

SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH

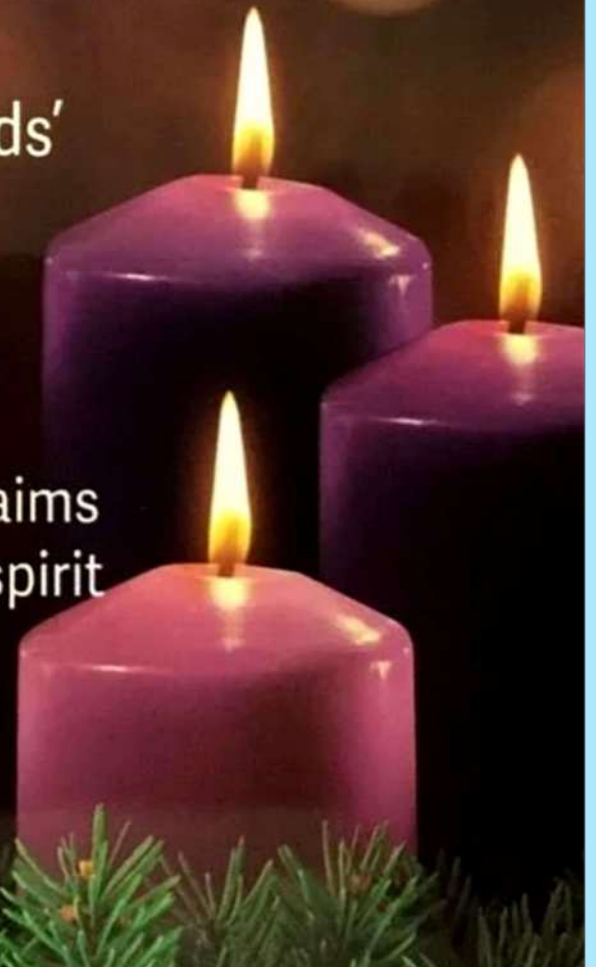
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE *Joy* CANDLE

Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, this third candle of Advent signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

—Luke 1:46-47



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH

Administrative Office | 1 Park Manor Road | Donora, PA 15033-1755

P: 724-258-7794 | F: 724-379-6242 | saintandrewmidmon.org

For parish locations and staff extensions, see page 22

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DEC 13		SECOND SATURDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	CHA	Cecilia Sciortino by Pennline Family	Fr. Levi
4:00 pm	DON	Deceased Members of the Kowall Family by Louise Kowall	Fr. Pat
5:00 pm	CHA	Antoinette & Joseph Svrcek by Children, Mary Ann, Lorraine & Martin	Fr. Levi
6:00 pm	MON	Pauline Guliano by Mike & Kathy Guliano	Fr. Pat
DEC 14		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	DON	Joseph E. Stefko by Eugene J. Stefko & Family	Fr. Levi
9:00 am	CHA	People of the Parish	Fr. Pat
11:00 am	MON	Joe Rostcheck by Daughter, Leanne & Family	Fr. Levi
DEC 15		THIRD MONDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	CHA	Rick Puskar by Pappasergi Family	
DEC 16		THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	DON	Brother, Jack McKita by The McKita Family	
DEC 17		THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT	
7:00 pm	MON	Eugene Foglia by Wife, Carole & Family	
DEC 18		THIRD THURSDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	DON	Louise Willebrand by Daughter, Becky Stewart & Family	
DEC 19		THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	MON	John & Betty Hearn by William & Rosemary Hearn	
DEC 20		THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	CHA	Margaret McCullough by Pennline Family	Fr. Pat
4:00 pm	DON	Haller Family, Living & Deceased by Rose Patterson	Fr. Levi
5:00 pm	CHA	Mary "Toots" Zimmaro's 100th Birthday by Joe & Holly Caruso	Fr. Pat
6:00 pm	MON	John & Irene Dzimiera by Family	Fr. Levi
DEC 21		FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	DON	People of the Parish	Fr. Pat
9:00 am	CHA	Margaret McCullough by Pennline Family	Fr. Levi
11:00 am	MON	Rose Cutrara by The Abba's House Book Group	Fr. Levi




GIVE WITH EASE!

We're excited to introduce our new giving platform — PushPay. It's quicker, safer, and helps us save on costs compared to traditional envelopes.

Simply scan the QR code to give today:
<https://pushpay.com/g/saintandrewmidmon>

Thank you for supporting Saint Andrew Parish and helping us continue our mission!






- SACRAMENTS -



MASS SCHEDULE/ ÒRE MAS

Saturday/Samdi

4:00pm - Donora
5:00pm - Charleroi
6:00pm - Monongahela

Sunday/Dimanch

8:30am - Donora
9:00am - Charleroi
11:00am - Monongahela

Weekday Mass Times/ Tan Mas jou lasèman

Monday/Lendi	
Charleroi	8:30am
Tuesday/Madi	
Donora	8:30am
Wednesday/Mèkredi	
Monongahela	7:00pm
Thursday/Jedi	
Donora	8:30am
Friday/Vandredi	
Monongahela	8:30am
Saturday/Samdi	
Charleroi	8:30am

*This schedule does not
reflect holidays or Holy Days.*
Orè sa a pa refleto jou ferye oswa
jou apa pou Bondye.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 30th:

\$10,949

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FOR CHILDREN
December 25, 2025



BAPTISM

For arrangements and to
schedule a class please call
724-258-7794



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In danger of death please call the
parish office at any time. If in the
hospital or a skilled nursing
facility, please ask the nursing
staff to contact the priest on call.



MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish
office to set a meeting with a
member of the clergy no less
than six months before the
proposed wedding date.



PENANCE

Mondays, Charleroi
6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesdays, Monongahela
6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Saturdays, Donora
3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

First Fridays, Donora
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**By appointment, please call
the parish office.**



**"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE
WORLD. WHOEVER
FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT
WALK IN DARKNESS BUT
WILL HAVE THE LIGHT
OF LIFE."**

JOHN 8:12



**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE
BURNS THIS WEEK IN**

**CHARLEROI FOR
BERNADINE ATEN**

By: Marlene Calcek & Family

**DONORA FOR
THE DECEASED OF THE
SANFILIPPO, COSTA & CLARK
FAMILIES**

By: The Clark Family

**MONONGAHELA FOR
JOE ROSTCHECK**

By: Daughter, Leanne & Family

CLERGY

A WORD FROM FR. LEVI

Grace, love, joy and peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord! Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent which is known as Gaudete Sunday! Gaudete is the word in Latin for "Rejoyce!" Today we shift our focus from the second coming of Christ to Christmas!

We are just 2 weeks away from Christmas and some of us have so many things to do and wish we had a few less. Others have hardly anything to do and wish they had a few more things on the calendar, while still others are perfectly content to be right where they are. Wherever you find yourself at this moment, I invite you to ask yourself, **"What does Christmas mean to me?"**

Many of us have experiences of Christmas from growing up that we absolutely treasure! Experiences of tremendous love and joy! Perhaps some of the traditions we remember so fondly are things that we are still doing today. Some of us may experience the Christmas Season with pain and sorrow because of the loss of loved ones or other traumatic things we have experienced. Wherever our past experience, I would invite you to ask yourself, **"What does Christmas really mean to me and what am I waiting for?"**

In the Gospel, we hear what the Kingdom of God coming into the world looks like! Jesus says to John's disciples: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." These are signs of the Kingdom of God breaking into the world! These are the signs that fulfill the ancient prophecies about the Messiah! These signs continue to be worked by Christ today through His Church, through whom he manifests his presence!

This Christmas let us meditate on the coming of Christ as a baby, helpless and humble. Let us also ponder the mystery of the Christ Child's Divine Nature. This is no ordinary birth. This is a birth that changes everything because it brings together the human and divine. It is the birth of Christ that shows us that God is willing to humble Himself to the point of being joined to our human nature. What wondrous love is this?! This love is the true source of joy!

As we approach Christmas this year, let us ponder how the Kingdom of Heaven is breaking into our lives! Let us take some time to pay attention to how Jesus is working within, through and around us! May our joy be full as we ponder the mystery of the Christ-child this year, and most importantly enter into His Divine Life, at the Christmas Mass celebrations!



Reverend Levi Hartle
Pastor

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection against the
wickedness and snares of the devil;
may God rebuke him we humbly
pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly
host, by the power of God, cast into
hell Satan and all evil spirits
who prowl through the world seeking
the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

O Glorious Saint Andrew,
you were the first to recognize
and follow the Lamb of God.
With your friend Saint John,
you remained with Jesus for that day,
for your entire life,
and now throughout eternity.
As you led your brother Saint Peter to
Christ and many others after Him,
draw us also to Him.
Teach us to lead others to Christ
solely out of love for Him
and dedication in His service.
Help us to learn the lesson of the
cross and to carry our daily crosses
without complaint so that they may
carry us to Jesus. Amen.

LITURGY PREPARATION

Third Sunday of Advent

Happy Gaudete Sunday! Gaudete (gow-DAY-tay), which is Latin for “rejoice,” is the theme for this weekend. This Sunday takes its name from the Entrance Antiphon, which begins with the words *Gaudete in Domino semper*, or *Rejoice in the Lord always*.

Prior to the ninth century, Advent lasted for 40 days, like Lent. It used to begin on November 12th, the day after the Feast of St. Martin, so it was called St. Martin’s Lent. Eventually, Advent was shortened to four weeks, as we know it today. However, similar to Lent, there is a halfway point where we take a “break” from the penitential nature of the season to celebrate how close we are to experiencing Christ’s coming. You’ll notice a pause in the color purple as the rose candle from the advent wreath is lit, and the priest dons rose-colored vestments. One of the reasons we shift to a lighter colored hue (purple to pink) is because the penitential season of Advent is “lightened” for a bit to experience the anticipated joy of Christmas.



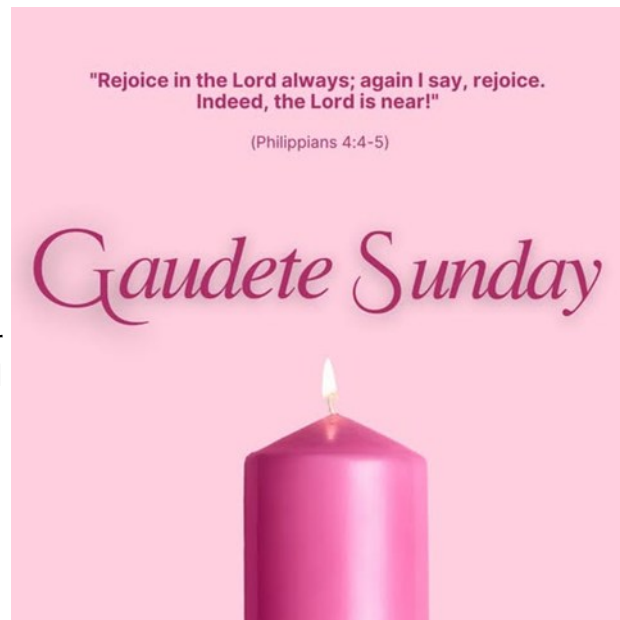
Amanda Nicholson
Music & Liturgy

This theme of rejoicing is also echoed in the readings we’ll hear today. Isaiah preaches that when the Messiah comes, “then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.” (Isaiah 35:5-6) This passage sees its fulfillment in the Gospel today when John the Baptist’s disciples visit Jesus to inquire whether he is the Messiah. John was unable to ask Jesus personally because he was in prison, but Jesus sends word back to him through John’s disciples saying, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” (Matthew 11:5)

The real reason for rejoicing over those passages isn’t so much that Jesus healed people of various disabilities, although I’m sure for the ones that were healed there was *much* rejoicing. But the bigger reason for rejoicing is that Jesus is finally here to save us, and those miraculous healings were just one of the ways that Jesus chose to prove he was the Son of God.

The one thing that hasn’t changed from Jesus’ time to today is that everyone experiences difficulties and burdens. They might be physical limitations like those from the readings, or they could be any other thing we experience as humans. I’m sure many of us pray for Jesus to remove our suffering just as instantly as he healed the blind, deaf, and lame. I mean, we know he has the ability to do that! Even if He chooses to allow our burden to remain (which is for our greater good, even if we can’t see it now) we shouldn’t allow that burden to replace our inner joy. Sometimes I visualize burdens as a cloak we wear, and it can seem as if our joy is “cloaked” in hardship. Even if we have a heavy cloak, our joy can still remain because both things can be true at the same time: we can experience the difficulties of life, but we also have the hope of a Savior who will redeem us from all sin and suffering. This hope can do wonders to lighten whatever load we carry because it gives purpose to our suffering.

The Lord is using every hardship for good in some way. I pray that we can place our burdens in the Lord’s hand and continue to walk with an inner heart of rejoicing through this Advent season toward the light of Christ’s coming and the joy of Christmas. Gaudete!



THE ORDER OF MASS

OPENING HYMN

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; be hold the
2. O blest the land, the cit - y gates; blest, where Christ the
3. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
4. So come, my Sov - reign; en - ter in! Let new and
King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
rul - er is con - fest! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
no - bler life be - gin; Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
guide us on, Un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Text: LM; based on Psalm 24; George Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. By Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878. Music: Williams' Psalmodia, 1789

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:1-6A, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will

the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Lord, come and save us.

Music: Michael J. Accurso, © 2019, Liturgical Music Source. All rights reserved.

1. The LORD God keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.

2. The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.

3. The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

THE ORDER OF MASS

SECOND READING

ROMANS 15:4-9

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.

Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you

go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* 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."



THE ORDER OF MASS

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the

Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PREPARATION HYMN

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for truth,
2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for hope,
3. Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for wa - ter,
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for warmth,
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts that
we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly peo-ple,
man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,
light for the world to see. Christ, be our
Make us your liv - ing voice.
shared un - til all are fed.
walls made of liv - ing stone.
mak - ing your king - dom come.
light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ,
be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

Text: Isaiah 40:1-8; Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben; Johann Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: GENEVA 42, 8 7 8 7 77 88; Genevan Psalter, 1551; harm. adapt. from Claude Goudimel, 1505-1572

THE ORDER OF MASS

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this — Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

GREAT AMEN

A - men a - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. world, grant us peace.

Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE ORDER OF MASS

COMMUNION HYMN

COME, LORD JESUS



Text & Tune: Chris de Silva © 2012, GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Behold, this bread we break will free us from our greed. This bread of peace God gives to us we share with those in need, we share with those in need.
2. Behold this cup we take will save us from all sin. This precious cup God sends to us will nourish us within, will nourish us within.
3. You call us to become this feast for all the earth, to bring an end to suffering as people of rebirth, as people of rebirth.
4. Remove all barriers. May truth and justice grow. Restore our hearts to be a place where peace and mercy flow, where peace and mercy flow.
5. This table reconciles the greatest and the least. Where earth and heaven celebrate, we share God's holy feast, we share God's holy feast.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH



*Text: Venez, divin messie; Abbe Simon-Joseph Pellegrin. Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, French Noel, 16th Century.
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GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

The Signs of the Savior

When you think about the relationship between a father and his child, what comes to mind? What do you think of and how do you feel? When I think about the relationship between a father and his child, I imagine that a father who loves his child would do everything in his power to reveal and communicate his love for his child so that there would be no confusion about the matter. In the same way, when we think about God the Father communicating His love to His children, we must keep in mind that the Lord always desires to reveal and communicate His everlasting love to each and every one of us. There's nothing He wants more than to love you and to have you know, experience and live in His love. And because Jesus Christ is the Son of God and perfectly reveals the love and Heart of the Father, we can know with certainty that we are loved by the Lord. Knowing His love for us, we are called to love Him in return by repenting of our sins, giving our lives to the Father through Christ and living in His love as we keep the commandments and live a life of holiness.



Philip Pierangeli
Social Ministry

In the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, we see clearly the *signs of the Savior*. God the Father wanted to clearly communicate to each of us that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus proved He was indeed "sent by the Father" (John 20:21) through miracles, signs and wonders. We read in the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist's disciples asking Our Lord, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). Jesus responded to them, saying, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed. The deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." (Matthew 11:4-6). These are many of the signs and wonders that Jesus did which proved He is God in the flesh! It is in Jesus Christ that we can know with certitude that God the Father is not some distant being somewhere in the sky, but rather, much closer to us than ourselves and is compassionate towards His creation. Let us also keep in mind that Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). Jesus is the Word that God the Father wanted to say to the world! The life, passion and death of Jesus is what God the Father wanted to declare to the world. In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one" (CCC 65). And every word that Jesus utters, every sigh Christ makes, and every tear Christ sheds is allowed in order to reveal the glory and the Heart of the Father.

My encouragement for all of us is that we come to make Jesus Christ loved and to realize that miracles, wonders and signs are not a thing of the past, but rather, they are still happening today! The Holy Spirit is just as present to us now as He was to the first Apostles! The Lord wants to bless the whole world through us! Our Blessed Lord even says, "Amen, amen, I say to you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and indeed will do even greater ones than these because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12). Jesus desires to communicate His Spirit to us so that we may become the glorious saints we were destined to be! And because the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from dead lives in You (Romans 8:11), you are called to give sight to the blind, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and proclaim the good news to the poor and to every living creature (Mark 16:15)!



HELP WANTED: SNOW REMOVAL FOR 3 LOCATIONS

**WE ARE SEEKING REPUTABLE, INSURED, AND DEPENDABLE
SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES FOR ALL THREE OF OUR LOCATIONS.**

THIS IS A PAID, ON-CALL POSITION.

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT RICH AT
RRSICK@SAINTANDREWMIDMON.ORG**

TEMPORALITIES & STEWARDSHIP

A Sweet Legacy: Honoring Our *World Famous Donuts*

Some ministries feed the soul. This one also feeds the sweet tooth—and has for over four decades.

What began in the 1980s at the former St. Anthony's site as a humble fundraiser has risen—quite literally—into one of the most beloved and enduring traditions in our parish's history. Our *World Famous Donuts* are more than a treat. They're a symbol of community, resilience, and joyful service.

In 2021, as the world slowly emerged from the isolation of the pandemic, the scent of fresh donuts once again filled the air—this time at the parish park in Monongahela. With offertory down and spirits in need of lifting, the donut ministry was revived not just to raise funds, but to rekindle connection. Thanks to the generosity of the Amati family, who sponsored a new donut machine, the tradition was reborn with purpose and pride.

Since that celebrated return (and through November 2025), the donut team has sold an astounding **65,167** donuts, raising **\$57,990** in gross profits to support parish life and ministries. But the real story isn't just in the numbers—it's in the people.

At the heart of this ministry is a dedicated team of volunteers who rise early, work joyfully, and serve faithfully. Today, the operation is led by the ever-energetic **Liz Cichy**, whose leadership keeps the ministry running smoothly and sweetly. Alongside her, we gratefully recognize the faithful hands and generous hearts of:

Giovanna Zanardelli, Mary Grace Bloom, Colleen Bullock, Cindy Patterson, Penny Patterson, Sherrie Garry, Sandy Mauser, Terry Lewis, Tom Rapp, Sandy Geary, and Bev & George Siech.

Their commitment—week after week, year after year—has turned flour, sugar, and oil into something far greater: community.

Whether you've rolled dough, boxed dozens, cashiered, or simply savored one with coffee after Mass, you've been part of something special. Our donuts have become a Saturday morning ritual, a reason to linger a little longer, to laugh a little louder, and to remember that even the simplest traditions can become sacred when shared in faith.

Interested in joining the team? We'd love to welcome new hands and happy hearts into this delicious ministry. Whether you're a seasoned fryer, love to ice & decorate or just curious to learn, there's a place for you at the table. Contact the parish office or email communications@saintandrewmidmon.org to get involved.



Joe Caruso
Business Manager



IMPORTANT MASS TIMES TO REMEMBER...

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Donora
4:00 PM Charleroi
4:00 PM Monongahela
12:00 AM Midnight, Monongahela

Christmas Day

8:30 AM Donora
9:00 AM Charleroi
11:00 AM Monongahela



Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation
January 1, 2026

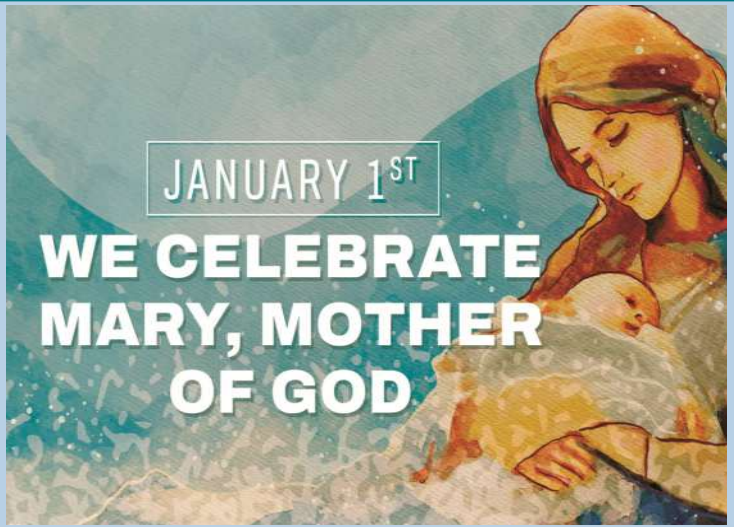
Vigil Mass

Wednesday, Dec. 31st at 4:00 PM, Donora

New Years Day

Thursday, January 1st
9:00 AM in Charleroi
11:00 AM in Monongahela

JANUARY 1ST
**WE CELEBRATE
MARY, MOTHER
OF GOD**



Please be advised of the new weekend Mass Schedule that will begin the weekend of January 17/18, 2026.

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00 p.m. Donora
5:30 p.m. Charleroi

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Donora
9:00 a.m. Charleroi
11:30 a.m. Monongahela
6pm p.m. Monongahela

OUR ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 21st, at 7:00 p.m., Charleroi Site

Through spoken word, role play, and song, students from Kindergarten to 12th grade will narrate the story of our Savior's birth. Everyone is invited to join us as our youth share the most beautiful story ever told.



You're invited.....

Be Healed:

A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life by Dr. Bob Schuchts

Winter Book Study

Please consider joining this 6-week book study where we'll dive deep into each chapter of Dr. Bob Schuchts book "Be Healed."

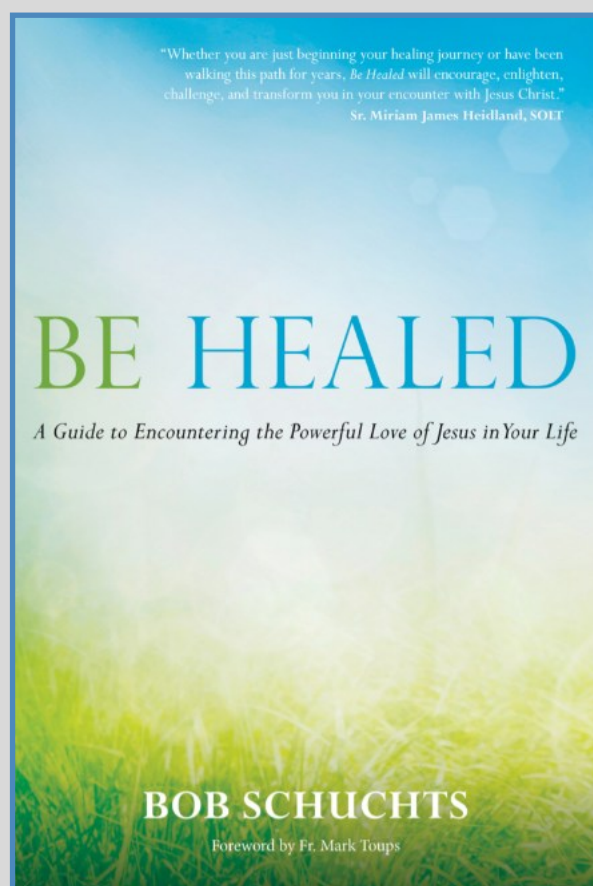
Thursdays | 6 - 7:30pm

January 8, 2026 - February 12, 2026

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish
Knights of Columbus Hall
Donora, PA

There is no cost to participate, just the cost of the book.

For more information or to register,
please email Valentina Tomko at
vtomko@saintandrewmidmon.org



The book study will provide an opportunity to find spiritual, emotional and physical healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Steeped in Scripture and the wisdom of the Catholic church, Dr. Bob's book can help people recognize their areas of brokenness and place their hope in the Risen Christ.

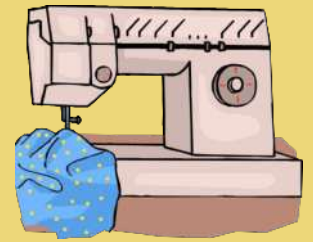
Please order your book online and read the first 2 chapters to prepare for our first meeting on January 8th.

WORKS OF MERCY



DIGNITY ROBE GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month in St. Andrew's sewing room in Donora from 9:00 a.m. until noon. We are in need of more people to join us for this wonderful project to sew, cut, iron, etc... Come join us!



HONORARIUMS

We are thankful for the gifts given to the food bank in memory of:

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- Crackers
- Cereal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
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- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Ramen Noodles
- Hamburger Helper
- Rice & Beans
- Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
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Referrals are received by phone by calling 724-228-7722 as well as by referral agencies via voucher.



2nd Wednesday every month
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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624 Washington Ave, Charleroi, PA 15022

Donora
1 Park Rd, Donora, PA 15033

Monongahela
225 Park Ave, Monongahela, PA 15063



ccpg.org/diaper-days

Interested in donating diapers? Call 724-228-7722

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish

PET FOOD BANK

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish & The Washington Area Humane Society are partnering together to assist community members in need of supplemental pet food and supplies through our regular food bank distribution.

2ND WEDNESDAY, EVERY MONTH
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Charleroi
624 Washington Ave, Charleroi, PA 15022

Donora
1 Park Rd, Donora, PA 15033

Monongahela
225 Park Ave, Monongahela, PA 15063



INTERESTED IN DONATING?

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WASHINGTON AREA HUMANE SOCIETY



There are two Food Banks offered through Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish. On the second Tuesday of every month, we partner with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in our Charleroi site only, from 9:30am - 11am. And on the second Wednesday of every month, we have our parish Food Bank, Diaper Bank and Pet Food Bank pick up at all 3 church locations from 10am - 11:30. Volunteers are always needed! Please contact Chris Janney at 267-990-4479.



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ON FIRE FOR CHRIST



Today is the third Sunday of Advent, popularly known as “*Gaudete Sunday*.” The term *Gaudete* simply means “to rejoice.” This Advent, we should be preparing to live a new experience of love and faith in God.

As we come closer to the feast of Christmas, the church encourages us to rejoice because God is about to fulfill His promise to us. However, this does not mean we have come to the end of our preparation this season of Advent. Instead, it is a way of urging us to be more focused and courageous. It is also a way of assuring that our preparations shall soon be rewarded. Today, all our readings exhort us to be happy, joyful, prepared and patient as we wait for the Lord’s coming.

For our joy to be complete this season we must be charitable, forgiving, just, and be modest in our actions. We must seek reconciliation and live in peace with one another. Above all, we must avoid all acts that can make life difficult for others. Finally, we need patience and constancy in prayer. These are very important spiritual virtues. These will lead us to sanctity and fullness of joy. As we wait joyfully for the fulfillment of God’s promises to us this season, may He fill our hearts with charity and peace of mind. Amen!



Deacon Frank Bursic

So, during this Advent season, we need to continually look for His presence in the people that we enjoy being with and in the people that give us difficulties. Advent is that time when we can really concentrate on waiting, watching and preparing for the Lord; and Advent is a time to reflect on what’s really important in our lives and to prepare ourselves to meet Jesus, to welcome Him into our lives not only at Christmas but each and every day and especially when we meet Him face to face.

We should ask ourselves, “If I changed some of my habits or activities would this give me more time to grow closer to God? Am I too comfortable in my current routine? Am I stretching myself to move out of my comfort zone to better serve Him? Could I possibly make more room in my life to become more involved where I can make better use of the gifts and talents He’s given me?”

Make small changes: consider giving up a half hour of television so you can read and reflect on the day’s Mass readings and pray the rosary or perhaps rise half hour earlier each morning. St. Francis de Sales once said, “Every one of us needs a half an hour of prayer every day, except when we are busy—then we need an hour.” Maybe you could come to morning Mass or Adoration a few days a week and spend time with our Lord in the Eucharist. There is no better way to start your day than with Mass! You could consider receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive God’s infinite mercy. Challenge yourself and jump into a new ministry or stop and help a homeless person. Give of yourself and see Jesus in others.

Do you want to really challenge yourself? Don’t tell anybody, but for the next two weeks until Christmas do everything for others. Ask them if they need help. Immediately respond if they ask you to do something. Go out of your way to help others with your time, talent, and treasures. Get up each morning and ask your spouse, how can I make your day easier? Let me know how you feel after Christmas. I’ll bet you will be overcome with joy. I challenge you! I will pledge that I will do this.

It hit me the other night after consuming the large Thanksgiving meal and I was bursting at my seams. Were you this way? What if we came each day, each Sunday to this Eucharistic Table that God has laid out and consumed Christ so much that we were bursting at our spiritual seams. Can you imagine the joy that you would have?!

There’s a lot to do between now and Christmas, most of which has to do with what’s on the inside to get ready to meet Jesus. My brothers and sisters, are you up for the challenge? Do you have the faith necessary to step out of your comfort zone and change your routine to allow God to prepare and ready you for His coming? Be on fire for Christ! Go out and spread His Good News! God Bless. I’ll see you at His table.

FAITH FORMATION

Sometimes when we look at the world around us it can feel discouraging, as if God is far away or not working in the midst of everything happening. Advent reminds us that we are a people of hope. God's saving love is already present in our world, and yet we continue to wait for its fullness.

Read today's Gospel together. Reflect on John's question to Jesus: "*Are you the One?*" Notice how Jesus answers by pointing to the signs of God's kingdom already taking shape: acts of healing, mercy, and new life.

As a family, spend a few minutes looking through a newspaper or news website to find stories that show hope, kindness, and God's work in the world. Talk about where you see goodness shining through.



Kathy Miller
Director of Faith Formation

Faith Formation

Dec 14th — In-Person Class

Dec 21st* — In-Person Class

Dec 28th — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas!

Jan 4th — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

Jan 11 — In Person Class

Confirmation

Dec 14th — In-Person Class

Dec 21st* — In-Person Class

Dec 28th — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas!

Jan 4th — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

Jan 11 — In-Person Class

E	Z	M	J	X	F	C	Z	X	T	V	Q	S	B	E	V	Y
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Volunteers Needed

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Meals on Wheels is in need of drivers and delivery persons for the month of December for Charleroi deliveries.
Monday through Friday from
10am-11:30am.

Whether you can give your time for one week, or just one day, any amount of help is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Lorraine Guzur to sign up by calling (757) 546-4174.

'The Light is On For You' is an initiative of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Advent is the perfect time to renew and restore your relationship with Jesus and with the Church as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Wednesday, December 17

**All 3 churches will have a priest available
6—8pm**

RECONCILIATION

St. Andrew's Giving Tree

St. Andrew's Giving Tree Project has begun! The Giving Trees are on display in the back of all three churches with angels for parishioners to take. On the angel is information regarding the person for whom you are to purchase a gift and a gift suggestions. This information is just there to help you in the purchase of a gift. Anything you give is deeply appreciated.

Please wrap the gift, making sure you attach the angel to the gift and return it to one of the Parish Offices no later than Sunday, December 14! Please, do not leave gifts in the back of the Church!



Bible Study

Join us again in the New Year.
We meet the 1st and 3rd
Wednesday of every month in
the Knights of Columbus Hall in
Charleroi at 6PM.

We will be discussing the New
Testament Letters.

**The next meeting is
Wednesday, January 7th.**

All are welcome to join us!

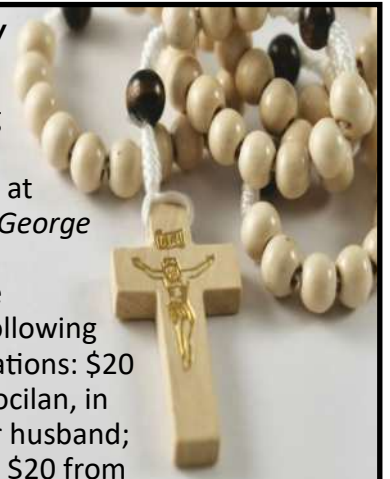


Music Ministry Mass Schedule

Music Ministry Schedule		
December 14	Parish Choir	11am Mon City
December 24	Folk Choir	4pm Charleroi
December 24	Children's Choir	4pm Mon City
December 25	Parish Choir	12am Mon City
December 25	Noah Kilgus (Trumpeter)	9am Charleroi
December 25	Sam Meek (violinist)	11am Mon City

The Rosary Makers

We're meeting on Thursday, December 18th at 1pm at the *By George Restaurant* in Monessen. We received the following memorial donations: \$20 from JoAnn Mocilan, in memory of her husband; Frank Mocilan, \$20 from Jean Galloni, in memory of Rick Puskar, \$20 from Judith Child, and a \$25 anonymous donation. We operate solely from donations. Anyone wishing to join the Rosary Makers, please contact Jean at 724-483-5533.

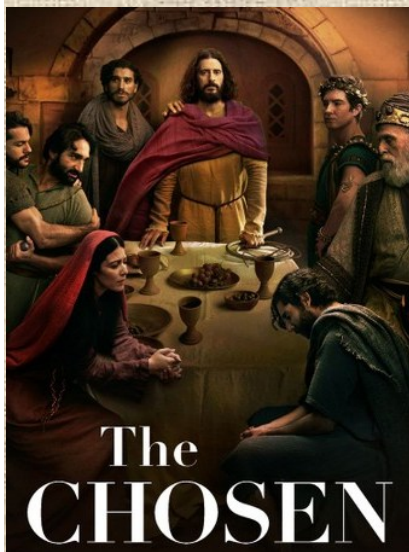


Christmas Decorating/Monongahela Church

The Monongahela Church will be decorated immediately following the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, December 14th. We could use some "able bodied people" to help bring the decorations out from storage. Please stay if you can assist us.

OPLATKI SALE

These Christmas Wafers are available at each of the parish offices. The requested donation is \$3 per Oplatki.



CHOSEN SERIES WATCH PARTY

Meets again on
Tuesday, December
16th at 5:30PM in the
Charleroi Formation
Center in Charleroi.

If you're interested, please
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Director of Advancement: Mrs. Tracy Grandinette

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sue Schottenheimer

Christmas in Monongahela

Our entire student body joined together in their color teams to create beautiful, handmade ornaments for the Community Christmas Tree in Chess Park. With creativity, teamwork, and plenty of festive spirit, the students created decorations that truly shine. Our team leaders proudly delivered the ornaments and helped decorate the tree, adding a special Madonna Catholic touch to downtown.

If you're in town, be sure to stop by Chess Park and enjoy the tree!



GROWING TOGETHER IN HOPE

Physical postures and the postures of the heart at mass

When I taught the students at Madonna how to go to Mass, I gave them a little phrase to memorize: “we stand to respond, we sit to listen, and we kneel to adore.” They repeated it so often that (hopefully) it became second nature. But the truth is, that simple line really holds the heart of what our bodies are doing during the liturgy. If you remember nothing else from this article, I hope you remember that.

The Church reminds us in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (yes, the priest’s book comes with instructions) that the gestures and postures we use at Mass help show our unity with one another (GIRM 42). They’re not just motions we go through; they actually help us pray. Even when age or health keeps us from doing everything physically, the intention of the heart still matters tremendously. Here’s a look at those three basic postures and what they mean for our prayer.



Mark Littlefield
Seminarian

Sitting — A Posture for Listening

Most of us spend a good part of Mass sitting down, especially during the readings and the homily. Sitting isn’t a “break” from worship; it’s the posture of someone who wants to learn. It’s the posture Mary took when she “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to him” (Luke 10:39). The Catechism reminds us that God’s Word is a light for our path (CCC 131; cf. Ps 119:105). When we sit and listen, we’re doing exactly what disciples are supposed to do.

Posture of the heart — “Lord, help me hear You.”

And for many of us, especially those who can’t stand or kneel easily, sitting becomes a real offering. Simply being present and attentive is a prayer.

Standing — A Posture for Responding

Standing is something we all instinctively understand. When someone important enters a room, we stand. When we want to show respect, we stand. It’s the same at Mass. We stand for the entrance procession, for the Gospel, and at times when the prayers call for our active response. Scripture shows God’s people standing to hear His Word (Nehemiah 8:5), and the Church says standing is a sign of respect and attention (GIRM 43).

Posture of the heart — “Here I am, Lord.”

If standing is difficult, don’t worry. God sees the heart that wants to respond, even if the body can’t quite keep up.

Kneeling — A Posture for Adoration

Kneeling has always been a gesture of reverence and humility before God. Saint Paul says that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend (Philippians 2:10). During the Eucharistic Prayer, kneeling expresses our belief that something holy, something miraculous, is happening before us. The Church says kneeling during the consecration is a sign of adoration (GIRM 43), and the Catechism speaks of gestures like kneeling as signs of the worship we give to God alone (CCC 2628).

Posture of the heart — “My Lord and my God.”

And again, if kneeling isn’t physically possible, a simple bow of the head can express the same reverence.

One Simple Takeaway

As our parish prepares for the new Mass schedule, it’s a good time to think about how we enter into the liturgy. The Mass involves our bodies just as much as our minds and hearts.

So remember the little phrase: “we stand to respond, we sit to listen, and we kneel to adore.” These movements, whether we can make them physically or only in our hearts, help us pray more fully and draw us closer to the Lord who welcomes us at every Mass.





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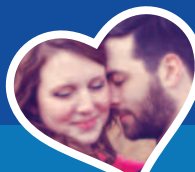
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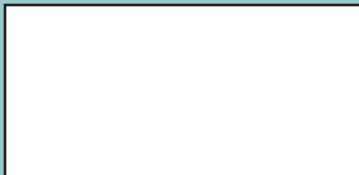
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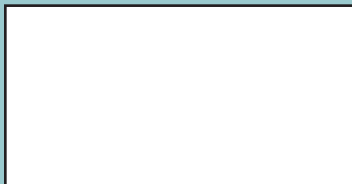
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