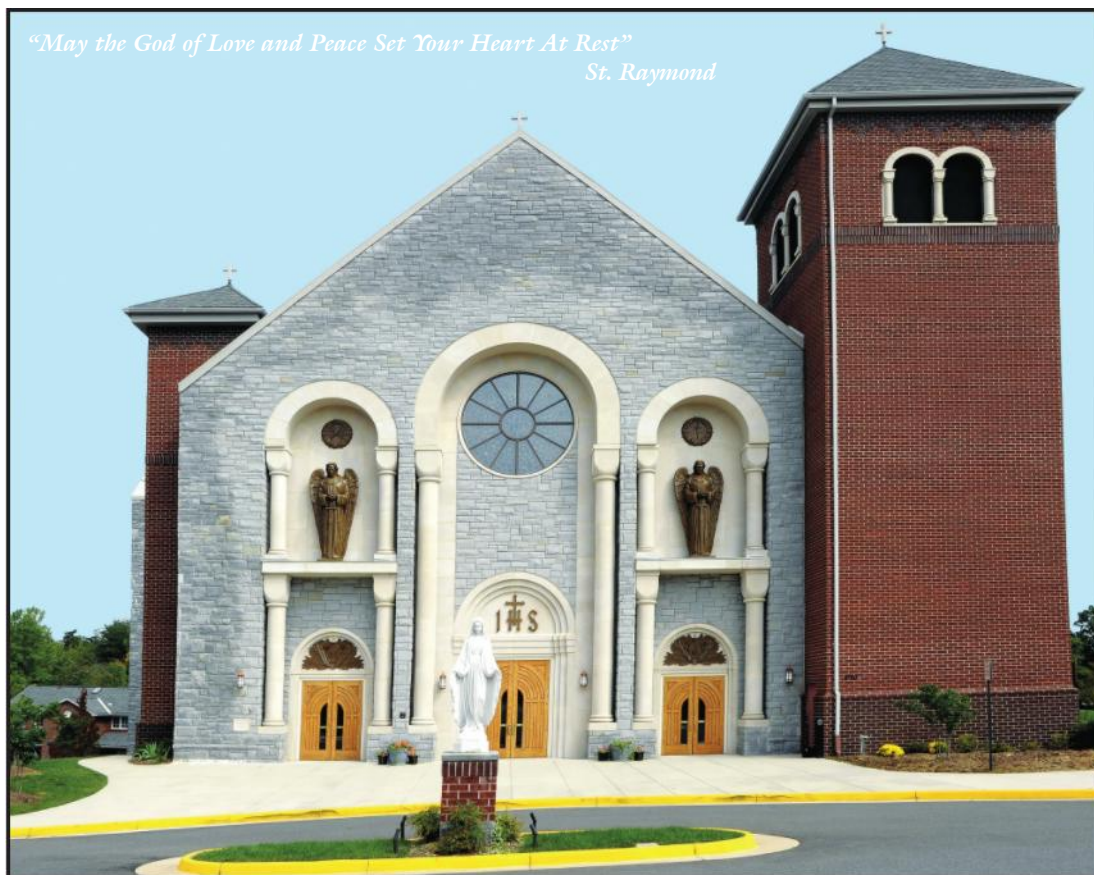


"May the God of Love and Peace Set Your Heart At Rest"
St. Raymond



Welcome to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church

**8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153**

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 8:45 am,
10:30 am and 12:15 pm &
5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday through Friday:
6:30 am, 8:00 am
Wednesdays 7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am

**EXTRAORDINARY
FORM MASS (LATIN)**
1st and 3rd Fridays 7:00 pm

Rev. John C. De Celles, Pastor
Rev. Jordan M. Willard, Parochial Vicar
Elisabeth Turco, Director of Liturgical Music
Jeanne Sause, Director of Youth Apostolate
Mary Salmon, Director of Religious Education
Vince Drouillard, Religious Education Secretary
Tom Browne, Plant Manager
Kirsti Tyson, Office Manager
Mary Butler, Secretary
Eva Radel, Parish Secretary

PARISH OFFICE:

Telephone Numbers:

Rectory: 703-440-0535
Rel. Education: 703-440-0537
Fax: 703-440-0538

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

E-Mail

Church: Office@straymonds.org
Rel. Ed.: ReligiousEducation@straymonds.org
Choirs: Music@straymonds.org

Website

www.straymonds.org

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Please inquire with our office about the availability of partial scholarships for the children of active St. Raymond parishioners attending local Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Angelus Academy

**7644 Dynatech Ct, Springfield, VA 22153
703-924-3996**

Angelus Academy is a fully-accredited pre-K through 8th grade Catholic School affiliated with the Diocese of Arlington. Although it has no official connection with St. Raymond's, the parish has a longstanding close relationship with Angelus Academy. Many of our parish children already happily attend school there.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

(Reconciliation/Confession)

Wednesday Evening

6:15-6:50 p.m. (during Exposition); After 7 p.m. Mass

Saturday Morning

8:30 - 8:50 a.m.; After 9 a.m. Mass

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 - 5 p.m.

Sunday Morning

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.; 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.; 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

MARRIAGE: Couples wishing to marry must contact a parish priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Couples who are living together will be expected to live separately at least during the 3 months prior to the wedding.

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults (and children who have reached the age of reason) are instructed in the Doctrine of the Church and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you or someone you know, would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Office ONE MONTH in advance. Parents must participate in a one-session pre-Baptismal program and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child. You must be REGISTERED in the Parish 3 MONTHS prior to the Baptism. There will be a maximum of 4 Baptisms on any given Sunday. Please schedule early!

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please submit announcements in writing 10 days prior to publication.

Pastor's Corner

Livestreaming. I hope the livestreaming of Masses has been helpful to you. The statistics seem to be positive. According to the reports I receive, over the last 3 Sundays we had an average of 689 households viewing, which could translate to an average of 2,206 persons viewing (at an average household 3.2 persons). Since the average in-person attendance at Mass before the stay-at-home order was 2,362, that would mean that the livestreaming “attendance” is about 93% of regular attendance, which would be great.

For weekday Mass viewing, during Easter week average households viewing were 98, so maybe 314 people. (By the way, the viewing numbers on your screen when you are watching live are very inaccurate).

Of course, I always remember what Mark Twain said: “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.” Even so, please keep watching. Although attending Mass in person is immeasurably better, I think viewing Mass is important during this period.

My Opinion: Churches and the “Stay at Home” Orders. The government has legitimate authority to act for the common good, and this authority is greatly expanded in true emergencies, such as hurricanes, floods, wars, and pandemics. But this authority is not unlimited.

One of the basics rights of man is the right to worship and live according to his religion, and of course, this is the first right guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution, which begins: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....” The courts have always made clear that what applies to congress applies to all forms and levels of government in the US. But the courts have also made clear that religious liberty is not absolute: it can be limited in some cases for the common good, as long as the limitation in question applies to a broad swath of society, and is not particularly discriminating against religion, i.e., the so-called “general applicability test”. So, for example, federal employment tax laws legitimately apply to religions because they apply to all employers.

So, the question comes up, when the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam, issued his “stay at home” order on March 30 (Executive Order 55), did he unconstitutionally limit Virginians’ religious liberty by providing:

“All public and private in-person gatherings of more than ten individuals are prohibited. This includes parties, celebrations, religious, or other social events...This restriction does not apply: a. To the operation of businesses not required to close to the public under Executive Order 53....”

Now I'm not a lawyer, and this is just my opinion, but it seems to me the Governor did exceed his authority and the order is illegal and immoral. The reason is that the closure rule is not generally applicable: *“This restriction does not apply: a. To ... businesses not required to close to the public under Executive Order 53.”* The problem is that the exempt businesses under EO 53 are “Essential retail businesses” including not only “Grocery stores, pharmacies,...Medical, laboratory, and vision supply retailers...,” but also to “Automotive parts...Home improvement...Lawn and garden equipment retailers...Beer, wine, and liquor stores”...Pet and feed stores...”

And on the same day he ordered all elective surgeries in the state to cease, but exempted all abortions.

So, religious meetings of 11 people are prohibited, but liquor and pet stores are open? And religious meetings (read, “Mass”) are not “essential,” but all abortions are?

I have previously stated my opinion that the stay at home

order is generally legal and just. But that is not the case, in my opinion, as it applies to churches.

Now, **let me distinguish** between the GOVERNMENT’s order, versus the CHURCH’s order, i.e., the decision of our Bishop to suppress public Mass. It is well established in Church law and theology that a Bishop can suppress public Mass for a just cause, and our Bishop’s conclusion that this will save a lot of lives is a just cause/reason. As I’ve written before, someone has to make the decision, hard as it may be, and that is the Bishop. So even if we disagree, we should respectfully obey him.

So, when it comes to the operations of the Church, I am obeying the Bishop, not the Governor.

Speaking of the Governor and Unjust Laws. Did you see what Governor Northam did on **Good Friday**? According to the Family Foundation:

“April 10th, 2020, is a day that will forever live in infamy in our beloved Commonwealth. On Good Friday, of all days, Governor Northam signed into law HB 980 (D-Herring) and the identical Senate version SB 733 (D-McClellan), stripping away decades of hard-fought critical protections for unborn babies, and for women who are considering and who ultimately choose to have an abortion. Even as despicable as this was, it is sadly not surprising given that the Governor, a pediatric neurologist by trade, has endorsed – and even doubled down on – the practice of infanticide and made known his support for unrestricted abortions, while all the elected leadership of his party stood firmly behind him.

“If the bill’s substance wasn’t bad enough, it’s nothing short of unconscionable for the Governor to act with such sacrilege by choosing to sign these bills on the very day Christians worldwide remember the sacrificial death of our sinless Lord for the sins of all mankind. It’s hard to fathom how this could have been merely coincidental.

“Here are the main results of HB 980 and SB 733:

“- All basic health and safety regulations for abortion facilities are completely eliminated.

“- Nurse practitioners and nurse midwives – not just physicians – can now conduct invasive abortion procedures.

“- Virtually all requirements of informed consent prior to an abortion have been eliminated....

“- The required 24-hour wait period between the ultrasound and the abortion has been eliminated.”

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus. In thanking folks at Easter, I always forget someone. This year I forgot to thank the Knights for their tremendous support during Lent and the Triduum. Not only for providing so many monitors to regulate the 10 person rules during adoration and confessions, but also for all their work in keeping in touch with and informing parishioner-members. Thanks, Knights (especially Grand Knight Barry Ryan)!

If you are a Catholic man, 18 years or older, are you a Knight? If not, why not?

Update on Altar-Rail/Pulpit Project. With the church activities so limited, this would be an ideal time to begin our work on the Altar-Rail/Pulpit Project. Especially, since the Italian craftsmen have finished their work and everything is ready to be installed. Except for the fact that it is all stuck in a warehouse at an Italian port, which is waiting for re-opening after the devastation of the Coronavirus.

Hopefully, it will be able to ship to us in time for our planned construction start date of June 15. Say a little prayer to St. Raymond, and St. Catherine of Siena, another Dominican saint and patroness of Italy.

Oremus pro invicem. Fr. De Celles

GOSPEL [LK 24:13-35](#)

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"
And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"
They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."
And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to
us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the eleven and those with them who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

SAINT RAYMOND'S RESPECTS LIFE

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**"Mobilize consciences in favor of life."
*Dignitatis Personae***

The issue of **vaccines** will increase in the news as scientists work to find relief from the COVID19 virus. Many vaccines presently in use for various diseases have been derived from aborted fetal cell lines. Catholics should educate themselves on the pertinent concerns that fact presents. The National Catholic Bioethic Center <https://www.ncbcenter.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/use-vaccines/> provides answers to many initial questions.

The good folks at **MaRiH Pregnancy Care Center** are humbly astonished by our continued support during this challenging time. Clearly the requests for material help that they receive have grown of late. **Our next support weekend will take place next weekend; May 2-3.** Donations of diapers, formula, baby items and gently used clothing up to size 2T may be placed in the collection box in the narthex. **"God bless you...** for what you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me." Mt 25:40

Calling all high school juniors and seniors to the Virginia Society for Human Life (VSHL) Pro-life Oratory Contest. Deadline May 27th. **It's virtual this year!** <https://vshl.org/update-due-to-covid-19-vshl-oratory-contest-now-virtual>

Do you have extra time on your hands? Our  **Wrapped In Love**  program is still up and stitching. Pray for the mothers and babies who will be wrapped in love by your efforts as you create baby blankets for distribution at Crisis Pregnancy Centers or for use by sidewalk counselors – wherever we find a need. God bless you for your efforts. Blankets may be delivered to the MaRiH collection box in the narthex.

Natural Family Planning. A gift to your marriage. For more info visit: ccli.org

Has the sorrow of miscarriage or still birth touched your life? Or perhaps you know someone in this situation. **A Mom's Peace**, A Lay Apostolate for Mothers of Miscarried and Stillborn Souls offers discreet support to families with bereavement, burial and remembrance assistance. For more information, visit amomspeace.org

To those who have suffered an abortion Project Rachel can help someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion. (888)456-HOPE. Confidentiality always respected. www.helpafterabortion.org .

Give a Gift for Life! Gabriel Project helps pregnant moms welcome their babies. Please consider donating at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife. For more info, contact them at 1-866-444-3553 or GabrielProject@arlingtondiocese.org.

St. Raymond's Youth Apostolate

As of March 12th with the exception of WorkCamp and Steubenville, ALL Youth Apostolate Events are canceled effective immediately, until further notice. We will let you know when we can meet again.

Canceled Events include:

- CCD / Sunday Night Dinner & Youth Group

High School Virtual Youth Group meets via Zoom on Monday nights at 8pm! RSVP to youth@straymonds.org for the link.

Steubenville Youth Conference (July 10-12, 2020)

(Open to current 8-12th graders)



Join us for Steubenville 2020! It is a weekend where you will encounter God on a deeper level through prayer, Adoration, Mass, Confession, dynamic speakers, and music with a few thousand other Catholics your age! It's a great opportunity to make new friends too!

NEW DEADLINE: MAY 1ST

Registration info. can be found on the youth bulletin boards and/or online, along with information about speakers, schedule, cost, etc. <http://bit.ly/Steubenville2020>

Please Note: If the Conference ends up being canceled due to COVID-19, you will receive a FULL refund.

*Financial assistance is available. Don't let money keep you from coming. Contact Jeanne with any questions.

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.

Jeanne Sause

Director of the Youth Apostolate (Grades 7-12)

youth@straymonds.org Call/Text: 571-334-9890

<https://straymonds.org/ministries-and-groups/youth-apostolate/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For Parents of students preparing for Confirmation 2021: your child's Saint report was due April 23rd. You may submit it as an attachment to an email, send it by way of snail mail, or you can slide the report under our door or place it in the document holder outside our office during regular business hours M-F 9-4:30.

Distance Learning Religious Education (CCD) classes have resumed Parents, please check your email inbox for class assignments from your child's CCD teacher and monitor completion of the work assigned. Please be sure to return all required assignments to the teacher in a timely manner.

This week's classes (April 26-28) for grades 1-8 should be a review for the final exam.

Final Exams will be administered - remotely - the week of May 3-5. Parents, please work with your children in learning the material in the Second Semester section of the Basic Study Questions booklet for their grade level.

Parents: you will receive an email from your child's teacher regarding the final exam as we get closer to the time of the test.



St. John Bosco Council #12846 Knights of Columbus:

Are you a man of 17 ½ years of more? Are you a practicing Catholic? Do you want to help others and preach the Gospel by your life? Then we invite you to join the Knights! Contact Deputy Grand Knight Stephen Delaney (703-627-8090) or go to www.KofC.org/JoinUs to become a Knight today!

"KOVAR" is a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity. It works to provide assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations. These organizations give training and assistance to persons with intellectual disabilities. We need your help through donations to fund this vital charity. KOVAR collections typically occur in May and this year will be different. Please see our website at www.straymonds.org/kovar/ for more information and how to contribute.

Home School Group: for more information visit our website www.homeschool-life.com/va/straymondhsg/ Contact: Katherine Bogacki or Malia Cameron at straymondhsg@gmail.com.

ECHO continues to respond to families struggling to cope with financial challenges and/or lack of food. Currently, the food pantry can use **any type of food or personal care items**. Because of shortages, we are asking for donations of **eggs and margarine**. We also especially need sliced bread, canned meats, boxed pasta, dried beans, canned tomatoes, flour, shaving cream, deodorant and toilet paper. We need cleaning supplies, wipes, and sanitizers. We have an urgent need for standard sized **brown paper grocery bags**. We are open to receive donations on weekdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA. Donors do not even have to get out of their cars, or bring bags or boxes to the door. Volunteers will come to your vehicle to get the donated foods.

Church Persecuted

For twenty-three years he was a prisoner in the Soviet Union. For fifteen of them he was a KGB prisoner first living in the notorious Lubianka prison in Moscow and then later in forced labor camps in Siberia. He was in prison because the Soviets accused him of being a spy for the Vatican. He was presumed to be dead by his family and fellow Jesuits but never for one day did he quit being a Catholic priest as he secretly celebrated Mass, hearing confessions, and administering the sacraments. He worked in mines, cleaned horse stables, worked on construction sites, and was even in the middle of a prison revolt. In each case he was known as the political prisoner – the Vatican spy. Through it all, he would celebrate Mass in the barracks and wherever he could. Toward the end he was in – what we would call – house arrest. He was still required to work but living and working and acting as a priest deep inside Siberia. *With God in Russia* is the riveting autobiographical portrayal of the imprisonment of the Jesuit Father Walter Ciszek. He was known in the Soviet Union as Wladimir Martinovic, or Djadja Valodga (Uncle Wally), but only on his last day in the country did a U.S. Embassy staff person call him “Father.” He truly lived the meaning of the reality of being a priest forever.--

St. Martin de Porres Committee - collects food on an ongoing basis for the Springfield Resource Center which services over 250 families in the Springfield area. A collection box is in the Narthex and donations are collected and distributed weekly. Suggested food items are listed, but all donations are welcome (no clothing). For equitable distribution, smaller packaging is requested (i.e. 1 lb bags of rice vs. 5 lb. bags, 1qt. oil vs. 1 gal oil). **During this crisis the need for food is greater than ever. Please be generous.**

Online learning - for life!

Over the past several years, St Raymond’s has been blessed to have both Stephanie Gray and Abby Johnson speak at our parish. Visit these sites to listen and learn from other of their most remarkable speeches: Gray: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzzfSq2DEc4>
Johnson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Dcw2fJczI>

Family of Jesus Prayer Group: Though our weekly meetings are currently canceled - we are still praying! If you have any prayer requests, please let us know by e-mailing Elaine Perricone at jpebtp@verizon.net or by calling the parish office at 703-440-0535.

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Questions? Need help? Email us at: formed@straymonds.org



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We continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.

We are so grateful for **CL@H!** Continued Learning@Home is how our students, teachers and parents stay in touch while our school building is closed. And, most importantly, we stay united in prayer.

Rolling admissions for 2020-2021 remain open. Please contact admissions@AngelusAcademy.org for more information. Our Admissions Team welcomes your questions and looks forward to sharing information with you about our mission, curriculum and school traditions.

www.AngelusAcademy.org

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Please remember that our parish’s expenses will continue during this crisis, We need your continued support! Your donations may be mail to, or dropped off at, the parish office or sign up to give online through Faith Direct.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Sunday Offertory	\$ 7,124.50
Family Assistance	\$ 10,597.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,127.00
Easter	\$ 2,895.00
Holy Land Shrines	\$ 448.00

The Second Collection This Week will be for Catholic Home Missions. This collection is for dioceses within the United States & its territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Right now 40% of the dioceses within the United States are considered Home Missions. Please be generous.

FAITH DIRECT: Although public Masses, Religious Education, Bible Study, Apostolate events and events involving ten or more people at a time have been canceled, our parish is still in need of your donations. We have operating costs (utility, maintenance, service contracts, supplies and staff payroll and benefits) that must continue. Now more than ever we have requests for FAMILY ASSISTANCE to support those members of our parish who are in need of our help. Faith Direct is a safe and secure way to make your offertory. Please visit our website www.straymonds.org to join online or call directly at (866) 507-8757. You may also sign up through the mail using a downloadable form provided on our website or email mary.butler@straymonds.org. Please use our church code “VA64”. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our church office at 703-440-0535.

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