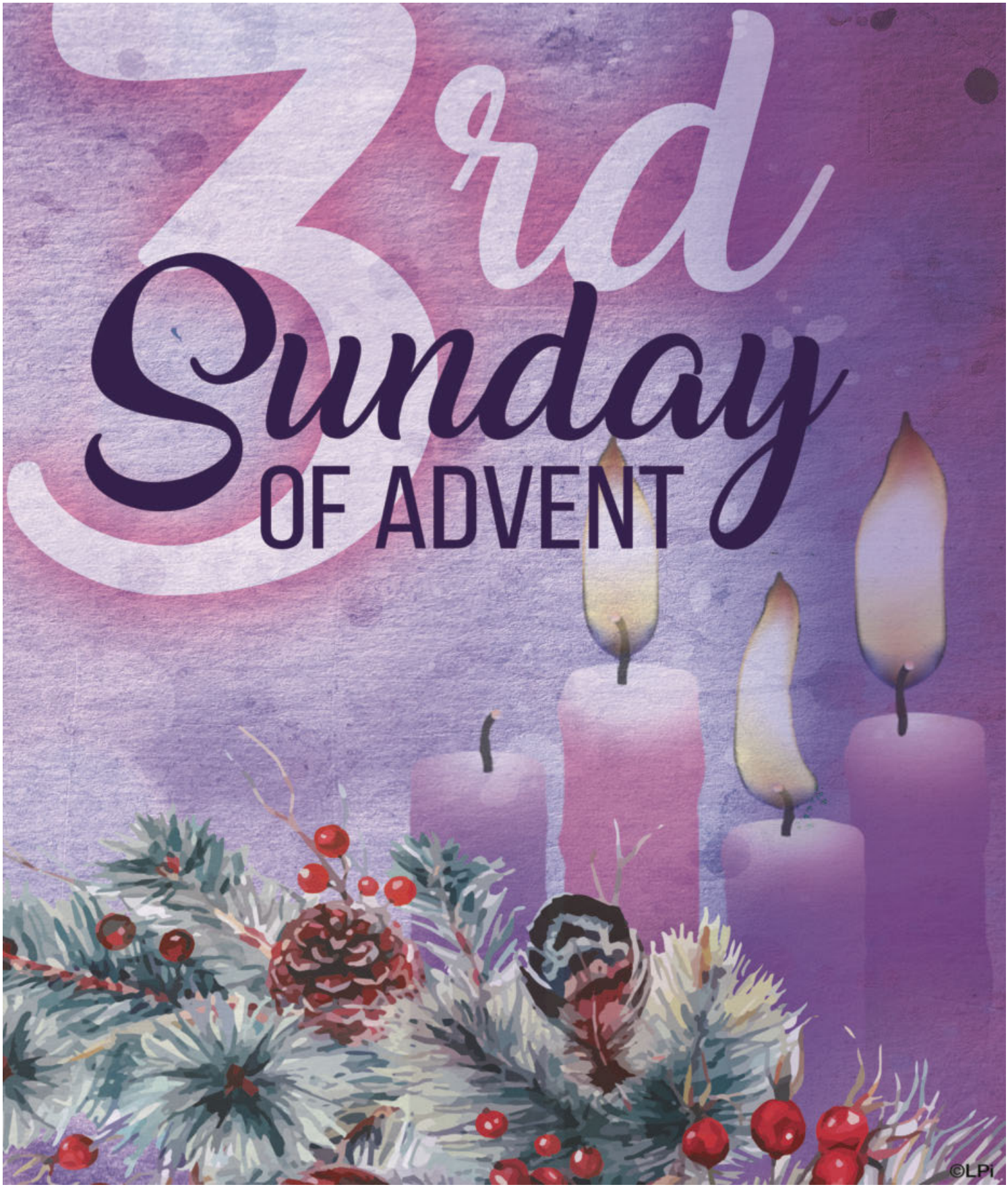
John Paul II Cluster



THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 13, 2021

Nothing listed on schedule/calendar

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Nothing listed on schedule/calendar

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Mass: Prairie Hills, 9:30 am (for Earl Mitchell)

St. John Religious Education: Grades 1-6, 3:30 pm
Grades 7-10, 6:30 pm

St. Patrick Religious Education: Grades K-9, 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Cluster Office, 10:00 am

Friday, December 17, 2021

Confession at St. Patrick: 7:30 - 7:50 am, before Mass

2 hour Early Dismissal - Professional Development

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Nothing listed on schedule/calendar

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Confession at St. John: 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass

Food Pantry Sunday

ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE

Saturday, 5:30 pm, December 18, 2021

Eucharistic	B Fr. Beckman	n/a	n/a
Ministers:	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Scott Kleve		
Hospitality	Marnie Barnett	John Evers	
Ministers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Lector:	Greg Gates		
Altar Servers:	Gabriel & Julia Kuennen		
Music:	Karen Kremer	Michelle McBride	

Sunday, 10:00 am, December 19, 2021

Eucharistic	B Fr. Beckman	n/a	n/a
Ministers:	B Dc. Post	n/a	n/a
	B Monica House		
Hospitality	Deb Milbach	Mike Smock	Volunteer
Ministers:	Nila Turner	Mary Wells	Volunteer
Lector:	Brenda Corkery		
Altar Servers:	Regan & Rylee Reeg		
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	

ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP

Saturday, 4:00 pm, December 18, 2021

Eucharistic Ministers : B Fr. Beckman Dc. Post
Eucharistic Ministers : W n/a
Hospitality Ministers*: Volunteers

*Ushers - Please arrive at 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

Lector: Trisha Zhiss
Gift Bearers: n/a
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Music: St. Patrick Choir

Sunday, 8:00 am, December 19, 2021

Eucharistic Ministers : B Fr. Beckman Dc. Post
Eucharistic Ministers : W n/a
Hospitality Ministers*: Volunteers

*Ushers - Please arrive at 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

Lector: Randy Takes
Gift Bearers: n/a
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Music: St. Patrick Choir

Monday, December 13, 2021

Collection Counters: Lois Loughren Joanie Brace

MASS INTENTIONS

December 13, through December 19, 2021

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Leo Michael
Wed.	9:30 am	Earl Mitchell (at Prairie Hills)
Thurs.	8:30 am	Colleen Grover
Sat	5:30 pm	Debbie Curry
Sun.	10:00 am	George O'Loughlin

St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop

Mon.	4:30 pm	Dorance Holub
Fri.	8:00 am	Donna Mitchell
Sat	4:00 pm	Parishioners of the John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Junior McCardle

Scrip Cash Table Volunteers December 18/19

5:30 pm Sondra Cabell & George Lake
10:00 am Shelly Reed & Andrea Soukup

Altar Linen Schedule: All December Debbie Michael

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Cluster Finances

St. John For Sunday, Sunday, December 5, 2021

Budget Envelopes	$13,096.48
Offertory	$146.00
Children's Collection	$0
EFT donations for the month are:	$5,090.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	$11,814.00

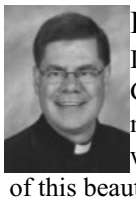
Last week we were short $0.00 to meet our operational expenses!

This section includes all debt that the church owes to date.

Monies borrowed from DBQ for building projects:	$0
Monies borrowed from Embrace Our Future/Debt Elimination:	$0

St. Patrick For Sunday, December 5, 2021

Budget Envelopes	$2,451.00
Offertory	$184.00
EFT donations for the month are:	$720.00
Needed Weekly to Meet Expenses	$3,376.00



From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

It is the third week of Advent, traditionally called Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, which is marked by the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. The older I get, the more I realize the meaning of this beautiful Sunday. Difficulties, stress, and even tragedy - experiences which at first glance seem to cause us to respond with anything but joy, can be transformed in the life of a believer and actually become its very source.

We recognize that the fulfillment of all the messianic promises has come - in the person of Jesus Christ! John the Baptist is a man of living faith whose eyes have been opened. He is held out to us a model for good reason. No matter what his circumstances, he is always watching for the Lord. Are we? Jesus said of John, "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." That includes you and me!

The Prophet Zephaniah tells us to shout for joy, for the Lord is in our midst. Likewise, St. Paul insists that the Lord is near and exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord.

These Advent readings emphasize an important element of discipleship: The kingdom of God is both "here" and "not yet." God is present in our lives, yet we still watch for the time when God's kingdom will come to full fruition. Already, we need to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Already, we need to be stewards of the earth, working to care for our common home. Already, we need to live lives of charity, reaching out to those in need. We find joy in all the ways we live in the Lord.

The focus on joy this Sunday is meant to remind us not only that all of the Old Testament promises were all fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ, but that in the coming of Jesus Christ we find the very source of Joy - Jesus is the source of Joy. When He comes into the life of a believer, he or she receives a joy that can never be taken away. They also are given the grace, the divine life, they need to begin to see that the Lord is always coming, He is always near to those who live their lives in Him.

So, as our responsorial psalm from Isaiah proclaims: "Cry out with joy and gladness for among you is the great and holy one of Israel. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation" (Isaiah 12: 2ff).

Fr. David

VOCATION VIEWS

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Remember in prayer: Lillian Hemmen, Emmett & Bernadette Schumann, Eileen Barreca, Starla Himebaugh, Carolyn Erickson, Ken Magsamen, Darrell Stortz, Tex Pentecost, Cheryl Mills (sister of Peg Short), Rafael Saumell (son-in-law of Bill & Pat Offerman)

Communal Penance Services for Advent

Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 pm
St. John's, Independence

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule:

St. John Catholic Church, Independence
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Winthrop

Friday, December 24
St. Patrick 4:00 pm
St. John 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 25
St. Patrick 9:00 am
St. John 9:00 am

Friday, December 31
St. John 4:00 pm

During the Holidays the Cluster Office will be closed on:

Thursday, December 23
Friday, December 24
Friday, January 1

Next Sunday, December 19, is Food Pantry Sunday. Please be generous.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

STO

Time is running out; 2021 STO tax credits are only available until December 31! When you donate today to the Our Faith School Tuition Organization (STO), you'll help qualifying Catholic school families with tuition assistance while receiving a 75% STO tax credit. With the tax credit, your donation makes 4x the impact! Here's an example of how it could work for you: If you donate $2,000, you will receive a $1,500 Iowa income tax credit, making your final net investment only $500. Your $500 donation makes 4x the impact, providing $2,000 in STO tuition support for Catholic school families. It is that simple. Visit www.ourfaithsto.org or call Deacon Brian Zeman- Our Faith STO Director at (563) 556-2580 x296

School News

SCRIP

This gift card program is an important SJS fundraiser. It raises over $20,000 each year, and the proceeds supplement our operating costs which helps manage tuition costs. The holiday season is fast approaching. Please consider using Scrip to make your purchases.

Reminder!

If you'd like to sign-up for cell phone announcements from me (abrupt changes in our schedule, ie. snow days) please visit https://www.remind.com/sign_in, and join the @jgiery parent group. If that doesn't work please email me (gieryngj@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us) and I will add you.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will begin at 6:00 pm in the church on December 20th. We expect the program to last just over an hour. You are invited to join us for refreshments after the concert, downstairs, in the parish hall.

Busing

The Indee public schools do not return from Christmas break until Tuesday, Jan. 4th. SJS returns to school on Monday, Jan. 3rd. Therefore, there will be no busing for our students on Monday, 1/3/22.

St. John Scrip Voucher

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Dad's Belgium Waffles

Please join us on January 23, 2022 at St. Patrick Church Hall in Winthrop from 8:00 am - 12:00 (noon) for Dad's Belgium Waffles. Free Will Donation.

Save The Date
- St. Patrick's Parishioners

Fellow St. Patrick's Parishioners, please join us for a Valentine's Dinner, Fellowship, and Spiritual Growth on Sunday, February 13, starting with Fellowship at 4:30pm with a catered Meal to follow at 5:15pm. Stay tuned for more information in January on how to reserve your seats at this fun-filled evening to be held at our Parish Hall in Winthrop.

St. John's Children's Service

We are planning to restart our Children's Service group after the 1st of the year. We are looking for any parish members that would enjoy teaching child focused lessons to children age 3 and up. We would like to have 6 people for our rotation. No teaching experience is needed and training will be provided. Please contact Gina Homan if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. 319-334-5653

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

The St. John's Liturgy committee is in need of volunteers to help set up the Christmas environment.

We will be setting up the large tree, Nativity scene, placing poinsettias etc.

December 23 at 9am is the gathering time- can usually be finished in 1-2 hrs if we have enough helpers. Experience setting up the large tree is helpful !

Please consider this an opportunity to be a part of creating a beautiful Christmas scene celebrating the Birth of Our Lord.

Thank you in advance!
St. John's Liturgy committee

~~AREA EVENTS~~

Aurora Legion & Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

Carry-outs available!
All you can eat pancakes, biscuits/gravy, ham, scrambled eggs, milk, juice or coffee.
Adults $10 5-8 years $5 Pre-school Free
1st & 3rd Sundays from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
December 19

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a catholic faith based marriage enrichment program and has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Find out what you've been missing by attending one of these upcoming experiences. February 11 - 13th in Ankeny; April 23 - 24th in Epworth. For more information or to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.

Welcome to the Parishes of the John Paul II Cluster

St. John the Evangelist
Independence, Iowa
&
St. Patrick
Winthrop Iowa

Pastor: Rev. David Beckman

Deacon: Tim Post

Pastoral Associate:
Sharon Bainbridge

Religious Education Coordinators:
St. John: Sharon Bainbridge
St. Patrick: Jessica Gibbs
319-929-2301

St. John School Principal: Jim Gieryng

Telephones:
Cluster Offices: 334-7191
St. Patrick Center: 319-935-3871
St. John Church Hall: 334-2817
St. John School: 334-7173

Cluster Mailing Address:
209 - 5th Ave NE
Independence, IA 50644

Cluster Email:
sjparish@indytel.com

Cluster Website:
https://stjohnstpat.org/

WEEKDAY MASSES:
See Mass Schedule Page 1

WEEKEND MASSES:
St. John the Evangelist - 97.1 FM
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
St . Patrick - 97.3 FM
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION:
St. John the Evangelist
Sunday 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.
St. Patrick
Friday 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

BAPTISM:
Arranged after Pre-Baptism Classes. Contact the cluster office.

MARRIAGE:
Please contact Fr. Beckman to arrange marriage preparations twelve to nine months in advance of the wedding date.

Celebrate the Birthday of Jesus!
Make our Worship space overflow with loving gifts in His honor.
Remember Your Loved One

At St. Patrick Parish: Donate Money to purchase flowers for Christmas in memory of a loved one.

At St. John Parish: Donate a Flowering Plant, or money in memory of a loved one.

If you would like to participate in this project, please complete the form below.

If donating a plant/flower please deliver the plant/flower to the parish office by December 22, no later than 4;00 pm. Please send in this form or put in the collection basket prior to December 18/19 and indicate plant.

If donating money, the form and money can be dropped in the collection basket, mailed to the cluster office, or brought into the cluster office until December 18/19. Mark the envelope “Christmas Flowers.”Any leftover money will be put into a flower/environment fund to help purchase flowers or items to enhance the liturgy for the rest of the year.

We will be publicizing the names of the loved ones and who made the donation inside the bulletin. We will need to have your name(s) to us by December 20 by 1:00 pm to be included on the insert for the Christmas bulletins.

Please be sure to PRINT all information on the form.
There is a limit to 20 spaces/characters per line.

-.-
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In Loving Memory

Check Parish: St. Patrick_________ St. John_________

Type of donation: Money_______ Flower_________

In Memory of:____

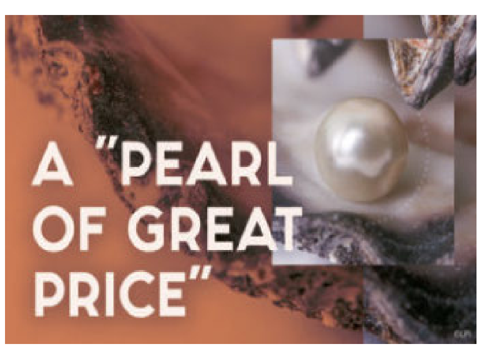
In Memory of:____

In Memory of:____

In Memory of:____

Donated by:____

-.-



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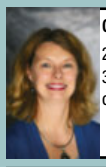
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