

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

**LED THEM
UP A HIGH
MOUNTAIN.**

— MARK 9:2 —

Welcome



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

31 ASBURY ROAD ▪ FARMINGDALE, NJ ▪ 07727



frontoffice@sienachurch.org



732-938-5375



www.sienachurch.org

CONNECT WITH US

CLERGY

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon Pastor

E: pastor@sienachurch.org

Deacon Daniel Sakowski

E: deacondan@sienachurch.org

PARISH STAFF

Laura Randazzo Pastor's Associate

E: passociate@sienachurch.org

Janet Amato Office Assistant

E: officeassistant@sienachurch.org

Charles Clarke Music Director

E: frontoffice@sienachurch.org

OFFICE HOURS

MON—THURS

9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM — 12:45 PM

*The Church is open during
Parish Office hours
for prayer.*

WORSHIP WITH US

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 4:30 PM

SUNDAY 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation

9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

31 Asbury Rd., Farmingdale, NJ



WEEKDAY MASS

St. Catherine's Chapel

1 West Main Street Farmingdale

MONDAY 9:00 AM
TUESDAY 9:00 AM
THURSDAY 9:00 AM
FRIDAY 9:00 AM

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday's immediately following
Weekday 9 AM Mass at Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

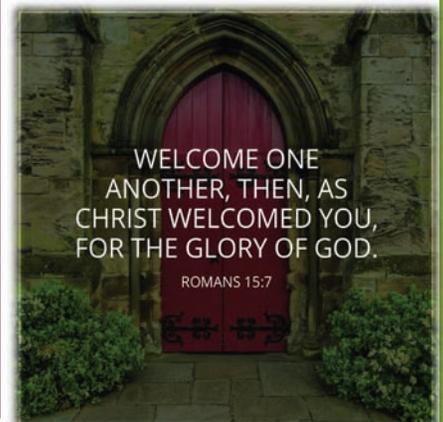
First Friday of the Month
immediately following Weekday
9 AM Mass at Chapel

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 3:30—4:00 PM

Church

Other days by Appointment



A Message from our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Everyone who has contributed to the ACA must have received your letter of thanks from the bishop, as well as the reminder that this weekend, the Diocese of Trenton is going to have the launching of the ACA 2024 in all parishes, including our very own parish community. As we announced before last year's 2023 ACA, our parish has exceeded the goal of 40,000 dollars by 17%. Hence, we are going to receive a rebate of \$9,390.50. And we are so blessed to have the dedicated and generous parishioners who responded to our pleas. We can't thank you enough for your beautiful and kind hearts. It inspires us to work harder as we know you are with us in this great endeavor. Our goal for this year's 2024 ACA is \$40,000, as assigned by the diocese. We aim to get more participation in the appeal to help the work and ministries of our more prominent Church, the Diocese of Trenton, and exceed the goal to get the rebate for our parish community. As everyone knows, labor prices, utility bills, and products and services are getting higher, and the rebate is a great help for the parish. Please be generous and support our 2024 ACA. There will be no preaching at this weekend's masses to give way to the video of the bishop as well as the pastor's pitch on the appeal—many thanks for paying attention and listening to the video and my brief talk.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Some texts of the Bible are not easy to understand because they are written in another culture and in a different historical situation. We often interpret them in a literal way for we do not have a KEY that can open the true interpretation and reading of a text. The three readings of today's Mass are good examples. The story of Abraham and Isaac is often understood in a literal way: Abraham really tied up his son to be slaughtered, and this is because of God's order. It is a repulsive story used to express

the true nature God: God is not a cruel God who demands sacrifices... God is not God in terms of the leaflet last week: A God who allows us to be surrounded by wild beasts... God is committed to forgive and to bless people. Abraham receives the message: "I will bless you abundantly."

The second reading is even more cruel one: it seems as if God ordered his son to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Again, we do not have the right key to read the text. Jesus was executed by the rulers of his society, the priest-politicians and invaders, the Romans. God is not a God who intervenes. It is a suffering God who is present to suffering mankind and in a very special way was present when Jesus died, but God turns Jesus' death into a blessing. "Christ Jesus it is who died--- or rather, was raised... and God indeed intercedes for us." Finally, in the Gospel, we seem to witness some magic: Jesus transformed into a dazzling angel, illuminated by heavenly light, and accompanied by Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets of the Hebrew Bible. The experience is more down-to-earth. The disciples had seen Jesus' healings and witnessed his preaching, but they did not get it. And then came an intense prayer experience with Jesus: he is man in whom God's Spirit dwells, a prophetic man who will be executed by the mighty ones of their society, but God will take care of him. He will be rising from the dead, although they are asking "What rising from the dead meant."

The key to understanding Lent should be a more positive one. It is springtime, a time of a new vitality, blessings, sharing of concern and love with our neighbor, and with this key in mind, we can confidently walk to the core affirmation of Christian life: we are a people of the way, following Jesus' self-gift to our neighbor which led to a new life, Easter, the life of the risen Lord.

May God bless us.—Father Angelito

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own
beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

Psalm:

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

Second Reading:

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along
with him? (Rom 8:32)

Gospel:

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

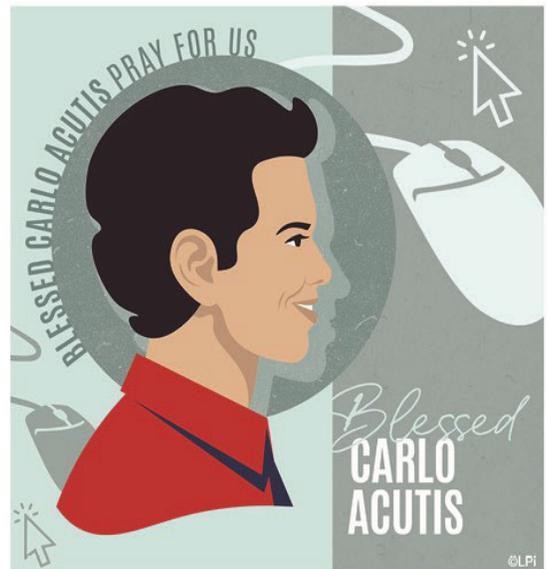
The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

Observances for the week of February 25, 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 and is the first millennial to be beatified. Despite dying of leukemia at age 15, he developed a website that showcases Eucharistic Miracles around the world, demonstrating that holiness knows no age.

Prayer of Trust

Dear Lord,
Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't fully understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Saturday • February 24

4:30 PM

† **Sabina Calabrese**
r/b Mary Ann O'Brien

Sunday • February 25

8:00 AM

† **Salvatore & Francesca Ciaravino**
r/b Ciaravino Family

10:00 AM

† **Angelo Silecchia**
r/b Miller & Holtz Family

11:30 AM

† **Dinh Nguyen**
r/b Loving Wife & Children

Monday • February 26

9:00 AM

† **Carl Koziar**
r/b Joanne Monroe

Tuesday • February 27

9:00 AM

† **Carmela DiLibero**
r/b Dominick Pondaco & Family

Thursday • February 29

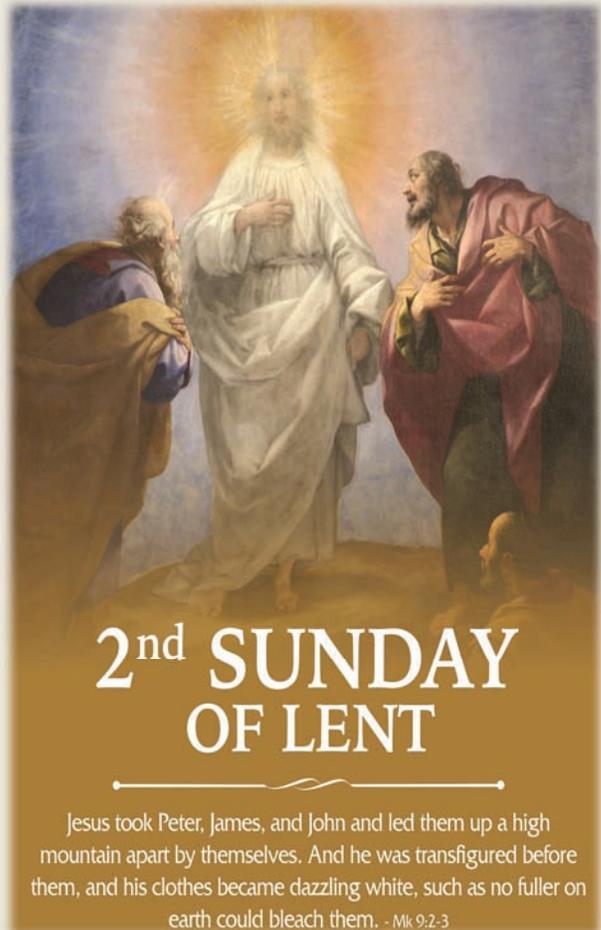
9:00 AM

† **Robert Butler**
r/b Bruce & Cynthia Silar

Friday • March 1

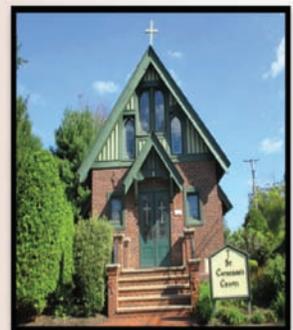
9:00 AM

† **Kathryn King**
r/b Victoria Roberts



IMPORTANT Announcements

Weekday Mass at
St. Catherine's
Chapel is
moved to the
CHURCH
until
further notice.



We Celebrate the Sacraments

SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

The godparents, together with the parents, must be willing to help the baptized grow in love for Christ and neighbor. By word and example, the godparents will encourage the candidate to live the Christian life and fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 872-874).

Requirements to Obtain a Sponsor Certificate/Letters of Eligibility

In St. Catherine's Parish and in all Catholic Parishes in the U.S.

- A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, & Confirmation and if married, married in the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A sponsor attends Mass faithfully participating in the life and support of the Church, receiving the Eucharist, and leading a life according to the teachings of the Church.

For sponsor requests from St. Catherine's, you must be registered at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and registered for at least six (6) months prior to the request, showing participation in the life & support of the Church.

*Note, if he/she received all his/her sacraments here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish years ago **but now lives elsewhere, he/she is not a member of this parish.***

*Rather, he/she is a member of the parish in whose territory he/she resides. **This is where the sponsor certificate must be obtained.***

Anointing of the Sick

Please call 732-938-5375.

Baptism

First-time parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to scheduling the Baptism.

Godparents are required to provide Sponsor Certificates before a Baptismal date is given.

Please call the Parish Office for information.

Matrimony

Engaged Couples should contact our parish at least one year in advance of the proposed date of marriage and before making other arrangements.

Ministry to the Homebound

For Homebound requests, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass

Please call the Parish Office at 732-938-5375.

Reconciliation

3:30 p.m. Saturday
Other days by appointment.

Low Gluten Host

An extremely low-gluten host (37 micrograms) is available for those in need. Please notify the Priest prior to the beginning of Mass.

Altar Flowers for Church & Chapel

Please call the Parish Office to order. Flower orders are not permitted during Lent.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday:

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

The Glory of These 40 Days
Text: St Gregory The Great 540-604
Music: Erhalt Uns Herr 1543 Test 88.88

"The Glory of These Forty Days" is a Lenten hymn that reflects on the significance of the forty days of fasting and preparation leading up to Easter. The hymn invites believers to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus, who spent forty days in the wilderness fasting and praying before beginning His public ministry.

The hymn's lyrics draw on themes of repentance, self-denial, and spiritual renewal, which are central to the season of Lent. It calls believers to emulate Jesus' example by engaging in prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. The hymn also points to the ultimate purpose of Lent, which is to prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

This hymn tune was a Lutheran hymn and the keyboard accompaniment was done by Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750.



Every Friday During Lent 6 PM

February 16

March 8

February 23

March 15

March 1

March 22

Good Friday March 29

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Call the Office
to sign-up

POTLUCK

6:30 PM

March 1, 2024 Parish Hall

BRING A SOUP TO SHARE!



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 23, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024** --- the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these forty days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.

The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as noted above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called “**Easter duty**” --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024, to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024**. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of Penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Sunday Morning
at the 11:30 AM
Mass
Ages 4—8



Children are called forward after the opening prayer, and follow our CLOW Leader to the gathering room to hear the Gospel at their own level.

They return for Liturgy of the Eucharist.

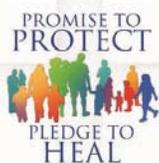
Just sign-in with the CLOW Leader before the start of Mass.

Sharing the Gospel

Start with a pile of blocks. Add your imagination and you can build a castle or a city. You can change that pile of blocks to look completely different and wonderful. In today's Gospel, Jesus was completely changed. He started out looking like an ordinary man. Then, right in front of Peter, James and John, something happened.

Find the matching shadow:

John, something happened. Jesus glowed brightly like the sun. Even his clothes became bright white. Talk about changing into something different and wonderful! God let Peter, James and John see Jesus as he looks now in heaven.



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

Upcoming Events

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother.



You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear.

Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God.

If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2024 Weekend Retreats

November 15-17, 2024

Offerings at Francis House of Prayer
Trenton Diocesan
Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

Interfaith Neighbors at the
Howell Senior Center
Needs Volunteers
to Deliver Meals to
Homebound Seniors.



For more information, call Melanie Decker, Director of Senior Services at [732-938-4500](tel:732-938-4500) x 2550.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR ANYONE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

We have many offerings for anyone experiencing the pain and hurt of losing a marriage relationship. It doesn't matter if you are contemplating divorce, newly separated, going through the divorce process, recently divorced or divorced many years. You could have been married 4 years or 40 years, it doesn't matter, this program has help for everyone that attends!

We are currently offering a 12-Week Program

Beginning Thursday, March 7, 2024

From 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Leo The Great, Parish Center Meeting Room

Located at 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ

To register or to have one of the Facilitators give you a call to find out more information, please email: healing-heartsfromdivorce@gmail.com. For more information to help you decide if this program is right for you, please visit: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry>.

Parish Support

Weekly Sunday Collection

Saturday/Sunday, February 17-18, 2024

4:30 PM Mass	\$1,204.00	131 People
8:00 AM Mass	\$1,120.00	139 People
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,454.00	136 People
11:30 AM Mass	\$846.00	121 People
Online Giving	\$2,235.00	
Total	\$6,859.00	
Second Collection		
Black & Native American Home Missions		\$773.00
Ash Wednesday		\$3,065.00

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST FORM

If you wish to receive a written statement reporting your 2023 contributions to St. Catherine of Siena Church for purposes of your income tax returns, please email your request to:

taxstatements@sienachurch.org.

Please include in the email your full name, address and envelope number.

If you contribute through the online giving platform, WeShare, please indicate that in the email. All requests will be emailed directly to you unless otherwise noted.

Please contact the Parish Office at 732-938-5375 with any questions.

Thank You for Your Generosity.



ONLINE GIVING

Sign up for online giving through WESHARE.

VISIT: www.sienachurch.org

ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2024

Our Parish Goal: \$40,000.00

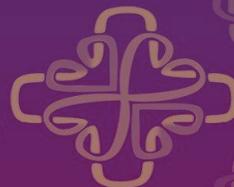


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2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

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LOVE

Clergy and Religious Life Ministries



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2024 GOAL: \$6.5 MILLION

WAYS TO GIVE

MAIL

Make check or money order payable to:

Annual Catholic Appeal
Diocese of Trenton
P.O. Box 70170
Newark, NJ 07101



ONLINE

Scan the QR code below with your phone camera or visit dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal to make a gift using major credit cards, ACH bank draft, PayPal, Apple Pay or Venmo!

ADDITIONAL GIFT OPTIONS

Gifts of Stock, IRA Distributions, Bequests, Charitable Annuities, and Cryptocurrency can be coordinated by contacting the Department of Development at 609-403-7197.

Donation can also be sent to the Parish Office.

Attention: Laura Randazzo

732-938-5375.

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