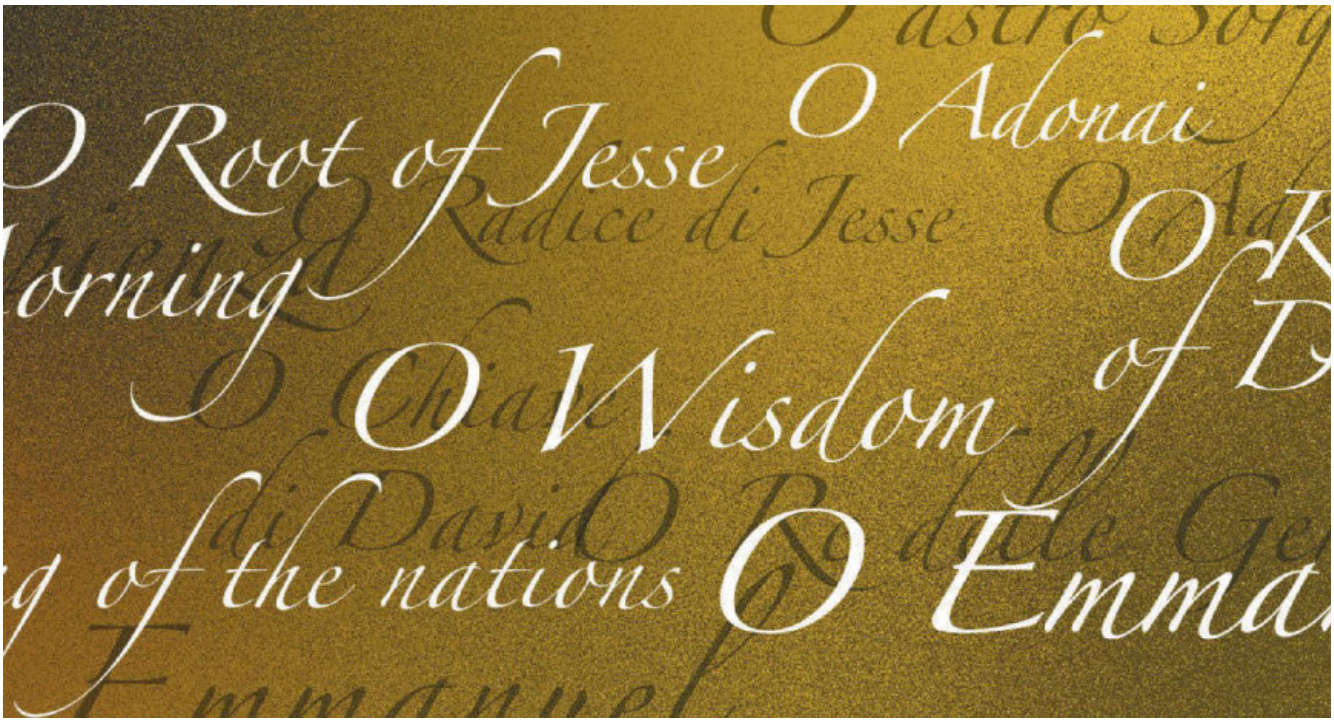
ST. ANN
CHURCH & SHRINE

Anchored in Faith, Your Soul...Our Mission

DECEMBER 18, 2022 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses
Saturday | 7:30am, 4:00pm Vigil
Sunday | 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday | 6:30am, 8:45am

Reconciliation
Saturday | 3:00pm
Tuesday | 6:00pm
Other | By Appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)
Tuesday | 9:30am-6:00pm (Followed by Benediction)
First Friday | 9:30am-10:30am (Church)

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor
Rev. Billy O'Riordan

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Michael Lamy

Deacons
Deacon Tom Fox
Deacon Gerard "G" Gautrau
Deacon Phil Doolen (Retired)
Deacon Ray Bertin (Retired)

St. Ann Church Information
Church | 3601 Transcontinental Dr., Metairie, LA
Office | 4940 Meadowdale St., Metairie, LA
504-455-7071 | stannchurchandshrine.org
contact@stannchurchandshrine.org

St. Ann School Information
4921 Meadowdale St., Metairie, LA
504-455-8383 | stannschool.org
Principal | Lindsay Guidry

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday 12/18| Fourth Sunday of Advent

KC Calendar Sales after all Masses

6:00 pm | CYO - Gym

Monday 12/19

9:30 AM | Walk Through Tours - School Office
7:00 pm | Adult Bible Study - St. Cecilia
7:00 pm | Men's Club Meeting - Cafeteria

Tuesday 12/20

No PSR Classes

9:30 am | Adoration - Chapel until 6:00 pm
9:30 am | Adult Bible Study - St. Cecilia
6:00 pm | Confessions - Church
7:30 pm | Boy Scouts - St. Ann

Wednesday 12/21 | St. Peter Canisius

Early Dismissal - No Afternoon Daycare

9:30 am | Rosary Prayer Group - St. Raymond
1:00 pm | Sewing Seams of Faith - St. Raymond
6:00 pm | Confessions
7:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal - St. Cecilia
7:00 pm | Pastoral Council Christmas Party - JPII

Thursday 12/22

Christmas Holidays - Holiday Care Provided

9:30 am | Adult Catechism - St. Raymond
6:00 pm | KC Council Meeting - PMC

Friday 12/23 | St. John of Kety

Christmas Holidays - Holiday Care Provided

9:30 am | Jerry Talbot Outreach - St. Raymond

Saturday 12/24 | Christmas Eve

No Confessions

4:00 pm | Christmas Vigil Mass
6:00 pm | Christmas Vigil Mass
10:00 pm| Candlelight Christmas Vigil Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 12/18

4:00 pm | Beth Henson**,** James Flatley, Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander, Anna Thuong Dinh, Beverly Blanchard, Philip M. Kelly, Jr., Nick Woolverton, Rudy Reboul, Juan Bustamante, Joseph Albert Scalfani, Sr., Mary Jo Krieger (Health), Weldon Frommeyer (SI), Anthony Robert, Jr., Ernie Becnel, Betty Johnston, John C. Lamarque

8:00 am | Raymond Templet, Sr.
9:30 am | Jean Code
11:00 am |Telisse Ann Johnson, Emile Lafourcade, David Karl, Fulcher (SI), Beverly Blanchard, Janis Farrell Downey, Jeffrey Roux (Health), Annalee & George Ramirez, Cheryl Cummiskey, Melba Guilory Chaplain, Denise Bostic, Charlotte Landy, Dave Kenney, (SI), Dagoberto Molina
5:00 pm | Parishioners

Monday 12/19

6:30 am | Sandra Schaff Wright
8:45 am | Charles James Folse, Jr.

Tuesday 12/20

6:30 am | Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Alexander
8:45 am | Domingo Caro

Wednesday 12/21

6:30 am | Martin Francis
8:45 am | Charles James Folse, Jr.

Thursday 12/22

6:30 am | Patrick O' Riordan
8:45 am | Roberto C. Haughton

Friday 12/23

6:30 am | Mae Moldaner
8:45 am | Annalee & George Ramirez

Saturday 12/24

No Saturday morning Mass

SANCTUARY LIGHT
Church
Mr. & Mrs. Roberto C. Haughton
SANCTUARY LIGHT
Chapel
Christine Hrabec

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Not long after I started hearing confessions as a priest, there was a particular sin that stood out to me. The sin was taking the Lord's name in vain. If there isn't another sin that draws my attention as being necessary to address, I'll usually give the person a penance based on taking the Lord's name in vain. The reason I do this is because I think it can be particularly helpful in overcoming the sin. Additionally, I hope that it will help the person think differently about the Lord and relate to Him in a new way.

I usually ask the person to think if there is a name or image that the Lord uses to describe Himself in Scripture that stands out to them. To help them understand what I'm asking, I usually share two names God uses for Himself in Scripture that stand out to me and speak to my heart in a particular way. The examples I use are both present in today's Gospel.

I share that Jesus means "God saves," which is a reminder to me that I can always approach God as savior, and that He will always forgive me of my sins when I confess them and ask for forgiveness. The other name that speaks to my heart is Emmanuel which means "God is with us." This is a reminder to me that I'm never alone - He is always with me. I then ask them to think of one name or one image, such as the vine and the branches, the good shepherd, the father in the story of the prodigal son, etc. I don't ask them to share what they've chosen, but I do ask that they choose either a name or an image to pray with for a few minutes as a penance. I add that they should ask God how the name or image can help them relate to Him in a new and deeper way.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus next weekend, perhaps it may be helpful to do what I've described above some time this coming week. My prayer is that the fruit of praying this way might fill us with joy as we celebrate the birth of Him who gave everything for us to be convinced that He wants to spend forever with each of us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Michael

The History of the Advent Wreath

Rev. William Saunders

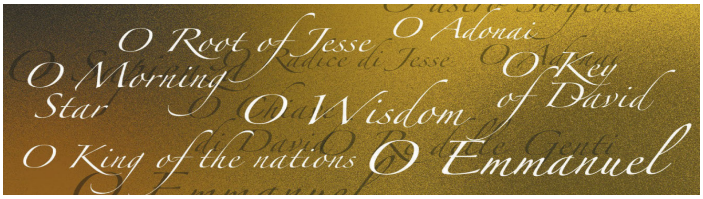
The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The "O Antiphons" of Advent



The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17 - 23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2022 | 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Friday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday	*Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Next Sun	*Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night*: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day*: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 3:00 PM

The office of Marriage and Family Life is pleased to announce that the annual Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held on March 26, 2023 at 3:00 PM at St. Joseph Church, New Orleans. This prayer service will honor couples who are celebrating or have recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The celebration is open to couples married between 1993 - 1998. **To register, please contact your parish office before Tuesday, January 17, 2023.** **Please note: The Silver Wedding Anniversary celebration is a prayer service, not a Mass, and will not fulfill the couple's Sunday Obligation.** Couples should plan to attend Mass at their home parishes.

Second Collection at Christmas Masses

There will be a Second Collection on Christmas for maintenance and extra parish needs. Envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church.

CHRISTMAS schedule

DECEMBER 20, 2022 - JANUARY 1, 2023

Christmas Confessions

6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 20
Wednesday, December 21

Saturday, December 24

- ☐ No Confessions
- ☐ 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
- ☐ 6:00 PM Vigil Mass
- ☐ 10:00 PM Candlelight Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 25

- ○ 8:00 AM Mass
- ○ 10:00 AM Mass

The parish office will be closed December 26th for the Christmas holiday and January 2nd for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.

Saturday, December 31

- ☐ 3:00 Confessions
- ☐ 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1

- ○ 8:00 AM Mass
- ○ 9:30 AM Mass
- ○ 11:00 AM Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Anticipating Emmanuel

Loving Father and King of Glory,
you accept us with all of our flaws.
As we anticipate the nativity of our Lord,
we are reminded that we should
seek to model the humility
of Mary and Joseph
and obey God's will.
Help us find the serenity
to ready our hearts to welcome others,
as Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Submitting to God's Will

Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24. In the second reading, St. Paul is referred to as "a slave of Christ Jesus." The word *slave* to Paul means "one who is devoted to the service of another." The apostle emulates what we are called to do and to become as Christians. In serving God, we submit to a duty that stems from our baptism.

Numerous works of art beautifully reflect Mary's yes at the annunciation. Today, we hear of St. Joseph's yes. When an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, telling him not to be afraid "to take Mary your wife into your home," Joseph responds with action. "When Joseph awoke," the Gospel tells us, "he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife into his home." As another account of the nativity, this is a wonderful story to share with children and teenagers. Becoming the foster father of Jesus was not something that was done to Joseph; he accepted his role with eyes of faith.

This week pray for stronger faith to continue to ponder the mystery that is God-among-us. The Lord is here, and he is yet to come. Salvation is promised, and it is near. Joyful expectation, indeed. The second "O" antiphon is prayed today, moving us closer to Christmas: "O sacred Lord . . . Come . . . to set us free."

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 19
O Flower of Jesse's Stem

In today's Gospel, we hear the angel tell Zechariah that his barren wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to the child John, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord." Take a moment today to ask God's blessing on all women who struggle to become pregnant, all who have difficult pregnancies, and those who will deliver a child this day. At a family meal, pray for parents, grandparents, foster parents, and all who work tirelessly to raise children. *Today's readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab; 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

Tuesday, December 20
O Key of David

Consider the "O" antiphon reference to Jesus as the key of David as the key to unlock our heavenly home. Today's Gospel reveals how Mary's words, "May it be done to me according to your word," gave her a role in salvation history. Before going to bed, read aloud the story of the annunciation from Luke as a way to joyfully anticipate Christmas. *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

Wednesday, December 21
St. Peter Canisius

Today's "O" antiphon prays: "O Radiant Dawn, / splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: / Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness / and the shadow of death." The life work of St. Peter Canisius, a sixteenth-century German Jesuit priest and educator, was much like the "radiant dawn." He was dedicated to leading people from the "darkness" of distorted Catholic beliefs to the "radiant light" of correct information and right practice. He created several catechisms, helping adults and children know the true faith. Read St. Paul's letter to Timothy from your Bible. The letter models the work of St. Peter Canisius and gives guidance for our lives. *Today's readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

Thursday, December 22
O King of All Nations

Jesus came as the Son of God so that we would know God the divine Father. Begin the day by reading the Magnificat from today's Gospel from Luke. Let Mary's praise of God seep into your heart. Praise God in what you plan and do today as you finish your preparations for Christmas. *Today's readings: Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

Friday, December 23
St. John of Kanty

Today's "O" antiphon asks Emmanuel to "come and set us free." If possible, as a final preparation for Christmas, attend Mass. After receiving Communion, pray that you may become what you have received. Like St. John of Kanty, we are sometimes misunderstood, and are victims of injustice. But like St. John, we are so loved by God that we should trust in God's unconditional love. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

Saturday, December 24
Daybreak

In a Christmas Eve homily, St. Oscar Romero focused on the poverty of spirit needed for a true celebration of Christmas: "No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God—for them there will be no Christmas. Only . . . those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God" (published in *An Advent Sourcebook* [Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1988]). *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

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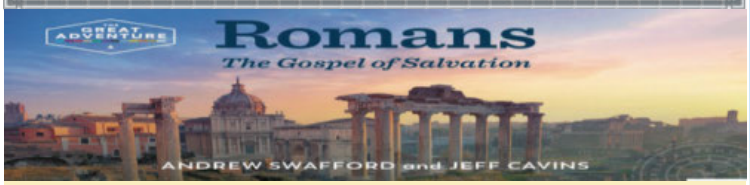
JOIN US!!! For A "Chosen" Community Watch Party!

Season Three is Now Available!

The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system. The Chosen allows us to see Christ through the eyes of those who knew Him. With seasons three now released, the reviews continue to be exemplary. This series puts LIFE into Scripture; gives personality to the characters of the Bible. Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning December 22 in the Parish Ministries Center as we watch the series as a community and discuss each episode together. As always, refreshments will



JOIN US as we resume our Catholic-based Bible Study in January 2023 with an in-depth study of the **Letter to the Romans!** Classes will be held on Monday evenings or Tuesday mornings beginning January 9th in the Parish Ministries Center. Bring your Bible or borrow one of ours! This Bible study provides an authentically Catholic, comprehensive, and simple way to understand the overarching theme of Romans—salvation. . Come alone, or bring a friend! Call 455-7071 for more info.

Calling ALL students ages 9—14!

Your local Knight of Columbus Council is sponsoring a **free throw basketball contest** for ALL students ages 9—14 on **Saturday, Jan. 14**, at 10 a.m. in St. Ann Gym. There is no cost to enter, but students must arrive for 9:45 a.m. to register. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. International champions are announced by the Knights of Columbus international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event. Age group winners will be recognized and advance to the District Free Throw Championship announced at the end of the tournament.

The Beauty of Christmas Is not in the Presents But in the Presence!

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH

ADVENT IS A TIME OF ANTICIPATION, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

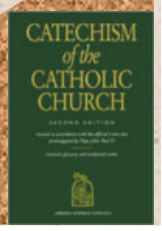
The Cate-Corner

Here's another jewel from your *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

"Jesus calls to conversion. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." In the Church's preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.

Christ's call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This *second conversion* is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, "clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal." This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a "contrite heart," drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first.

CCC 1427-28



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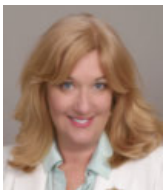
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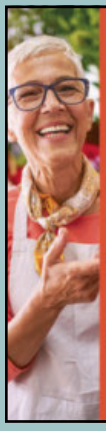
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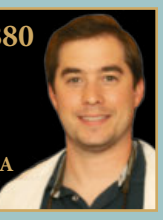
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