

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will *produce its fruit*.

MATTHEW 21:43



October 4, 2026

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway



Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor

Deacon Christian Knoebel

Deacon John L. White

We invite you to celebrate with us

website: www.saintmonica.com

Parish Office: 732-928-0279

Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com

Fax: (732) 928-1853

Religious Education: 732-928-4038

The Church of St. Monica is a warm, accepting, and caring parish that worships God, teaches and lives the message of Christ, seeks to support and strengthen family life, and serves those in need through parish ministries and organizations.

Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 4, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 3, 2026

4:00 pm Anna Hyjack
(The Merwin Family)
4:00 pm Paul Gallo
(John & Maria Dublon)

Sunday, October 4, 2026

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerards Fallone)
11:00 am For Our Thoughts & Prayers List
(Women of Saint Monica)

Monday, October 5, 2026

9:00 am For All the Souls In Purgatory
(A Friend)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

9:00 am Joan Burns
(Joanne Landi)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

9:00 am Craig Alan Niedrach
(The Pascocello Family)

Thursday, October 8, 2026

9:00 am For All the Souls In Purgatory
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

4:00 pm Sylvester Cascio & Joseph Anzalone
(The Anzalone Family)
4:00 pm "A.J." Sabine
(Karen & Linda)

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:00 am Vincent Realmuto
(The Kaba Family)
11:00 am Barbara Leonard
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, Arlene Toth, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Catherine Dalfonso, Christopher Dalfonso,, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Phillip Wenz, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Paul Hetteroth, Carol Spezzano, Br. Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner, Andrew G Sabine, Stephen Alexander, Angela Belmont, Danny Merwin, Diane Hromiko, Kathy Reynolds, Margie Smith, Kevin Finnerty, Mark Hoffman, Lisa Sassone, Mark Legato, Bob Toth, Bernadette VanDerberg, Elizabeth Maras, Charles Thompson, Kim McCafferty, Janet Noordzy, Jennifer Aponte

Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they can be removed.

Readings for the Week - October 4, 2026

Monday Galatians 1:6-12 / Psalms 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9, 10c / Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday Galatians 1:13-24 / Psalms 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 / Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14 / Psalms 117:1bc, 2 / Luke 11:1-4

Thursday Galatians 3:1-5 / Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 / Luke 11:5-13

Friday Galatians 3:7-14 / Psalms 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 / Luke 11:15-26

Saturday Galatians 3:22-29 / Psalms 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 / Luke 11:27-28

Sunday Isaiah 25:6-10a / Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 / Philipians 4:12-14, 19-20 / Matthew 22:1-14
or Matthew 22:1-10

TEARDROP MINISTRY PRAYER

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in Heaven. Amen. St. Monica pray for us.

Buon Appetito!

**ITALIAN DINNER at St. Monica**

October 11, 2026 2pm

Adult \$15.00

Children 6-10 \$5.00

Children 5 and under free

Menu

Spaghetti & Meatball

Sausage Pepper onions

Lasagna

Penne vodka

Antipasto

Salad

Apple Cobbler

Coffee/ Cold Drinks

Proceeds for 2027 Missals

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS

AUG 24 — AUG 30, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,308.00

Building Maintenance \$ 264.00

Online Giving \$ 1,248.00

Total \$ 3,820.00

Thank you for your contributions as we support the ministries and programs of our parish.

Italian Dinner—October 11th
Get your tickets now!



COR

Men's Prayer Group

3rd Wednesday of Each Month

7:00pm in Little Church



Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through
PRAYER
FELLOWSHIP
FRATERNITY

Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed

Missing something in your life? Why not try an hour of serenity, stories and spirituality. The Men's COR Prayer Group just might be for you. We don't sit around and just pray; we watch, listen and learn about the life of figures from long ago. Stories woven expertly from the teachings of Deacon John White. You will not be disappointed and you will leave enlightened and invigorated and refreshed for more. Next meeting is **Wednesday, Oct 21st at 7:00pm.**

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 4, 2026

The Eucharist - St Monica

Masses & Reconciliation

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am--3:30 pm
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am
Holy Days As Noted
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Baptisms

Celebrated outside of Mass. Parents and godparents are required to attend our Baptism preparation class or take the convenient online presentation. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. Or stop by the Parish Office to pick up a DVD copy of the class.

Knights of Columbus Council #11529

The Knights of Columbus were founded in Blessed Father Michael McGivney. It is an international order of more than 2 million Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend Catholic values in busy changing world. St Monica Council #11529 has a long history of support for the parish and any local charities. If you would like to join just scan the QR Code or go to KofC.org/join & enter council #11529.



St. Monica's "Teardrop" Ministry

The St. Monica Teardrop Ministry is a prayerful initiative where individuals and the community come together to intercede for loved ones who have drifted away from their faith, drawing inspiration from St. Monica's unwavering dedication to her husband and son's conversion. Prayer is very powerful, it only took 1 Hail Mary for Jesus to come to earth.

Bereavement Ministry

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Grief Support

For those grieving the loss of a loved one or close friend. This is a Catholic centered Support Group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment to support your journey from grieving to healing. For registration and details contact Deacon John White 848-992-1652 or dcjohnw@gmail.com

Visits to the Sick and Homebound

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

Youth Group

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, call Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

For those who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at www.saintmonica.com Please contact the parish office for further info.

Adult Faith Formation Core Team

Our mission is to encourage and support parishioners in their lifelong learning in the faith in order to grow closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through discipleship and evangelization.

Marriages

The Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey request a one year period of preparation for marriage in The Church. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Religious Education

Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in on-going Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Belinda Azzollini, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or stmonicaccd@yahoo.com

Legion of Mary

Members participate in the life of the parish through a program of prayers and service. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholic men and women over 18 years of age who have the good will to want to serve God through Mother Mary. During the summer meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. The Legion is always looking to recruit new members. If you discern a divine connection to the Blessed Mother, and feel she is calling you to join, please contact the Parish Office.

Women of St Monica

A Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community, and conducting fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in



If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

CALENDAR

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
 11:00 am Pergola Dedication (Prayer Garden)
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, October 4

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass
 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica meeting

Monday, October 5

9:00 am Mass
 4:30 pm Religious Education
 5:45 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 am Mass
 5:30 pm Religious Education
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
 7:15 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, October 7

9:00 am Mass
 9:30 am Adoration

Thursday, October 8

9:00 am Mass
 6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting
 7:00 pm OCIA

Saturday, October 10

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, October 11

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass
 2:00 pm Italian Dinner

Monday, October 12

Columbus Day - Parish Offices Closed
No Mass or Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, October 13

9:00 am Mass
No Religious Education Classes
 5:30 pm Legion of Mary
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 14

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, October 15

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm OCIA

Saturday, October 17

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
 12:00 pm Outdoor Rosary for Fatima
 4:00 pm Mass (KofC Membership / Donuts)

Major October Feast Days

October 1 – St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun known as the "Little Flower"

October 2 – The Holy Guardian Angels, honoring the celestial protectors assigned to every person

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar who founded the Franciscans and championed creation and poverty.

October 5 – St. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun associated with the Divine Mercy devotion.

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary, a feast centered on the prayer dedicated to Mary.

October 12 – St. Carlo Acutis, a modern millennial teen known for his love of the Eucharist and computers

October 15 – St. Teresa of Ávila, a Spanish mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church.

October 22 – St. John Paul II, the influential 20th-century pope

ST. MONICA'S
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
St. Monica's Legion of Mary, Mystical Rose,
 is excited to invite our entire parish to join us for a beautiful and special celebration honoring Our Lady of Fatima.

Rosary Crusade
of Our Lady of Fatima

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
12:00 – 1:00 PM

We invite you to come together as a parish family in faith and prayer as we pray the Holy Rosary together, asking for Our Lady's intercession for our families, our parish, and peace throughout the world.

Our Lady of Fatima reminds us:
"Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world."

We would love for our Religious Education students and families to take an active part in this beautiful devotion. If you, your child, or your family would like to lead one decade of the Rosary, please sign up with our DRE, Mrs. Azzollini.

All students and families in Grades 1-8 are encouraged to attend! Let us come together as one faith community to honor our Blessed Mother and teach our children the importance and power of prayer.

We look forward to sharing this beautiful time of faith, family, prayer, and fellowship with all of you!

May Our Lady of Fatima pray for us, intercede for our families, and guide us always.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRAY FOR US

PRAY TOGETHER AS A PARISH FAMILY

FAITH + FAMILY + PRAYER + TOGETHER IN CHRIST

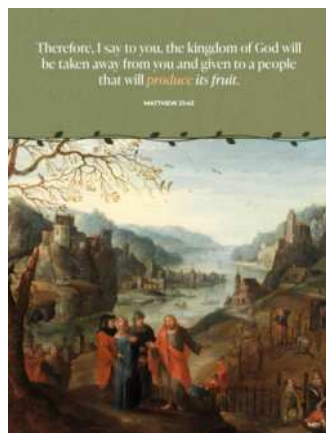
Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Long before laptops and smartphones ruled our days and our data, any delightfully special, happy, or remarkably memorable day was called a “red letter day.” It referred to any momentous occasion that stood out in your life, such as your birthday, graduation, wedding, or a major career milestone.

The phrase dates back to the Middle Ages. Priests and monks creating Church calendars and illuminated manuscripts used black ink for ordinary weekdays. To make important holy days, saints’ feast days, and other festivals stand out, they highlighted them in bright red ink.

Over time, the term “red letter day” deteriorated into cynicism and therefore came to describe a very bad day. For the nation of ancient Israel, that would certainly include the Day of the Lord, or Judgment Day. In the context of today’s parable, that would happen in 70 A.D., when the Romans destroyed their one Temple in the storied City of Jerusalem. Not joyful at all and very much the destruction of a great nation.



The parable Our Lord tells us today is all about how destruction of any kind happens. The Jews thought of it in the context of both their personal and national lives. For us, it is mainly personal, involving how our future will turn out, based on our faithfulness to God here and now.

That is more than a fit subject for reflection. To do it right, we have to shut down, as much as we can, all those distractions that fill our waking hours. Things like our phones. A good time to do it would be at night, just before or right after we turn off our bedside lamp. Imagining a video of our day, were we faithful to our common calling as disciples of Jesus? In less electronic imagery, would our day be printed in black or red ink? Black for an average return to God for His love. Red for a special heartfelt version by way of something we said or did for someone else.

The wicked farmers in Our Lord’s story thought it was perfectly moral to steal the vineyard from its rightful owner, even if the job required his murder. One suspects their nighttime “replay” would have been upsetting, at least, if not frightening. But that’s not our worry. The personal is.

Here is an exaggerated illustration of what can happen to a widowed lady who evidently rarely examined her conscience and apparently never had a red letter day:

Surprised to see an empty seat at the Super Bowl stadium, a die-hard fan remarked about it to the woman seated nearby. “It was my husband’s,” the woman explained. “But he died.”

“I’m very sorry,” said the man. “Yet I’m really surprised that another relative or friend didn’t jump at the chance to take the seat reserved for him.”

“Beats me,” she said. “They all insisted on going to the funeral.”

God love you and make good choices this week.



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ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

— INVITES YOU TO A —

MASS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

On the Feast of St. Luke

**BISHOP
DAVID O'CONNELL
WILL PRESIDE**



OCTOBER 18, 2026



12:00 PM



DURING A WHITE MASS WE
PRAY FOR AND THANK ALL
OUR HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS.



ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS
OF ALL FAITHS ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND WITH THEIR
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.



WE ASK THAT YOU WEAR
YOUR WORK CLOTHES TO
THE MASS.



THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL
BLESSING OF HANDS.



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27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 4, 2026



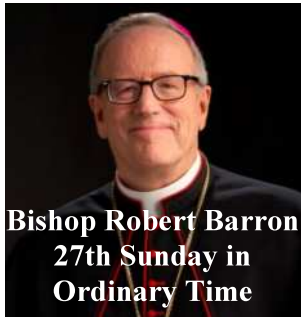
The **Knights Of Columbus Rib Sale** is back!!!! Please pre pay your order of \$20 a rack of cooked ribs for pick up on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th** from **10:00am-12:30pm**. All orders must be pre-paid by **October 18th**. Limited quantities will be available on day of sale, but those will be first come, first served. Proceeds to benefit st Monica's parish and our Knights Of Columbus. Sign up sheet is in back of church



"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" - Nor does a NorEaster keep the Knights of Columbus from holding their annual Rubber Duck Race. Conditions were awful but the results were clear. Here are this years winners.



Name	Place	Prize			
Tom Flynn	1	Blackstone Grill and Picnic Pack			
Dom Applegate	2	Gift Basket with Orphan Barrel Forager's Keep			
Mike Hintenach	3	Foursome of Golf at Burlington			
Al Dasilva	4	2 Tickets to NYGiants Football			
Chrissy Rusbarsky	5	2 Tickets to NYJets Football			
Colin White	6	Foursome of Golf at Battleground			
Susan Okulewicz	7	2 Tickets to Philadelphia 76ers			
Jon Tvaroha	8	Box of Cigars			
Bette Hromiko	9	Gift Card Ninuzzo's			
Karen Boyle	10	Dinner at Plumsted Grill			
Diane Hromiko	11	Bury the Hatchett (Axe Throwing)			
Denise Kaba	12	Amazon Kindle Fire Tablet			
Chrissy Rusbarsky	13	Visa Gift Card			
Dan Rusbarsky	14	Visa Gift Card			
Chrissy Rusbarsky	15	Gift Card Mangia's Ristorante & Pizza			
Tony Norcia	16	Christmas Tree from Knights Tree Sale			
Alex Markow	17	Adventure Crossing USA Gift Card			
Diane Hromiko	18	Gift Card Tony's Ristorante & Pizza			
Karen Boyle	19	Gift Card Longhorn's Steakhouse			
Doug Applegate	20	Gift Card Donovan's Bar & Grill			
Diane Hromiko	21	Gift Card Tall Oaks Brewery & Farm			
Doug Applegate	22	JR Cattle Ranch			
Judy Tutterow	23	Glory's Liquors			
Susan Okulewicz	24	Gift Card to BJ's Wholesale			
Susan Okulewicz	25	Gift Card to round of Mini Golf			



Bishop Robert Barron
27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Peace be with you. Friends, our gospel reading for this week features a parable that echoes a famous story in the prophet Isaiah. Here's how Jesus begins. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. You know, it's funny, but there's almost the whole of biblical theology in that little line. The landowner he's talking about is Almighty God. As the Creed says, He's the maker of heaven and earth. See, what this means is everything in creation belongs to God. God is the owner of all things. But now the second part of that line. This landowner planted a vineyard. Another powerful and consistent biblical symbol. And especially for these ancient peoples, a vineyard was a beautiful, luxuriant place.

Now, as the parable goes on, he put a hedge around the vineyard, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. All those are lovely little symbols. First of all, he put a hedge around it. Go back to the Garden of Eden, paradise, is a kind of walled garden, an enclosed space. The idea is it belongs to God. It's his place. What goes wrong with us is when we allow that wall to be broken down.

Secondly, he built a tower that rises above the vineyard, allowing the owner to see all that's going on. Another strong biblical motif that God is not only the creator of the world, but he's the providential governor of the world. God sees all that he's made. But the last detail is my favorite.

He dug a wine press in it. God has made a vineyard. But more precisely, a vineyard is where grapes are cultivated. Grapes which will be crushed, the grape juice will be fermented, and this intoxicating drink will be produced. Wine is a very strong biblical symbol. It's a sign of the lifting up of the spirit, the intoxication of the mind. It is no accident that the night before he died, Jesus took bread and wine, that he made wine into his blood, because it's Christ's blood, Christ's life, that most intoxicates us, most uplifts our spirits. The hedge, the tower, the wine press, they're all expressive of what God intends for his creation, to be his place, defined as such, watched over by his providential care, and existing for our uplifting. The glory of God is a human being fully alive. That's what God wants.

The story goes on. Then he leased it to tenants. That's a fancy way of saying an account of who we are in light of revelation. He leased it to tenants. It's because God is the creator of the whole universe that God can't possibly sell off anything he owns. He wants us to participate in his life. He wants us to participate in his providence. And so he leases out his territory to tenants. We are not the owners. We are the holders, the tenants of God's creation. What goes wrong with us? A good deal of sin flows from the fact that we forget that it is leased to us and that we are its tenants. Everything that you have and do belongs to God. It exists for God, don't delude yourself into thinking that you own it.

The story goes on. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to obtain his produce. Again, what we produce on God's land belongs to God and should serve God's purpose. What goes wrong? You forget that every breath I take is from God and for God. When they are deluded into thinking that their lives belong to them, he sends the prophets, he sends the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and all the rest to remind them that this is produce that belongs to God. But what's the response? Listen now. But the tenants seized the servants, and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.

The story goes on. Finally, he sent them his son, thinking they will respect my son. Here's the landowner. He's been sending his servants, but they've been killed and beaten. They've been stoned. So finally, in desperation, he sends his own son. I'm sure they'll respect him. Well, of course, this is a directly Christian reference, isn't it? God so loved the world that he sent his only son, that those who believe in him might find life in his name. Yes, he sent the prophets. He sent that whole array of servants, that whole stream of witnesses. But finally, after they'd all been rejected, he sent his own son, his own life. And so brutally, it says, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Here's Jesus, seized at the garden of Gethsemane, led finally out of the city of Jerusalem and there crucified. This is a direct reference to the crucifixion of the Lord, God's only son. After Jesus' death, he was buried in a new tomb and the tomb was found in a garden. How wonderful that it's from that garden tomb that he rises from the dead. What did Christ come to do? To remind us of who we are. But even when we rejected him, he was buried in a garden reminiscent of the garden of Eden and it was there that new life came forth. Even when we take him out of the city and we kill him, we find in this high paradox of the divine love, more charity. Listen to this parable, feel its pain, but also take courage from God's great love. And may God bless you all.



The Annual Bishop's Pride in Our Priest and Clergy dinner where we honor Fr. Alex and Deacons John and Christian

OLIVERIE - UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 3: Lunch & Learn
Veteran's Benefits**

11am-1pm at The Wisteria, Jackson

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250



**November 18: Fall Bingo
2pm-4pm at The Wisteria, Jackson**

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250

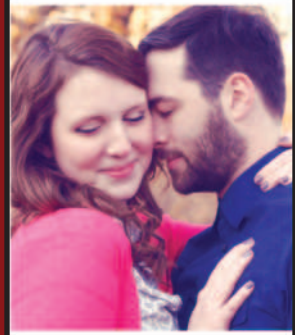
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