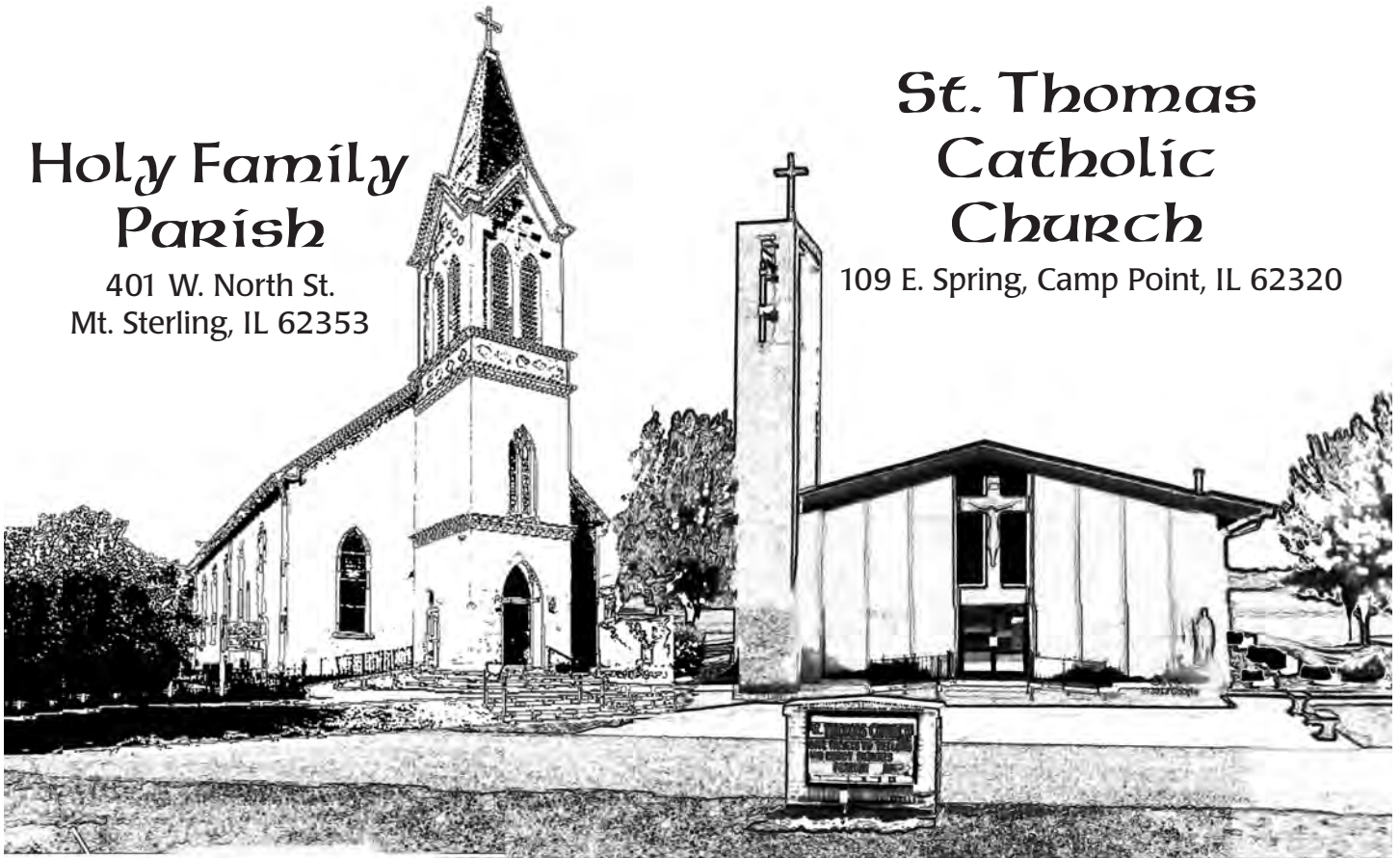


Holy Family Parish

401 W. North St.
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

St. Thomas Catholic Church

109 E. Spring, Camp Point, IL 62320



Rectory: (217) 773-3233

E-mail: holy.family@smseagle.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor – (217) 773-3233

Emergency only (217) 242-9669

E-Mail: akuhn@dio.org

Deacon Michael P. Ellerman

Ashley Guthrie, Bookkeeper

Tammy McKeown, Parish & School Secretary

Cheryl Dillard, Liturgical Music Coordinator

Ann O'Sullivan, C.R.E.

School: St. Mary (217) 773-2825

Website: www.smseagle.org

Principal: Melissa Obert

Mass Schedule

Daily: 7:00 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday - 8:30 a.m. Friday

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Holy days: Will be Announced

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 4:30-5:00 p.m. - Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

First weekend of month

Phone (217) 593-6685, (217) 773-3233

E-mail: stthomascp@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Pat Sharow

Renting of Hall: Cathy Holtschlag – 217-430-7493

Community for Christ Assistance Center Board Member:

Dorothy Obert – (217) 593-6520

Ministry Schedule: Bobbi Mock – (217) 430-2859

CHWC Director: Karen Janssen – (217) 242-5283

D.R.E: Laura Evans – (217) 316-1734

Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day: Will be Announced

First Friday Adoration of the Eucharist 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass 6:00 p.m. with

Reconciliation prior 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

PSR classes Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Men & Women's Society Meeting 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – 2nd Thursday 6:00 p.m.

Website: www.stthomascp.org

<https://stthomascp.formed.org>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday, September 18 – 7:00 a.m.

1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 19 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17

Communion Service

Wednesday, September 20 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang,
and Companions, Martyrs

1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35

Communion Service

Thursday, September 21 – 7:00 a.m.

St. Matthew, Apostle

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13

Communion Service

St. Thomas – 5:30 p.m.

Communion Service

Friday, September 22 – 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3

Joseph Wagner

(By Mary Kassing)

Saturday, September 23 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15

Deceased Members of the Dwight

Armstrong Family

(By Catherine Black)

Sunday, September 24 – 8:00 a.m.

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a

The Living & Deceased Members of the

Gerald & Gertrude Long Family

By Janice Sexton

St. Thomas – 10:00 a.m.

Parishioners of Holy Family
and St. Thomas

HOLY FAMILY TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 9-10, 2023

Holy Family: \$3,536.00

School Support: \$815.00

Sister Parish: \$240.00

ACSA/Parish Tithe: \$575.00

Holy Family weekly budgeted amount: \$6,500

ST. THOMAS TITHE TO THE LORD:

September 10, 2023

St. Thomas: \$2,769.00

Sister Parish: \$15.00

Parish Tithe: \$20.00

Candle Money: \$23.00

St. Thomas weekly budgeted amount: \$2,635

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ Legion of Mary meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the convent. All are invited to pray the rosary with us and learn more about the Legion. “With Mary’s help we guide, console and enlighten others.”

Please contact Tammy at (217) 773-2825 or tmckeown@smseagle.org with any information you wish to have placed in the bulletin. I will need any information by Monday at 2:00 p.m. for insertion into the next weekend’s bulletin.

OFFICE HOURS

School Office hours will be Monday – Friday – 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is (217) 773-2825.

The rectory phone number is: (217) 773-3233.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following in your prayers:

All Caregivers † The shut-ins of our parish and community † Matthew Bishop † For the safety of all of our military † For a Special Intention †
Gay Gunn † Don & Marie Hendren †
Jolene Lawson † Sharon Johnson †
Gavin McDaniel † Boyd Tenhouse †
Janice Leverton † Margo Pool † Gary Shields †
Abby Schuhardt † Jim Steinkamp †
Heather Poppy † Stanley Harms †
Sheila Thompson † J. J. Gronewold †
John Norkus † Marilyn Wort † Carolyn Kassing †
Kimberly McKinny † Bryce Shank †
Elaine Parkin & family † Sheila Roberts †
Marilyn Clark † Jim Heaton † Vera Marie Rolf †
Christine Colgan Moore † Maddy Perry †
Dwayne Koch † Susie Parker Campbell †
Debra Parker Baker † Jeanette Shields †
Connie Johnson † Tom Langan † Oakley Ham †
Rick Flatt † Elizabeth "Libby" Tichy †
Jeff Kozak † Carol Likes † Janice Hendricks †
Kendall Atteberry † Mark Ebbing †
Eleanor Logsdon † Lane Wiese †
Carolyn DeWitt † Jim Duvendack †
Leeann DeJaynes † Irene Norkus †
Boone Holden † Sean Fink † Dan Ray †
Elijah Craig † Joan Zurita † Kathy Cramblitt †
Steve and Bonnie Sorrells † Katie Dunbar †
Alan Bowen †

ST. THOMAS LITURGICAL ROLES

September 24, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Denise Taylor
Greeters: Greg & Elizabeth Likes
Lector: Brenda Hoelscher
Gift Bearers: Jacob & Alicia
Schmidt Family
Eucharistic Minister: Kim Gronewold
Collection Counters: Gary Mast Family
Ushers: Brent Obert, Tony Obert

From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church celebrates the Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Our readings today remind us that the Lord alone is Lord of all and as He is kind and merciful, so should we be forgiving toward one another. Our forgiveness is to be without limit so as to reflect Christ's eternal love.

Forgiveness can be very difficult for us at times...to both seek it and to offer it. Yet, the Lord reminds us that it is necessary...for the fullness of life that He offers us, for peace in our lives, and for Eternal Life with Him. Let us pray that we may always respond to God's call to forgive and to seek forgiveness and to cooperate always with His grace to do so.

-LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-Tuesday, September 19 - Optional memorial of St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr. Januarius was Bishop of Benevento. According to stories about him, he was martyred around the year 305 under Diocletian by being thrown to bears at Pozzuolo. His blood is known to liquefy on this day and other days each year. He is the patron of Naples. St. Januarius, Pray for us!

-Wednesday, September 20 - Obligatory Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and companions, Martyrs. Andrew, born in Seoul, Korea, was a convert to the faith and was ordained Korea's first native priest. His father was a martyr. In 1846, Andrew was tortured and beheaded along with his lay associate, seminarian Paul Chong Ha-sang. Between 1839 and 1867, one hundred and three martyrs gave their lives for the faith in Korea.

"Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptized, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelization was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for taking taxes to Beijing annually. On one of these occasions, around 1777,

Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home Church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were 10,000 Catholics. Religious freedom came to Korea in 1883.

Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonized 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867, when he visited Korea in 1984. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.

We marvel at the fact that the Korean Church was strictly a lay Church for a dozen years after its birth. How did the people survive without the Eucharist? It is no belittling of this and other sacraments to realize that there must be a living faith before there can be a truly beneficial celebration of the Eucharist. The sacraments are signs of God's initiative and response to faith already present. The sacraments increase grace and faith, but only if there is something ready to be increased." (Franciscan Media)

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sand and companions, Pray for us!

-Thursday, September 21 - Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. St. Matthew is one of the four Gospel writers. His Gospel was written around the year 85 and is generally arranged in an alternating pattern of narrative and discourse. Intended for a largely Jewish-Christian audience, St. Matthew's Gospel seeks to portray Christianity as consistent with the Jewish tradition and a continuation of it. Tradition holds that St. Matthew preached in Judea and Ethiopia where he was martyred. He is symbolized by the winged human being (Ezekiel 1) and is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer 1). He is the patron of accountants and customs officers.

"Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting

taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the "tax farmers" got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as "publicans," were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with "sinners" (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important. No other particular incidents about Matthew are found in the New Testament.

From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man others, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. But Matthew was honest enough to admit that he was one of the sinners Jesus came to call. He was open enough to recognize truth when he saw Him. "And he got up and followed Him" (Matthew 9:9b)." (Franciscan Media)

St. Matthew, Pray for us!

-Saturday, September 23 - Obligatory Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest. Commonly known as St. Padre Pio, he was a Capuchin priest who received the Stigmata (the wounds of Christ). In his life here on earth, he was much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. Despite such notoriety, he would often say, "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." His life was devoted to the Eucharist and to prayer. St. Padre Pio is a more contemporary saint, born in 1887, he died in 1968. He was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II. He is

considered the patron of civil defense volunteers and Catholic adolescents.

“In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul’s pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter’s Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity. “This is the most concrete synthesis of Padre Pio’s teaching,” said the pope. He also stressed Padre Pio’s witness to the power of suffering. If accepted with love, the Holy Father stressed, such suffering can lead to “a privileged path of sanctity.”

Many people have turned to the Italian Capuchin Franciscan to intercede with God on their behalf; among them was the future Pope John Paul II. In 1962, when he was still an archbishop in Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked him to pray for a Polish woman with throat cancer. Within two weeks, she had been cured of her life-threatening disease.

Born Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. Twice his father worked in Jamaica, New York, to provide the family income.

At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these

decisions, which were soon reversed. However, he wrote no letters after 1924. His only other writing, a pamphlet on the agony of Jesus, was done before 1924.

Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned.

Padre Pio saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. At his urging, a fine hospital was built on nearby Mount Gargano. The idea arose in 1940; a committee began to collect money. Ground was broken in 1946. Building the hospital was a technical wonder because of the difficulty of getting water there and of hauling up the building supplies. This “House for the Alleviation of Suffering” has 350 beds.

A number of people have reported cures they believe were received through the intercession of Padre Pio. Those who assisted at his Masses came away edified; several curiosity seekers were deeply moved. Like Saint Francis, Padre Pio sometimes had his habit torn or cut by souvenir hunters.

One of Padre Pio’s sufferings was that unscrupulous people several times circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999.

Referring to that day’s Gospel (Matthew 11:25-30) at Padre Pio’s canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: “The Gospel image of ‘yoke’ evokes the many trials that the humble Capuchin of San Giovanni Rotondo endured. Today we contemplate in him how sweet is the ‘yoke’

of Christ and indeed how light the burdens are whenever someone carries these with faithful love. The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord.”

St. Padre Pio, Pray for us!

-CONVOCATION - As I've mentioned in the last couple of bulletins, our Diocesan Priest Convocation is this week. It begins Monday evening and runs through Thursday afternoon. With few exceptions, all active Diocesan priests are expected to present. We will be meeting in Collinsville this year. Please keep me and all the priests and Bishop Paprocki in your prayers.

Because of the Convocation, there will be no Masses Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Deacon Mike and Deacon Paul will offer a Communion Service each of those days at the time regularly scheduled for Mass in addition to the regular Communion Service on Monday. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also take place as usual (Wednesday morning at Holy Family; Thursday afternoon at St. Thomas).

In the event of an emergency while I am away, please try to contact Tammy in the school office (217)-773-2825. If you are unable to reach her, you can call my cell phone and leave a message which I will check as soon as I can. I will try to check office voicemail messages and e-mail messages as often as I can while I am away and respond as I am able.

-CATECHETICAL SUNDAY - This weekend is Catechetical Sunday. Thank you to those in our parishes who formally act as catechists. Our catechists play an important role in helping to teach the Faith. As a reminder, it is our responsibility to continue to grow in our faith and learn the Faith and it is the primary responsibility of parents to teach their children the Faith in the family.

-THANK YOU - Thank you to all who supported the St. Mary School Hog

Roast last Sunday in any way. Even with lots going on, it was a great day and your support of our great school is always appreciated.

-BLESSING OF SCHOOL - On Friday, September 8, as we celebrated the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our School, Mrs. Melissa Obert, our School Principal, asked if I would come over and bless the school, classrooms, teachers, staff, and students which I did. It was wonderful to do such a blessing, offer prayers for our school, students, teachers, and staff, and to remind us all of Mary's great and powerful protection that she offers to us.

While visiting each of the classrooms, some of the students had lots of questions. One question gave me a good laugh. When I visited the Pre-K classrooms and explained that it was Mary's Birthday, one little boy raised his hand and asked "what did she bring for lunch?" Puzzled by the question, I asked him to repeat it... "what did she bring for lunch?" he asked again. Fortunately, one of our Pre-K teachers, Mrs. Behymer was close by. Seeing that I was still a little puzzled and not sure how to answer the question, Mrs. Behymer explained that when someone has a birthday, they usually bring treats to share with everyone. After the explanation, it really gave me a smile!

I suppose there were no cupcakes or cookies on that Friday to share with everyone (maybe next year) but we are mindful of what Mary did bring to us...through her cooperation with God's grace, she brought salvation into the world, Jesus Christ Himself, and she continues to always point us to Christ.

-HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Our Principal, Mrs. Melissa Obert, celebrates a birthday on Saturday, September 23. Please keep Melissa and all the school teachers and staff in your prayers. Melissa does an excellent job in leading our school and I can attest to the many things she does that go unnoticed and unknown by most folks. I appreciate Melissa's leadership and commitment to St. Mary School.

-AREA WIDE MASS - The Area Wide Mass with Bishop Paprocki is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 9:30 a.m. at Quincy Notre Dame High School. We are planning to have many of our St. Mary School students there, I am planning to be there and concelebrate the Mass, and everyone is invited. I encourage you to join us if you can.

-DCCW CONVENTION - Wednesday, September 27, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Griffin High School's West Campus in Springfield. If you need a registration form, let me know.

-RESPECT LIFE DINNER - The annual Right to Life of Adams County Respect Life Dinner is Thursday, October 12 at the Holiday Inn in Quincy. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Dinner at 6:00 p.m.. Guest speaker is Steve Karlen, Campaign Director for 40 Days for Life.

I am considering purchasing a table or two for this event. If you are interested in going, please let me know.

Since it is important for clergy and all of us to support such events, I am planning to attend. Therefore, there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Mass that evening at St. Thomas.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, one another, our parishes and school, and the Universal Church. Please be assured of my prayers each day for you. May you have a most blessed week!

-Fr. Aaron

HOLY FAMILY BOSCO KIDS AND RCIA

Bosco Kids - Bosco Kids meets on Wednesday nights from 6:15 -7:30.

Linda Howard is teaching 3rd grade and Hannah Howard is teaching 2nd grade. The class schedule may vary each week

Ann O'Sullivan and Kriss Johnson are teaching 4th-6th grades on Monday nights from 6-7 p.m.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

RCIA - RCIA classes are for those interested in learning more about the Catholic religion and/or coming into the Catholic Church. Please let me or Father Aaron know if you are interested in attending these classes or have any questions about the Catholic Faith.

Blessings to you all this week.

HOLY FAMILY YOUTH GROUP

September 17- Youth Group will be going to the comedian show at the BCHS Auditorium- Jeff Allen. Meet at 6:30 at BCHS for event.

October 1- Youth Group meet at KC Hall.



If you are interested in attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this upcoming summer, please email Melissa at mobert@smseagle.org or call 217-773-2825. CHWC is for students entering 8th grade or older. The location for next summer and the number of students attending must be decided by the beginning of October!! Contact Melissa TODAY!!!



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