

# Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

## April 12, 2026... Divine Mercy Sunday



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The readings for this Sunday show us our need for God's Divine Mercy, offered to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the forgiveness of our sins, and through each celebration of the Sacraments, when we receive them in trusting Faith.

Dear friends, the primary aim of our God is saving souls and not killing souls. God is in the work of saving souls because of His loving mercy. Therefore, as we celebrate the feast of God's Mercy Sunday today, may God take away from our minds and hearts all fears of divine punishment and fill us with His grace of divine mercy. It is true that sin creates a gap between us and

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org) Pastor  
Mrs. Denise Reavis Principal  
Mrs. Debbie Mandeville Parish Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Gail Smith Business Manager St. Aloysius/St. Cabrini  
Mrs. Angie Daniels School Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Rich Pitchford Maintenance  
Mrs. Sarah Williams Liturgy & Music  
Mr. Dave Klestinski Homebound Ministry  
Ms. Mikki Buhl Ministry Schedule  
(mikkimoose@clients.rotundasoftware.com)

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:00pm  
Sunday 11:00am  
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: Tuesday, 8:20am (School Year)  
7:00am (Summer)  
Thursday, 7:00am  
Friday, 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45am - 3:30pm  
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2125 N. 21st Street) Springfield, Illinois 62702

Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680  
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

God, He bridges the gap with His loving mercy. For this reason, Pope Francis says that Divine Mercy is "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness". In other words, our Pope says that Divine Mercy is "the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us." So, God comes to meet us with mercy and not punishment.

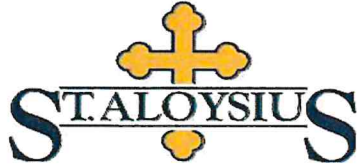
One of the most moving stories came to us on October 6, 2006, when an armed man entered an Amish school in Pennsylvania. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls died. After the police left, the families of the fallen came and carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. They sat for a time and mourned their beloved children. After a while they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. They buried their anger before they buried their children. Amish Christians teach us that forgiveness is central. They believe that God's forgiveness of themselves depends on their extending forgiveness to other people. That is what the mercy of God is all about. That mercy is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus demonstrated divine mercy by washing the feet of the rest of the Apostles and feeding them at the Last Supper.

Friends, even today, Jesus, because of His great mercy, continues to wash the feet of those who deny or desert Him. Jesus knows that after washing, not just our feet, but our souls in baptism, we will sometimes deny Him by not confidently or publicly expressing our faith in Jesus; or we will sometimes desert Him by our unfaithfulness, yet Jesus washes away our sins. Furthermore, even today, Jesus, because of His great mercy, continues to feed those who deny or desert Him. Jesus knows that after feeding us with His most precious Body and Blood, we will sometimes deny or desert Him, yet He continues to feed us, because of His great mercy. Again, Jesus demonstrated divine mercy by forgiving, while in great pain on the cross, those who betrayed, denied, deserted, falsely accused, mercilessly tortured, unjustly condemned, heartlessly crucified, and unfairly mocked Him. Friends, even, today, Jesus continues to demonstrate divine mercy by showing us kindness and forgiving us.

Friends, to conclude, I wish to recall a command of our Lord which is so dear to Pope Francis: 'Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful' (Luke 6:36). This verse should guide how we always relate with family, friends, and other neighbors. Thank you all those who did a very good job for making it possible to celebrate a very meaningful Easter.

God Bless you all.

Fr. George Nellikunnel, Pastor  
St Aloysius and St Cabrini



## Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

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Gale Borders  
Dave Klestinski  
Mary Ann Mann  
Brad Mills (Chair)  
Joyce Zaffiri

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Karl Kohlrus  
Matt Noonan  
Harvey Schrenk  
Ryan Spearie (Chair)  
Larry Tebrugge  
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[schoolboard@saintaloysius.org](mailto:schoolboard@saintaloysius.org)

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Sarah Danner  
Tom Paoni  
Rachel Towner  
Joel Washko (Chair)  
Steve Washko III

### Liturgy Committee

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Steve Kehoe  
Kim Lesko (Chair)  
Rita Lesko  
Mary Coady

*"Love is the True North  
that always leads us home."*

**As we celebrate Easter**, the Faculty and Staff of St. Aloysius School wish our families a season filled with hope, renewal, and joy!

**All-school Mass** will be Tuesday, April 14 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

**Registration for the 2026-2027 is open!** Thank you to all who have completed registration for the 2026-2027 school year. New student registration has began Thank you for your commitment and support! If you know anyone interested in enrolling, be call the school office (217-544-4553) and tours are available. Thank you to all who have completed registration for the 2026-2027 school year!

We celebrated the Easter season than with an **Egg Rolling and Egg Breaking** contest in Fifth Grade! Congratulations to our "Last Egg Standing" and the "Nearly Last Egg Standing" winners. Also congratulations to our Egg Rolling contest winner with a time of 2.4 seconds!

**Congratulations to our Junior High students** on completing their History Fair Projects! Special congratulations to those students who advanced from regionals to the State Competition held in May!

The **Holy Goalie,** Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will be returning to the ice and defending the goal to benefit Catholic Charities Legal Services (CCLS) program during the upcoming Hockey with Paprocki fundraiser. This event will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 3:30pm at the Nelson Center Ice Rink (1601 N 5th Street). Tickets for adults can be purchased online for \$10 or \$15 at the door. Advanced tickets may be purchased at: <https://cc.dio.org/events/hockey-pap>. We are offering a special Catholic School student discount of \$5 per ticket for admission to this hockey fundraiser. A fun event you won't want to miss!

**Thank you to all the volunteers for making Bingo a great success!** The program needs a few, steady workers. I know that this will ensure the continued success of this most important fundraising event. Don't forget to join us for Bingo at Caritas Hall, 909 E Converse, Saturday, April 18 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon. Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School! Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are needed! You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support.



**Applications** are now being accepted for the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) 2026 High School Girl Graduate Scholarship! Are you a practicing Catholic girl who is graduating from the 12th grade? If you attend a private or public school or are home schooled, you are eligible to apply! The SDCCW is pleased to award a \$2,000 scholarship to 4 Catholic high school girls who are graduating. This money should be used to further your education in either a community college or university, technical/trade/vocational school, or other non-traditional option. Three required documents (application, essay, and letter of recommendation) must be received by April 15th and sent to Rita Devore, 1006 Shenandoah Avenue, Effingham, IL 62401. The application must be signed by your pastor. Application are at available at the parish office, or online at [dio.org/2026/02/2026-SDCCW-H-S-Girl-Scholarship](https://dio.org/2026/02/2026-SDCCW-H-S-Girl-Scholarship).

Save the Date... **Alumni Mass and Breakfast.** Tuesday, April 28. The morning begins with 8:20am Mass and breakfast to follow in the church basement. All St. Aloysius Alumni are welcome!

## — Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR			Weekly Offering		
April 12	11:00am	Morning Mass			
April 13		School Resumes			
April 14	8:20am	Morning Mass			
April 15	9:00am	Legion of Mary			
April 16	7:00am	Morning Mass			
April 16	5:00pm	Finance Council			
April 16	6:00pm	School Board			
April 17	7:00am	Adoration			
April 17	5:00pm	Benediction			
April 17	5:30pm	Rosary			
April 17	6:00pm	Evening Mass			
April 18	11:45am	Bingo			
April 18	3:30pm	Confessions			
April 18	4:00pm	Evening Mass			
April 19	11:00am	Morning Mass			

Week 37	March 22	Total to Date
<b>Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>\$5,658.00</b>	<b>\$265,624.07</b>
<b>Shepherd one Student</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$14,503.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$30,602.00</b>
<b>Bingo</b>	<b>\$2,441.00</b>	<b>\$52,062.00</b>

The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and provide for debt payment, unbudgeted repairs or improvements for the Parish. Weekly Offerings budget for the month of March is \$40,000.00. We have received 71% of needed funding to meet essentials.

### Special Prayers and Blessing

Stephen Craig Johnson

baptized into the Catholic faith.  
We profess, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

### Parish Community Tithe

As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal has been discontinued. The diocese will be assessing its parishes on a monthly basis, based on 10% of its income each month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-as-we-go obligation. February Tithe - \$3,362.00.

### Weekly Attendance - April 4-5

Sat 7:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total
<b>60</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>295</b>

### Debt/Accrued Deficits

<b>Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities</b>	
<b>Paid</b>	
<b>Amount owed (March 18, 2026)</b>	<b>\$210,862.08</b>

### Parish Ministry Schedule - April 18-19

	Saturday 7:00pm	Sunday 11:00am
<b>Cantor</b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Harvey Schrenk	Greg Finigan
<b>E.M.</b>	Mikki Buhl, Gary McCandless	Paul Brown, Patti Crouch
<b>Servers</b>	Harvey Schrenk Rachel Schrenk	Sherry Daniels Brayden and Jayden Blakley

In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinson, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa, David Jones, Judith Bregowy, August Egger, Patricia Cox, Rita Smarjesse. 2026... Caroline Dietrich, Judy Tucker, George Ann Madison, and Norma Capranica.

# Parish Bulletin Board

Every year, on Sunday after Easter, the Church celebrates **Divine Mercy Sunday**. This special feast was requested by Jesus Himself: *"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open... The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."* You can celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday by attending Mass, going to Confession, and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will host a Divine Mercy Sunday **Prayer Service** today, Sunday, April 12th from 2:00pm - 3:00pm This prayer service will include exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural readings and devotional prayers, Veneration and Image of Divine Mercy, the Recitation of the Chaplet and Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome.

St. Aloysius and St. Cabrini **new mass schedule** begins this week! Weekday Mass Schedule is... Monday - no mass. Tuesday 8:20am Mass at St. Aloysius (7:00am - June-August), no Mass - St. Cabrini on Tuesday. Wednesday - 8:00am Mass - St. Cabrini, no Mass - St. Aloysius. Thursday, 7:00am Mass - St. Aloysius, no Mass at St. Cabrini. Friday 8:00am Mass - St. Cabrini and 6:00pm - St. Aloysius. Weekend Mass schedule ... Saturday - 4:00pm, St. Aloysius. Sunday, 9:00am - St. Cabrini and Sunday, 11:00am - St. Aloysius.



A Pilgrimage of Hope... **A Pilgrimage to Italy**. Join Fr. George on a 10 day pilgrimage to Italy from October 5-15, 2026. Highlights include visiting the Vatican Museums, joining other pilgrims from around the world for an audience with His Holiness, the Pope (subject to the Holy Father's schedule and health). Visiting the birthplace of St. Aloysius, and the shrine of St. Aloysius. A visit to the birth place of St. Francis Cabrini. The pilgrimage features daily Mass, first-class hotels, private luxury transportation, professional guides, and all admission fees. Cost is \$4,995.00 per person (includes round-trip airfare, taxes, meals, and more). For details or to register, visit Holy Land Tours LLC @ holylandtoursllc@gmail.com or Jiryis Alyateem @1-503-866-5698. Registration is due by June 30, 2026. Informational flyers are in church.

Pope Leo XIV declared a **Special Year of St. Francis** to mark the 800th anniversary of his death, running until January 2027. During this time, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting Franciscan churches or praying spiritually if unable to travel, following the usual conditions of going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, and praying for the pope's intentions (e.g., one Our Father and Hail Mary). In the Diocese of Springfield, one can make a pilgrimage to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Teutopolis, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Springfield, or St. Francis Adoration Chapel in Alton (home of the Sisters of St. Francis of Martyr St. George).

The **Flower Calendar** is available in the vestibule of the church.. You have the opportunity to honor a birthday or anniversary, or remember a loved one on their special day. Please put your remembrance on the chart, and put \$40.00 in the envelope with your name/remembrance and contact information on the index card. Your remembrance will be in the bulletin and a beautiful bouquet of flowers will be placed on the Altar for your weekend on your behalf.



This weeks flower intention is for the Prosperini Family.

**Pastoral Visit from Bishop Paprocki!** The Bishop will celebrate mass at St. Aloysius on Sunday, June 21 (Feast of St. Aloysius) @ 11:00am Mass. After Mass, Bishop Paprocki will join parishioners from both St. Aloysius and St. Cabrini for lunch.


**Parish Calendar...** Please let the parish office know of events, meetings, etc. for the church calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. This includes the church basement.

**Thank you...** The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

**St. Aloysius Prayer Chain...** If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please email Mrs. Vikki Warren... whomper5@aol.com

**Stewardship ...** Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship be the hallmark of our discipleship, a visible sign of our commitment to Christ. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.




Mass Intentions

**April 13 Easter Weekday**

**April 14 Easter Weekday**  
8:20am Patricia Cox+

**April 15 Easter Weekday**

**April 16 Easter Weekday**  
7:00am All Souls +

**April 17 Easter Weekday**  
6:00pm Annette Raffa+

**April 18 Easter Weekday**

**April 19 Third Sunday of Easter**  
Sat 4:00pm Kevin Danner Jr.+  
Sun 11:00am All Parishioners+

# Around the Church

**Prayer Warriors** are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... [www.springfieldrtl.org](http://www.springfieldrtl.org).

Sign up to receive **diocesan pro-life newsletter**... Stay rooted in the Gospel of Life and connected to pro-life efforts across our diocese. Get quarterly updates on prayer opportunities, formation, advocacy, and human dignity issues, no fundraising, ever. Sign up today! Scan the QR code.



Celebrating Mother's of all Parishes are invited to attend!  
**Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women** Spring Meeting Saturday, May 9, 2026, 9:00am at Christ the King Parish (1930 Barberry Drive). Deadline to RSVP May 4th. Questions? Deb Pilapil, President - 217-361-7165. Guest Speaker: Mr. Jarid Brown, Executive Director of the Washington Street Mission *"Restoring hope, faith, and lives"*. Rosary led by members of the CTK Legion of Mary. • Door Prizes and 50/50 raffle! • Breakfast will be served by the CTK Altar & Rosary Society. • Please consider bringing items for the WSM such as: coffee creamer, sugar, ramen noodles, canned fruits, canned meats. Boxed potatoes, rice, pasta & sauce, instant oatmeal packets. • Please bring your can tabs being collected for Jarid Brown.

**Stewardship Reflection**... Second Sunday of Easter. *"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"* John 20:19 Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too – just as God, Our Father.

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from? Answer: If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers - the Divine Mercy Chaplet - and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. Divine Mercy Sunday St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world. Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young women, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, *"a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come."*



Attention all seniors... **Senior Social** to help shake off the winter woollens and welcome spring you are invited to the launch of Senior Socials, a monthly event connecting area Catholic seniors. Come meet other retired/senior citizens for an afternoon of games, cards, conversation and snacks. We'll supply it all; you can just come as you are! Hope to see you on Wednesday, April 15, 3:00 - 5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium. Please share this invitation with your senior friends and relatives.

Grounded in Hope... **Cathedral Women's Bible Study** Grounded in Hope, based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He can become your lifeline. Grounded in Hope is ideal if you long to know Jesus with greater intimacy and are ready to grow in your trust in Him as your true source of hope. Order your workbook at [walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com) Thursdays starting on April 16 @ 10:00am and 1:00pm, Cathedral School Library.

**The Forge**... Springfield's Catholic Young Adult Group, is hosting a Speed Dating Night on April 18 for young adults ages 21-39. It begins at 5:30 p.m. in Christ The King Parish hall (1930 Barberry Dr. Springfield, IL 62704). Additional information on Instagram @TheForgeSpringfield, or email any questions to [TheForgeSpringfield@gmail.com](mailto:TheForgeSpringfield@gmail.com).

**SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
**GET YOUR GROOVE ON**  
 Date: April 25, 2026  
 Time: 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
 Location: K of C Hall 364 | 2200 Meadow Brook Rd  
 Tickets: \$50 or \$350 for a table of 8  
 50/50 Raffle | Silent and Live Auction  
 70s Trivia | Costume Contest

Springfield Catholic Charities 2026 Annual Fundraiser **"Get Your Groove On"** Springfield Catholic Charities will be hosting its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 5:00 - 8:30pm. at the Knight of Columbus Hall, (2200 Meadowbrook Rd.). This year's fundraiser will be 70's themed and include a costume contest, a fun photo booth, 70's trivia and a DJ to help you "Get Your Groove On". Event tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight and include hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Tickets may be purchased on our website at: <https://cc.dio.org/events/springfield-2026-annual-fundraiser>.

**Eucharistic Adoration** is held every Friday from 7:00am - 5:00pm in the side chapel.



**Prayer of Community**... O God, Help us to see each other as You see us, not by our faults or failings, but by our identity as Your own. Give us Your eyes to see. Your heart to love.



April 12, 2026

## Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Pt 1:3-9 | Jn 20:19-31

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Can you imagine being Thomas and finding out that while you were gone from the Upper Room, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the other disciples? And then, according to the evangelist John, it was a full week later when Jesus returns to that room. If I were Thomas, I would probably be consumed with thoughts about how unfair the situation was – that I was being asked to believe without seeing while the other disciples were able to see the glorified Christ. And, of course, we don't know how Thomas reacted, except that he demanded to see and touch the wounds of Christ. We do know that when Christ returns he does not admonish Thomas, but offers his hands and his side to his disciple to touch. Christ responded to Thomas with mercy – inviting him into an encounter in a way that will draw him into deeper faith. And Christ also comes to us again and again and again, mercifully inviting us into relationship with him regardless of what we demand or how often we fall away.

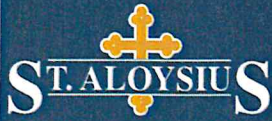
### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

We do not have a right to God's mercy. Humanity willingly and intentionally turned away from God in the Garden of Eden, and we continue to do so today when we choose to sin and turn away from God. But God extends mercy to us as an undeserved gift, and he calls us to be merciful to others. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians devoted themselves to the love of God and others, and they forged an avenue for mercy to be made present as they cared for one another by dividing their material goods "according to each one's need." We, too, are called to be merciful. We are called to look beyond what someone should be able to do on their own and be open to responding to their need in love. And as we show mercy to others, we remind one another of our dignity and worth. As with Thomas, Jesus does not focus on what we lack, but instead generously offers what is needed to draw us into relationship.

### **RECEIVE**

It can be just as hard to receive mercy as it is to extend it. In receiving mercy, we must admit that we are not capable of healing ourselves of all that keeps us from full communion with Christ. This week, pray for the grace to fully receive the mercy that God so lovingly offers, trusting that he desires to meet us where we are and draw us closer to himself.



We thank St. Aloysius Faith Community

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for supporting these generous sponsors who make our bulletin possible. Kindly thank them in person when you do business with them!

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