisa Emrich	Jim Pierce	Nate Foley
		Zachary Smith	Antonio Tomasi	Trevor Foley
		Bonnie Maupin	JP Pacis	
		Russ Howard		
Lector – One	Terry Creedon	Donna Lent	Deborah Duffy	Linda Ruth
Lector – Two		Sharon Reichard	Lisa Ernst	Josie Gonot
Eucharistic Minister	Claire Miller			
Lead Hospitality	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	Marilyn Tomasi	Gordian Igwilo
Hospitality/Ushers	Larry Wagner	Evelina Horner	Kevin Ernst	Robert Schoenfeld
	Peter Garrett	Pam Jurgens	Nate Foley	Ed Huckel
	Cathryn Geppert		Thom Gall	

OUTREACH TO HELPING THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ (614) 224-1295

Saint Lawrence Haven, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church ~ Heather Swiger at hswiger@columbuscatholic.org

Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ (614) 241-2530

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC**Cathedral Concert Series** ~ Lessons and Carols on December 10 at 3:00 p.m.**Office of Compline** – 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is December 3, 2023.**OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**For Diocesan Offices, please call (614) 228-2457 during regular business hours or visit www.columbuscatholic.org.

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS will be served at **All Masses**. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant.) *Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION**For Holy Cross & The Cathedral**

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our web site, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**Please Keep These Parishioners in Your Prayers**

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Sherri Dembinski, Larry Edwards, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Arthur Maupin, Mary McNellis, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, David Simmons, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, and Dora Zweydorff

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

+ **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother and James Worley.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**(Holy Cross & Cathedral)**

Please contact Carol at the Cathedral, 614-224-1295

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**(Holy Cross & Cathedral)**Please email Mandy at weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK****(Holy Cross & Cathedral)**

Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness, confinement or visits to the hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.

FUNERAL MINISTRY**(Holy Cross & Cathedral)**

For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at (614) 224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.



Dear Friends,

I was recently in Greccio, Italy, where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first living Nativity scene in 1223. This Christmas will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Francis' inspiration to make the Gospel narratives of the Lord's birth literally come alive.

The accounts of the event record that Francis was inspired about two weeks before the celebration of Christmas to invite the local townspeople to participate in the unique event.

On Christmas Eve everything was prepared in a cave for Mass and the Nativity scene just outside the little village of Greccio. The inhabitants came dressed as the people of Bethlehem, with shepherds and innkeeper, children and angels. The families made sure to bring the live animals from their barns and fields, especially the ox and ass, to keep

the little baby warm. A small statue of the infant Jesus was placed in a stone manger as the Mass of Christmas began. Saint Francis, who was an ordained deacon, chanted the Gospel of the Nativity, movingly preached about the joy of God coming to earth and taking our human nature unto Himself. Francis' words were so powerful that it seemed as if the small statue of Jesus, laying in the stone manger, actually came to life.

I would like the Cathedral to have a beautiful Nativity scene that would commemorate, for generations to come, the miracle of Jesus' Nativity in Bethlehem. It seems that this 800th anniversary year of the first creche in Greccio, would be a good time to start. I have inquired at a religious goods store in Rome that specializes in sacred statuary to acquire Nativity figures for the Cathedral. Each figure is carved wood, from northern Italy, painted in oils with full color, and are based on a 47- inch (120 cm) scale. If we act quickly, it may be possible to have statues of the Holy Family and a few sheep in time for Christmas. We would certainly want to add the angel, the ox and ass, shepherds, the Wise Men, and other figures in time.

The set comprises:

Holy Family (3-piece set) @ \$10,700

Sheep (2 models) @ \$1,650 each

Gloria Angel @ \$4,700

Ox and Ass (2-piece set) @ \$9,500

Shepherd (3 models) @ \$4,700 each

Three Kings (3-piece set) @ \$16,500

Camel @ \$7,500

These prices do not include shipping or possible customs tax on each item. That will be determined when we are able to confirm our order. Please contact me if you are interested in donating figures to the Cathedral.

Thank you for considering such an important gift celebrating the Word made Flesh. Peace and blessing,
Father Sullivan



During Advent join St. Joseph Cathedral for:

December 10th at 3:00 p.m.- Lessons and Carols - The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass mark the season with their annual presentation of Lessons and Carols. The afternoon will include seasonal choral works as well as familiar carols sung by all.

*December 17, Third Sunday of Advent,
Blessing of Straw for the Crib
Mass times are 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 5:15 pm Masses.*

*Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Mass Schedule
Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Mass & 6:30 p.m. Mass
11:00 p.m. Cathedral Choir Concert
12:00 Midnight Mass*

*December 25 Christmas Day
Mass time is 10:00 a.m.*

Holy Cross Church

*Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass time is 9:00 a.m.*

Christmas Mass Schedule

*Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Mass time is 4:00 p.m.*

*Monday, December 25
Mass time is 10:00 a.m.*

First Sunday of Advent: Be Watchful!

GAYLE SOMERS



Sunday's Gospel reading sounds the call of Advent: Be watchful! How?

Gospel (Read Mk 13:33-37)

Our very first Gospel in this new season of Advent puts into our ears Jesus' own words to prepare us for it: "Jesus said to His disciples, 'Be watchful! Be alert!'" He then tells them how to do this. He uses the example of a household in which "the lord of the house" has gone away and left his servants "in charge, each with his own work." The servants are warned against being asleep on the job. Since they "do not know when the lord of the house is coming," they

must not make the mistake of thinking they can be lazy or indifferent toward their work. The best way for them to "watch" for their master is to be conscientious and active in the work he has given them to do.

What a wonderful way for us to start this season of waiting! Through all its Scripture readings, liturgies, and celebrations, we will be roused up out of whatever laziness, doldrums, or distractions might have gotten a foothold in us this past year, helping us now to heed Jesus' call to "watch." When we remember the work He has left for us and decide to give fresh attention and energy to it, we will not be caught sleeping at His return, whenever it may be. As surely as Jesus came the first time, in a manger, He will come again, in power and glory. In the meantime, He "comes" to us in every Mass, in the bread and wine, as we acclaim, "Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the LORD."

During this penitential season, let us check ourselves for drowsiness and heavy-lidded eyes; let us have ears to hear what the Church is saying: "Be alert!"

Possible response: *Lord Jesus, I want to be awake to You this year. Help me prepare well for that during Advent.*

First Reading (Read Isa 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7)

Isaiah was sent by God to the people of Judah (about 700 B.C.), because having wandered so far from covenant faithfulness, they had "become like unclean people." Here, however, he calls out to God on their behalf: "Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from Your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear You not?" The sin of the people had become so bad that Isaiah pleaded to God: "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down." He remembered that God physically visited His people on Mt. Sinai, centuries earlier, when Moses delivered them from bondage in Egypt. Isaiah longs for another visit from God, but he knows the people of Israel are not ready for that yet, because even their "good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind." Sadly, Isaiah knew that fellowship with God had been radically broken: "There is none who calls upon Your Name, who rouses himself to cling to You." See that sloth had infected these people, the very thing Jesus warned us about in the Gospel.

However, the prophet knows that no matter how broken the relationship between God and His people, He is still their "father." The people, for all their faults, are still "clay" in the hands of the "potter." This is always the hope of God's people. The first Advent of Jesus answered Isaiah's longing for God to appear beyond what any "ear has ever heard" or "eye ever seen." He did that "for those who wait for Him." The second Advent of Jesus, for which we are now preparing, will do the same. Jesus repeats Isaiah's desire to help us form our Advent resolve this year: "Would that You might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of You in our ways!"

Possible response: *Lord Jesus, I know that being ready for You means being serious about resisting sin. Please strengthen me against it during this Advent.*

Psalms (Read Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

The expectation of seeing God's face, described in different ways in the Gospel and our first reading, finds expression yet again in our psalm. The fact is, ever since the Garden of Eden, man has longed to see the face of God. When Adam and Eve were exiled from Paradise, they took with them this sense of longing. Jesus fulfilled man's deepest desire by revealing to us "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor 4:6). This event was in direct answer to the psalmist's prayer: "O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from Your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse Your power, and come to save us."

Now, we find ourselves, as God’s people, still longing to see His face, because we know that the work of salvation, although begun with the first Advent, will only be truly fulfilled with the Second Advent. So, we find the words of our responsorial appropriately powerful today: **“LORD, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved.”**

Possible response: *The psalm is, itself, a response to our other readings. Read it again prayerfully to make it your own.*

Second Reading (Read 1 Cor 1:3-9)

The wonderful help we get from St. Paul’s reading today is the knowledge that we can begin this Advent season with confidence that what we need to be ready for the Lord’s return has already been given to us. In his letter to the Church in Corinth, a group of converts made up largely of former pagans, St. Paul assures them that, because of their conversion, they were “not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We should note that if we were to read all of this epistle, we would discover that the Corinthian church was actually plagued by many problems, including immorality, liturgical chaos, and doctrinal confusion. However, we can see at the outset St. Paul’s confidence that Jesus “will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Why could he be so sure about this? St. Paul knew that God was working out His plan in these people, and as long as they did not fall asleep on the job, “God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This is exactly the perspective we need as we begin Advent: God wants us to see His face again, as much as we do. He has done everything necessary for that to happen, as we could not do it for ourselves. What is our part? It is to do the work He has given us to do, with all the spiritual gifts granted to us in our baptism and confirmation. If we embrace today for the glory of God, we will see the Glory of God when He returns; we will be responsive to the call to be “watchful” and “alert.”

Possible response: *Father, I thank You that I have all I need to enable me to be ready to see the face of Jesus. Help me remember to use Your gifts well in my Advent waiting.*



THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE



Honor Your Family Members, Friends and Loved Ones this Christmas with Poinsettia Flowers...

Each year the Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish Church is decorated so beautifully for Christmas ~ appropriately so to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

*If you would like to have one or more poinsettias placed in the Church “in honor of” or “in memory of” a family member, friend or loved one, please fill out the form below and return it to the parish office **BEFORE NOON on MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th** with a check for \$10.00 made payable to Saint Joseph Cathedral. Poinsettias are \$10.00 for each listing, and will be included in the special Cathedral’s bulletin for December 26 (bulletin listing space is limited; editing may be necessary).*

*Examples: Living and Deceased Members of the Smith and Jones Families
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Smith
In Honor of Columbus Police Officers and Firefighters*

Thank you for helping to adorn our Cathedral Church in this special way, and for remembering those special persons during this joyous time of the year.

PLEASE PRINT - ATTACH CHECK PAYABLE TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

YOUR NAME _____ PHONE _____

NUMBER OF FLOWERS _____ x \$10.00 each: TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Advent with the Mother of the Redeemer

TERESA HODGINS



The Mother of the Redeemer has a precise place in the plan of salvation, for “when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Gal. 4:4-6)

Pope St. John Paul II, Redemptoris Mater, Paragraph 1

Time has a funny significance to Catholics at this period of the year. The world around us is dying, transitioning to its winter dormancy. We are invited to ponder this death, and especially the deaths of loved ones as we pray for the souls suffering in Purgatory this month. However, we are not simply meant to rest in this death, as we soon after begin the preparation for the joyful event of Christmas—hope in the dead of winter.

In the Church, our year ends and begins earlier than the temporal one, with good reason. Our Lord knows we need time to prepare our hearts—to hear the messages of the ones ‘crying in the wilderness’. We are granted the season of Advent as a beginning: a time to be ‘shaken’ into the realization of the coming of our Savior.

At the heart of this time of Advent is the preparation for the “fullness of time”, the moment when our Savior arrives. Key to this event is a young girl—one who was first prepared so that the fullness of time might arrive. She was prepared herself to receive Him, and then prepared to give Him to all of us, through giving him space and sheltering him as he grew into the one promised. During Advent, we especially contemplate her physical mediation, standing in suspense, as we all wait for her to give birth bringing the Savior to each of us.

The great saints knew this, and perhaps in modern times no one knew it better than Pope Saint John Paul II, who adopted her as his own mother long before he became pope. While he gave us many reflections on Mary, his encyclical on the *Mother of the Redeemer (Redemptoris Mater)* stands out as a beautiful reflection on Mary’s role in the Church and the role she should have in each of our personal lives.

In it, he introduces us to the mother he loves, sharing her story and helping us to see how her very human story is a part of the Divine story. John Paul II invites us to get to know her better, showing how this woman can help us to grow closer to her Divine Son. In sharing his personal relationship with her, John Paul II shows us how building our own relationship with Mary can bring us closer both to Christ and his Church. In getting to know her better, we invite her to show us our way to Him.

For this reason, this Advent Endow invites you to join us in diving into a study of *Redemptoris Mater*. To accompany a daily reading plan, each week on The Endow Podcast or YouTube Channel, Simone Rizkallah and Father Paul Check of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, WI, will discuss the readings, helping listeners to truly get to know the woman and her Son who bring us to the fullness of time. In entering into this encyclical during Advent, we hope to help listeners to begin anew this year, building the relationships that will bring each closer to the joys of heaven.

To receive weekly updates and episode releases, subscribe here.



Image: Orazio Gentileschi, Madonna with Child (public domain)

THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE

Advent Is a Season of Great Hope

LOUISE MERRIE



Last Sunday, the Church began the season of Advent: a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. While all around us, the culture has started to celebrate Christmas early—with Christmas decorations, parties, carols, and cookies—the Church waits and enters into this time of expectation, inviting Catholics to be ready for Jesus when He comes.

The word Advent derives from the Latin for coming, *adventus*, and this season is about Jesus' coming to us in the past, present, and future. In anticipation of Christmas, we remember the Incarnation of Jesus—His becoming man and dwelling among us. We also reflect on what Jesus' Incarnation means for us. He came to save us from our sins and give us eternal life through His death on the cross. Therefore, Advent is a season of gratitude for what Jesus did for us out of His great love.

The Old Testament readings at Mass and the hymns we sing during Advent, such as “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” remind us that for many years, the Jewish people waited for the Messiah who would be their Savior. Mary spoke of this in her Magnificat when she proclaimed about God: “He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.” (Lk 13:54-55) Zechariah prophesied about Jesus in his canticle: “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.” (Lk 1:68-69) He realized that his son, John the Baptist, would “go before the Lord to prepare his way,” (Lk 1:76) and during Advent, we remember that St. John the Baptist preached repentance to prepare people for Jesus' coming.

During Advent we also consider the ways Jesus comes to us in the present time. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He promised to remain with us always, “until the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20) Jesus is with us now in the Church, in the Eucharist, in Sacred Scripture, and He is with us when we pray. Jesus is always near us. As Pope Benedict XVI said in an Advent homily: “Advent, this powerful liturgical season we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention He has for each one of us. How often does God give us a glimpse of His love!”

In the Advent season, we also prepare for Jesus' Second Coming in the future. We don't know when Jesus will return and so we must be ready. Jesus taught his disciples: “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know which day your Lord will come.” (Mt 24:42) Last Sunday, a priest in my parish gave a homily about preparing for Jesus' coming. He said we must be in a state of grace, follow the Commandments, pray, be of service to others, and practice self-denial. Advent is, like Lent, a time of renewal for Catholics, an opportunity to start over, and to experience conversion.

The Advent season is a joyful time. We look forward to remembering Jesus' birth at Christmas, we are thankful for Jesus being present with us now, and we wait, with hope, for His Second Coming.

Some Suggestions to Spiritually Prepare for Christmas

1. Go to confession and receive Jesus' forgiveness of your sins.
2. Attend Mass daily or a few times each week (in addition to Sunday Mass).
3. Spend time with Jesus in a church, where He is present in the Eucharist in the tabernacle.
4. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours.
5. Read and reflect on passages from the Bible, particularly the Infancy Narratives at the beginning of the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke. You could also read the daily Mass readings.
6. Make an act of sacrifice, such as giving up dessert or social media.
7. Do one or more of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, such as visiting someone who is sick.

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

“Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace.” +SAINT AMBROSE

Monday, December 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent **Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11 When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Meditation: In the Roman world the position of centurion was very important. He was an officer in charge of a hundred soldiers. In a certain sense, he was the backbone of the Roman army, the cement which held the army together. The centurion who approached Jesus was not only courageous, but faith-filled as well. He risked the ridicule of his cronies as well as mockery from the Jews by seeking help from an itinerant preacher from Galilee. Nonetheless, the centurion approached Jesus with great confidence and humility. He was an extraordinary man because he loved his slave. In the Roman world slaves were treated like animals – something to be used for work and pleasure and for bartering and trade. This centurion was a man of great compassion and extraordinary faith. He wanted Jesus to heal his beloved slave. Jesus commends him for his faith and immediately grants him his request.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the Priest Saint John Damascene, so that the true faith, which he excelled in teaching, may always be our light and our strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The prophet Isaiah foretold a time of restoration for the holy city Jerusalem and for its remnants (ref. Isaiah 4:2-6) and also a time of universal peace when all nations would come to Jerusalem to “the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob” and “beat their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:2-4). Jesus fulfills this prophecy first by restoring both Jew and Gentile to fellowship with God through the victory he won for us on the cross. When he comes again he will fully establish his universal rule of peace and righteousness and unite all things in himself (ref. Ephesians 1:10). His promise extends to all generations who believe in him that we, too, might feast at the heavenly banquet table with the patriarchs of the Old Covenant who believed but did not see the promised Messiah. And so we need to ask ourselves: Do you believe in God's promises and do you seek his kingdom first in your life? The season of Advent reminds us that the Lord wants us to actively seek him and the coming of his kingdom in our lives. The Lord will surely reward those who seek his will for their lives. We can approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith, like the centurion did in today's gospel reading, knowing that he will show us his mercy, love, compassion, along with guidance and help in our time of need.

Tuesday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:21-24 Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed

over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

Meditation: What does Jesus' prayer in today's gospel tell us about God and about ourselves? First, it tells us that God is both Father and Lord of earth as well as heaven. He is both Creator and Author of all that he has made, the first origin of everything and transcendent authority, and at the same time, goodness and loving care for all his children. All fatherhood and motherhood are derived from him (ref. Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. Pride closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. Jesus contrasts pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are like "babes" in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in God who is the source of all wisdom and strength. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" which is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6). The grace of Christ-like humility inclines us towards God and disposes us to receive God's wisdom, grace, and help. Nothing can give us greater joy than the knowledge that we are God's beloved and that our names are written in heaven (ref. Luke 10:20).

Prayer: Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions, and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – He is the perfect revelation of God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Do you pray to your Father in heaven with joy and confidence in his love and care for you?

Wednesday, December 6 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37 At that time: Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.

Meditation: What can satisfy the deepest hunger and longing of the human heart? Isaiah prophesied that God would provide a heavenly banquet for all peoples and would destroy death once and for all (Isaiah 2:6-8). Jesus came to fulfill that promise. Jesus' miracles are both a sign of God's kingdom and a demonstration of God's power. They also show the magnitude of God's mercy. When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was left over.

Prayer: We humbly implore your mercy, Lord: protect us in all dangers through the prayers of the Bishop Saint Nicholas, that the way of salvation may lie open before us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: In the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he cares. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly – more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his banquet table. And do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness? If not, what is getting in your way? What is holding you back?

Thursday, December 7 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27 Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

Meditation: In the ancient world a strong city, an impregnable fortress, and a secure house were built on solid rock because they could withstand the forces of nature and foe alike. Isaiah speaks of God as an "everlasting rock" (Is. 26:4). He is the rock of refuge and deliverance (Psalm 18:2) and the rock in whom there is no wrong (Psalm 92:15). Scripture warns that destruction will surely come to those who place their security in something other than God and his kingdom. Jesus' parables invite us to stake our lives on the coming of his kingdom or face the consequences of being unprepared when the day of testing and destruction will surely come.

Prayer: O God, who made the Bishop Saint Ambrose a teacher of the Catholic faith and a model of apostolic courage, raise up in your Church men after your own heart to govern her with courage and wisdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Jesus told the story of the builders he likely had the following proverb in mind: "When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever" (Proverbs 10:25). What's the significance of the story for us? The kind of foundation we build our lives upon will determine whether we can survive the storms that are sure to come. Builders usually lay their foundations when the weather and soil conditions are at their best. It takes foresight to know how a foundation will stand up against adverse conditions. Building a house on a flood plain, such as a dry river-bed, is a sure bet for disaster! Jesus prefaced his story with a warning: We may fool humans with our speech, but God cannot be deceived. He sees the heart as it truly is – with its motives, intentions, desires, and choices (Psalm 139:2). There is only one way in which a person's sincerity can be proved, and that is by one's practice. Fine words can never replace good deeds. Our character is revealed in the choices we make, especially when we are tested. Do you cheat on an exam or on your income taxes, especially when it will cost you? Do you lie, or cover-up, when disclosing the truth will cause you injury or embarrassment? A true person is honest and reliable before God, one's neighbor and oneself. His or her word can be counted on. If you heed God's word and live according to it then you need not fear when storms assail you. God will be your rock and your refuge. Is your life built upon the sure "rock" of Jesus Christ? Do you listen to and embrace the word of the Lord as if your life depended on it? If not, why not?

Friday, December 8 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid,

Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: Do you want to live a grace-filled life? The angel Gabriel salutes Mary as "full of grace." To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts to enable her to assume this awesome role. There is a venerable tradition among many Christians, dating back to the early church, for honoring Mary as the spotless virgin who bore the Son of God in her womb. A number of early Church fathers link Mary's obedience to this singular grace of God. One of them Saint Irenaeus, wrote: "Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve's disobedience was united by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."

Prayer: O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequence of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in his mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace, or resist and go our own way. Choose the path of Mary, not of Eve.

About today's Solemnity: Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Advent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2023



~ TAKING PLACE IN THE CATHEDRAL PARISH ~

THIS SUNDAY IS FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY IN THE UNDERCROFT AT 11:30 A.M.: Refreshments will be served between the 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses. New Parishioners are cordially invited to attend and meet other parishioners, Priests, Liturgical Ministers, Pastoral Council and visitors. Sandwiches will be made during this time that will benefit the homeless and needy through the Cathedral's "back door ministry." All are invited to help make sandwiches.

Volunteers are needed to assist with coffee making and setting up for Fellowship Sundays. Please Contact Ed Hueckel, Emmett2381@yahoo.com.

CLEANING THE CHURCH IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS – It's that time of year when we need a little extra help to prepare the church and make it shine. Sign-up sheets are located on the table near the Broad Street entrance. Join us Monday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Undercroft for pizza, subs, and refreshments. Then, up to the church to work some magic and make her shine. Please sign up, this will give us a better count on how much food to order. Thank you all for your help!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 9:00 A.M. IS TRAINING FOR HOSPITALITY MINISTERS (everybody should be at least a Hospitality Minister as well) and Altar Servers – inside the Cathedral Church.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: St. Joseph Cathedral happily announces the coming nuptials of Brooks Henson & Taylor Bolender on December 9, 2023 and Anne Hurst & Christopher Doubell on December 16, 2023. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their weddings.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, Holiday cheer is in the air and with this cheer comes the spirit of giving. On December 3, the Cathedral's Giving Tree will be put up and adorned with decorations. On the back of each ornament will be a suggestion for a gift card to be purchased for a family in need. If you wish to participate in this tradition, please take an ornament from the Tree, purchase the suggested gift card, place the ornament and gift card in an envelope marked JOIN and place the envelope in the offertory basket. The gift cards will be collected each week and delivered to the Joint Organization of Inner-City Needs (JOIN) who in turn will distribute them to Columbus families in need. In the past, our parishioners have been very generous and JOIN and the Columbus families in need have been very appreciative.

CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES: LESSONS AND CAROLS: Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass mark the season with their annual presentation of Lessons and Carols. The afternoon will include seasonal choral works as well as familiar carols sung by all.

CATHEDRAL BIBLE STUDY: Cathedral Bible Study meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. There is interest in having a daytime Bible Study as well. If you are interested in joining either session, please contact Carol at 614-224-1295.

~ TAKING PLACE AT HOLY CROSS ~

THE GIVING TREE AT HOLY CROSS will be available on November 19 through December 3. Please pick an ornament with gift suggestion. Children services from Franklin County will receive our donations. In advance, thank you for considering your participation in this Advent project.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: Holy Cross Church happily announces the coming nuptials of Grace Hofer & Tyler Campbell on December 30, 2023. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTLY VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUP: There are now seven Melchizedek Project – Priestly Vocation Discernment Groups meeting in our diocese. They are held at:

- Columbus – OSU Newman Center
- Our Lady of Peace
- St. Michael
- St. Patrick
- St. Pius X
- Sunbury – St. John Neumann
- Lancaster – St. Bernadette
- Newark – St. Francis

For more information, go to the following website: <https://www.vocationscolumbus.org/project>

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE: There is no luncheon in January, but plan on attending our luncheon on Friday, February 2, 2024, when Bishop Fernandes will return to present the Catholic Man of the Year Award.

YOUR OFFERTORY IS A GIFT TO GOD:

If your Offertory is not made electronically, please use your Parish Offertory envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Updated November 27, 2023 – 2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 42,645.24
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 55,622.00
Exceeds Diocesan Goal by	\$ 12,976.76

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.
Percent of Parishioner Participation – 16%

Offertory for Saint Joseph Cathedral – November 19

Credit Card/EFT	\$ 4,420.00
Mail-in	\$ 0.00
Collection	\$ 1,878.50
8% Diocese	(\$ 487.88)
TOTAL	\$ 5,810.62
Poor Box	\$ 533.00

Offertory for Saint Joseph Cathedral – November 26

Credit Card	\$ 718.00
Mail-in	\$ 0.00
Collection	\$ 2,367.77
8% Diocese	(\$ 246.90)
TOTAL	\$ 2,838.87
Special Collection	\$ 300.00
POOR BOX	\$ 255.00

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HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Updated November 27, 2023 – 2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 21,018.43
Enhanced Goal	\$ 26,018.43
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 18,900.00
AMOUNT STILL NEEDED	\$ 2,118.43

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.
Percent of Parishioner Participation – 18.7%

Offertory for Holy Cross - November 19

Offertory	\$ 1,338.00
Mail-in	\$ 610.00
Repair	\$ 72.00
8% Diocese	(\$ 161.60)
Net to Parish	\$ 1,858.40

Offertory for Holy Cross – November 26

Offertory	\$ 2,480.00
Mail-in	\$ 0.00
Repair	\$ 0.00
Repair Mail-in	\$ 0.00
8% Diocese	(\$ 198.40)
Net to Parish	\$ 2,281.60
Special Collection	\$ 300.00

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2. Create a secure account.
3. Schedule your recurring Sunday Offertory gifts.
4. Scroll down the alphabetical listing to **The Appeal** and make your recurring gift.

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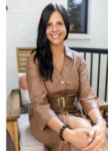
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