

A photograph of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church building, featuring a prominent steeple with a cross on top. The building is made of light-colored stone or brick with arched windows. The sky is clear and blue.

St. John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Corner of E. Lincoln
and Hamlet Streets*

Church Mailing Address:
168 E. Lincoln Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1534

(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

E-mail: info@sjbitaliana.org

Msgr. Frank P. Lane,
Parochial Administrator

*(National Italian Parish ~
Est. 1896)*

MASSES/MESSE:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist
Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

WEEKDAYS AND HOLY DAYS:

(See Mass Schedule inside Bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE/STAFF:

Aggie Howard, Bookkeeper, ahoward@sjbitaliana.org
Victoria Scruggs, Secretary, St. John the Baptist
Office Hours, St. John the Baptist:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administration of both parishes is done through the office at St. John the Baptist – 168 E. Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, hall rental and other non-emergency needs should be made during regular office hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes, such as address or telephone, etc., by calling during regular hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Announcements must be submitted in writing
by Tuesday at noon.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Gina M. Bishop, Music Director
John C. Huffman, Organist

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We welcome you into our Parish Families.
Membership in the parish consists of two parts:
Registration: Please fill out form and return to Office.
Participation: As a member of the Church, you are accepting the responsibility of weekly worship as well as supporting God's work here through giving of yourself, your time and talents, and a worthy Sunday offering to show your love for God and your gratitude for His many favors.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONE:

One half-hour prior to weekend Mass or by request/appointment.

BAPTISM/BATTESIMO:

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament.
Parents are encouraged to call the Rectory and set up an appointment before the birth of their child.

MATRIMONY/MATRIMONIO:

Arrangements should be made at least six or more months in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/INFIRMI:

In cases of emergencies, please call anytime. Please notify the Parish Office for Communion calls to the sick, shut-ins. Due to privacy laws, if parishioners wish to be visited in the hospital, they should contact the Parish Office directly and give the information regarding the hospitalization. **If you are scheduled for surgeries or other medical procedures**, please contact the Parish Office in advance so that a priest can administer Anointing of the Sick prior to the procedure.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Italian Catholic Church

Dear Friends in Christ

The Festival final report has been finished. All the bills are in and have been paid with, perhaps, a few very minor items. The festival grossed **\$680,755.73** which is **\$52,655.00** more than we anticipated. The net was **\$300,331.95** which is **\$72,981** more than we anticipated. There were **20,918** admission tickets sold. This does not include those tickets given to volunteers, sponsors, and people in the neighborhood. Expenses were down from last year by **\$20,318.00**. So – the **2023 Italian Festival** was a great success and a tribute to all of you who volunteered, supported, or in any way contributed to the **Festival!**

This all seems like a lot of money, which it is, but it is used for maintenance and capital repairs. The **Festival** money is put into an account with the **Diocese** and used only for significant maintenance expenses and capital improvements. These expenses can be very significant. For instance, from **July to December** of this year (**2023**) we paid out **\$154,107.88** in **major maintenance** and **capital repairs**.

Having a fund in reserve to cover the cost of regular maintenance and improvements or unexpected capital expenses gives **St. John's a secure future**. Our facility is in great **shape**, but the church is **125 years** old, and the rest of the buildings are aging also. The **Festival** financially stabilizes the parish and allows us to have a buffer against future weather issues with the **Festival** and other kinds of unexpected financial difficulties. It is an essential part of our **"insurance policy"** for the future.

Many Blessings for the week!

Fr. Lane

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and at St. John the Baptist, they are Mondays Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., followed by RCIA at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish Library on the second floor.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, December 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	Gretchen Heininger, Al Iosue,
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Pat Rossetti, Kurt Heininger, Sharon D'Alberto
Sunday	Sunday, December 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Valerie Milano, Ed Pagnanelli,
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	Kurt Heininger, Andrea Myers
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Gretchen Heininger, AnnMarie Pastore

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: Dominic Valentino
by Chris Soteriades

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS**

****If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the Parish Office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, and John Contino.**

Confessions heard before Mass
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters 937-902-7446 or via email k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for December are:
December 10 Maureen Iosue
December 17 Gary Bosco

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 12/10	9:30 a.m.	+ Jim Graf by the Graf Family
Monday 12/11	9:00 a.m.	+ Joan Royer by the McCallum Family
Tuesday 12/12	9:00 a.m.	The Living & Deceased Members of the Gideon Family by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
Wednesday 12/13	6:00 p.m.	+ Paul Seeger by the Altar Guild
Sunday 12/17	9:30 a.m.	+ Joe Pishitelli by Phillip & Judy Pishitelli
Monday 12/18	9:00 a.m.	+ Brian Adkins by the McCallum Family
Tuesday 12/19	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Padre Pio	No Mass + Amalee Soteriades
Wednesday 12/20	6:00 p.m.	+ David Fersch by the McCallum Family

MASS INTENTIONS

Please consider your **Mass Intention** for your loved ones for our weekday **Masses, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays** as **Sunday Mass Intentions** are all booked. **Thank you!**



Congratulations to the family of Zachary and Emyle Taylor whose son, Brady Jaxson, was baptized on Sunday, December 3, 2023. May the Holy Spirit be with you all!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE 2023

Christmas Vigil	Church	Mass Time
December 24	Sacred Heart	9:00 p.m.
	St. John	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Church	Mass Time
December 25	Sacred Heart	10:30 a.m.
	St. John	No Mass
New Year's Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 31	Sacred Heart	11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
	St. John	9:30 a.m.
New Year's Day	Church	Mass Time
January 1	Sacred Heart	No Mass
	St. John	11:00 a.m.

Padre Pio Prayer Group: Tuesday, December 19, at 12:30 p.m., starting with the Rosary, followed by Mass at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome! There is No 9:00 a.m. Mass that day.

RCIA: Classes are now being offered for both **Sacred Heart** and **St. John the Baptist** parishes on **Wednesday** evenings right after the **6:00 p.m. Mass** at **St. John**. **RCIA class** starts at **7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Library located on the **second floor**. This class is required for anyone who wants to enter the **Catholic Church**, for those baptized **Catholic** but did not complete the Initiation **Sacraments**, as well as those who simply desire to deepen their understanding of **Catholicism**. **Questions? Contact Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405, or SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org.**

The La Befana Celebration will be **January 7, 2024**, after **9:30 a.m. Mass** in **Marrapese Hall**. Please bring children and grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful Italian tradition. Sponsored by **Le Donne**.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

12/10 Sunday	<p>SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting – Marrapese 10:45-11:30 a.m. SJB – Carfagna Baptism – 1:30 p.m. Marrapese Hall Family Reception KCC – Religious Education Class – Italian Classroom – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass – 12:00-3:00 p.m.</p>
12/11 Monday	<p>SJB – Mass Msgr. Lane – 9:00 a.m. SJB La Prossima Italian Cookie/Exchange – Marrapese – 5:30-10:30 p.m.</p>
12/12 Tuesday	<p>SJB – Mass Msgr. Lane – 9:00 a.m.</p>
12/13 Wednesday	<p>SJB Finance Meeting – Italian Cultural Room 1:00 p.m. SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 6:00 p.m. SJB RCIA Class – 7:00-8:30 p.m. SJB The Artistry of Antipasto “Creating a Charcuterie Board Italian Style!” – Marrapese 6:30-10:00 p.m.</p>
12/15 Friday	<p>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – 6:00 p.m.</p>
	<p>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall – 10:45 a.m.</p>
	<p>Le Donne Group Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. 10:45-11:15 a.m. There are no meetings in June or July.</p>

How IS St. JOHN'S DOING? \$? \$?

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 3,000.04	\$ 4,061.33	\$ 1,061.29
FYTD:	\$ 69,000.92	\$ 70,201.98	\$ 1,201.06

Income and Expenses from September 1-30, 2023.

Income:	\$ 15,687.80
Expense:	\$ 28,302.87
Difference:	-\$ 12,615.07

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN

December 3, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 40

Envelopes:	\$ 1,670.00
Loose:	\$ 364.00
Holy Day:	\$ 35.00
Nov. EFT:	\$ 1,992.33
Total	\$ 4,061.33
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(324.91)
	\$ 3,736.42
Votives	\$ 32.00
St. Anthony's Bread	\$ 120.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 400.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 70.00
Total	\$ 622.00

DONATE QR CODE AND WEBSITE INFORMATION



Please help St. John the Baptist maintain this beautiful 125-year-old building with a donation by using the QR code to donate. Thank you!



SJB Collection Counters for Monday December 11, 2023

David Ross and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 18, 2023

Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard



Office Hours: Parish Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25 and Tuesday December 26 and will resume on Wednesday, December 27.

PAVERS: The front Pavilion of St. John's Church is covered with Pavers. These Pavers are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of St. John's at 614-294-5319.

Volunteers needed to help decorate St. John the Baptist Church for Christmas. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 23 in the church. Bring a step stool/step ladder if you have one.

Christmas Flowers: Christmas poinsettias are available again this year. Flowers may be requested in memory of a loved one and will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas Season. An envelope for Christmas poinsettias is included in the December offertory envelopes. You also may put your donation and memorial request in a regular envelope and place it in the collection basket. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per poinsettia. The Christmas flowers add such beauty to St. John's during this special time of year. Thank you.



This is a newly formed Italian Club for Young Adults: la prossima is a Young Adult Group keeping the culture alive through the next generation – a vibrant club for young adults of Italian descent.

Bishop Watterson High School Choirs: will hold their Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 12th at Sacred Heart Church at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser: Did you know that every time you use your **Kroger Plus Card** when purchasing groceries, **Kroger** donates money to our church? All you have to do is register your card at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. It's that easy! Follow the steps below to enroll your **Kroger Card** today!

1. Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Click **"Get Started"** on the **Link your Shoppers Card** section.
3. Sign into your online Kroger account (or create an account if you don't have one).
4. In the **Find an organization** field, search for **"St. John the Baptist Italian"** or type in our organization's number **"YY987"** then click **"Enroll."**
5. Once you enroll, every time you use your **Kroger Plus** card at **Kroger**, your purchases will earn money for our church!

Please share this **Fundraising Program** with your friends and family! For this quarter, the Kroger Rewards for SJB was \$57.33.

Altar Guild Pool: Score sheets for the **December 29th Ohio State/Missouri Cotton bowl game** are now available for all who purchased an entry (see **Gary Bosco** in Sala Hall after Sunday Mass). Squares for the **2024 Super Bowl Pool** will go on sale starting **Sunday, December 17**. Entry cost for the **SB** is **\$50.00** a square with a payout of **\$1,000.00** for winning numbers at the end of **Q1, Q2, Q3, and End of Game**. The **SB Pool** usually sells out in **4-5 weeks**, so if interested, see **Gary** as soon as possible after any **Sunday Mass**. Once all entries are sold, square numbers will be drawn during a regular **Sunday post-Mass** coffee & donut gathering (with copies of the scoresheets distributed shortly thereafter). Thanks for helping to support the altar needs of our church and good luck!

The Artistry of Antipasto.

Creating a Charcuterie Board Italian Style! 

Discover the art of pairing cheeses, cured meats, condiments, bread, and wines, which complement your culinary creations. Join us as **Danny Faiella** unveils the secrets to crafting an authentic Italian charcuterie board that will captivate your guests this holiday season. **When: Wednesday, December 13**, following the **6:00 p.m. Mass (6:30 p.m.)** **Where: Marrapese Hall; Cost: \$10.00 per person** – We will enjoy the masterpiece that's created. Don't miss this chance to elevate your entertaining skills to Italian perfection! **RSVP to Ida Shook at shook4@gmail.com. Buon appetito!**

AROUND US

You are invited to pray for the Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2023: *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.*

Liturgical Calendar: The first two days of **December** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** and are represented by the liturgical color green. The next **22** days fall during the liturgical season of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. The remaining days of **December** mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold – symbols of joy, purity, and innocence. The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

You can help: **"Religious are blessed to serve,"** says **Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben**, age **90**. Please donate to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly **25,000** senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

Nominations now open for the 2024 Catholic Man of the Year:

The **Catholic Men's Luncheon Club** is accepting nominations for the **Diocese of Columbus 2024 Catholic Man of the Year**. The annual award will be presented by **Bishop Earl Fernandes** on **Friday, February 2, 2024**, at the **Men's Luncheon** held at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus**. The **Catholic Man of the Year** is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through **Sunday December 31, 2023**. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the **Catholic Man of the Year!**

December 12: Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Mary, who was "intimately united with the birth of the Church in America, became the radiant Star illuminating the proclamation of Christ the Savior to the sons of these nations." –John Paul II



Second Sunday of Advent: After a chaotic year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the **Advent** season...a time when believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of **Christ's** birth. The

Second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts in faithful waiting, celebrate the birth of **Jesus**, and ready ourselves for His Second Coming. It's a beautiful chance to reflect on the ways prophecy has been fulfilled and to ponder what the future (promised to us through prophecies) will bring. **Psalm 46:10-11** says: **"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."**

Today's Gospel is from the **Gospel of Mark 1:1-8**: **"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."** In twelve words, **St. Mark** sums up the initiation of the greatest event that ever occurred in our human history, an event whose culmination would be not on earth, but in heaven. **God** fulfilled the plan He had for us when creation began. He raised us up to the dignity of divine sonship by the **Incarnation**. The eternal **Son of God** "humbled himself" and joined our human nature to his divinity, thus making us his brothers and capable of sharing with Him the eternal kingdom of his **Father**. **Mark's** story was, in fact, the greatest **"good news"** that man had ever received on earth. It is still the greatest, most astounding and, at the same time, most consoling news for us today. Let each one of us ask himself today: Am I for **Christ** or against Him? Am I on the road to heaven, or am I facing in the opposite direction?

– Excerpted from **The Sunday Readings** by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet Your Son, but may our learning of heaven wisdom grant us admittance to His company. 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

Sunday, Dec 10, 2023**A voice cries out**

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). *"In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"*

Monday, Dec 11, 2023**Backstory on the Bible**

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). *"We have seen incredible things today."*

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023**Mysterious mother of the Americas**

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."*

Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023**Keep your eye on the divine**

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should remind us, especially in hard times, to look beyond our own vision

—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."*

Thursday, Dec 14, 2023**He wasn't afraid of the dark**

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for *Dark Night of the Soul*, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Friday, Dec 15, 2023**The secret to our success**

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"Wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023**Modernism gets its say**

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book *Catholicism and Independence* got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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