



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Mission

A diverse spiritual community in action, dedicated to drawing people to Christ and making church and worship matter. We do this through our liturgical worship and living out our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday—Friday
8:30 am, 12:00 Noon

Saturday

Mass: 8:30 am
Confession: 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Saturday Vigil Mass—5:30 pm

Sunday

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:00 Noon

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Anselm I. Nwaorgu
Pastor

Rev. Camilo Lopez
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael Alfano
Permanent Deacon

Margaret Kazan
Principal

Mary Jo Arnaldo-Sipe
Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Clare Andriola
Lois Scanio
Religious Education

Cristina Manochio
Joseph Santillo
Youth Ministry

Fran Engleman
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Tiago Rodrigues
Property Manager

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Charles McDermott

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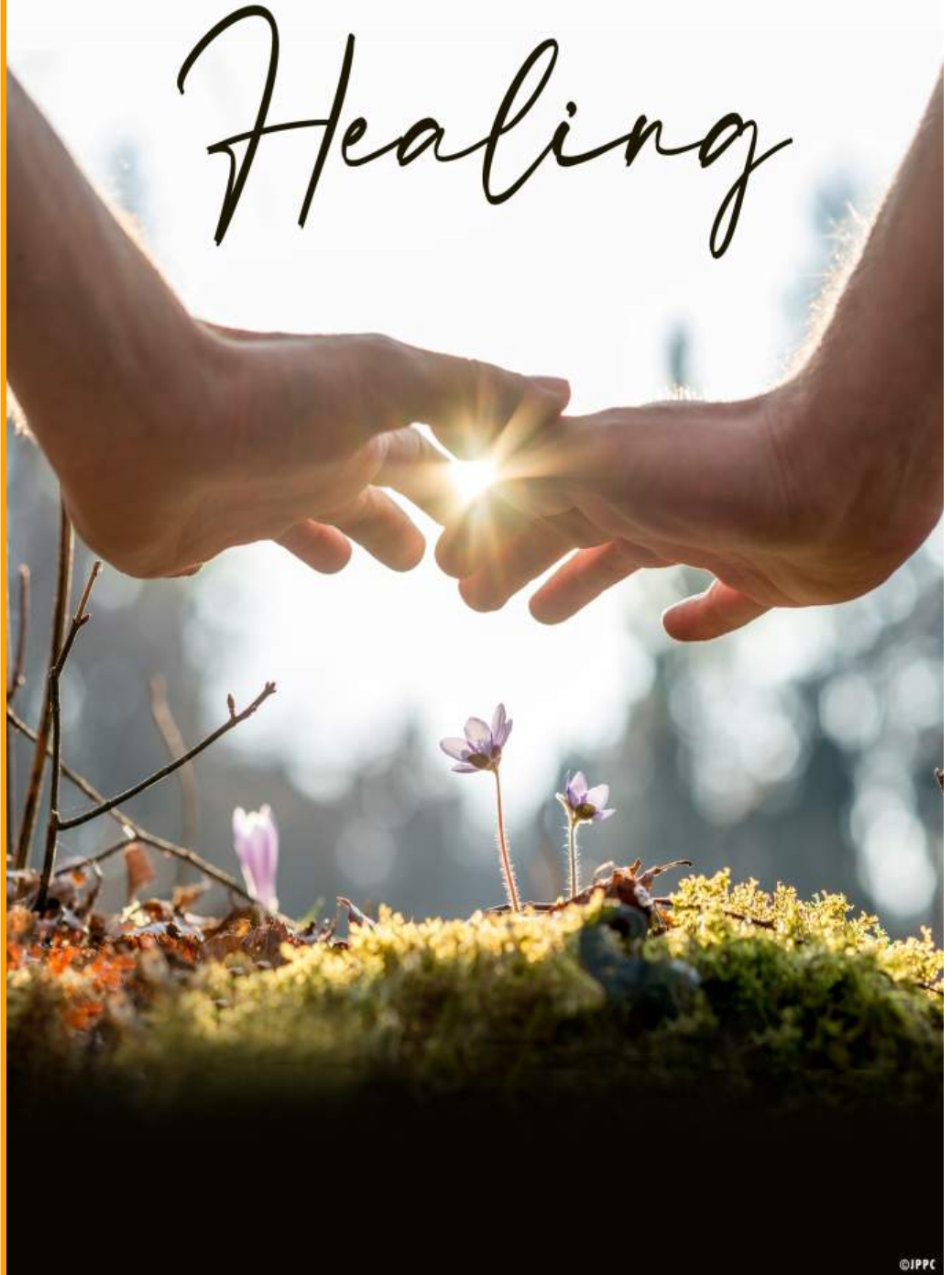
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Feeling Helpless but not Hopeless



My friends, it is very hard to hold unto faith when life events conspire to bring us down to the dust. The first reading on this fifth Sunday in Ordinary times, Year B (Job 7:1-7), introduces a man

named Job, a righteous and upright man who, upon hearing that all of his possessions had been destroyed and his children killed, said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:21). But these words of great faith quickly evaporated when his sufferings intensified with his body afflicted with such terrible sores that he couldn't stand, sit, or lie down, nor find relief from his pain. His wife suggested that he end his misery by cursing God and his friends condemned rather than console him. Even God, whom he had served so faithfully, seemed to have ignored him, refusing for a long time to answer him and rise to his cause. Consequently, "I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine... Let me alone; my days have no meaning...I will never see happiness again" (Job 7:15, 16b) became his words. A pillar of faith had been brought down to despair and feelings of hopelessness. Indeed, faith can get a workout in the face of life's tribulations.

This is why St. Paul warned in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" When life tribulations pound us again and again, it is hard to stand firm and the feelings of helplessness can easily set in. The feeling of helplessness is different from the feeling of hopelessness. Helplessness is a feeling that things have gone awfully wrong without any light at the end of the tunnel in sight. Yet, in the midst of this feeling, there is a belief in the barest possibility that the dust will settle; a sustaining

hope that allows one to keep going just in case. On the other hand, hopelessness is the feeling that things have gone awfully wrong and there is no need to keep going. There is no room for faith or hope. It is a determined desire to give up and not give life a chance. This leads to all kinds of negative outcomes, including desperation and suicide. Job's situation led him to feelings of helplessness but not hopelessness. That is why he hung despite all odds, and eventually saw the restoration of all his fortunes. Hope occupies the space between the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

When we are faced with desperate situations, let us remember the words of Scripture: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and... you will not be swept over. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" No matter how helpless things look, remember these words of Scripture: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to the human race. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it".

My friends no matter what we are going through, there is always the barest possibility that we may come through to the other side of our desire. Our blessings often lie on the other side of our pain. May the Lord never allow us to be tempted beyond what we can handle!

Msgr. Anselm

Stewardship of Treasure

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLECTIONS

Below is an explanation of some of the different St. Michael's Collections:

S.O.S. Collection - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying our utility bills. **Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese of Newark and therefore all funds are used solely by St. Michael's to pay our bills.** S.O.S. collections are appreciated at all times.

Tithing - This is a monthly "restricted" collection dedicated to paying for the new the upkeep of the Church boiler and airconditioner. **Restricted collections are not assessed by the Archdiocese and therefore all funds are used solely for St. Michael's needs.** Tithing collections are appreciated at all times.

Assessment Collection - The Archdiocese of Newark assesses all parishes in the Archdiocese, and a percentage of the parish's annual unrestricted revenue, is paid monthly. This assessment is used by the Archdiocese to support administrative services. St. Michael's has instituted a monthly "restricted" collection that is used solely for paying our monthly assessment.

All Assessment Collection funds are sent directly to Archdiocese of Newark, monthly, to pay our Assessment Obligation. No funds are used for St. Michael's needs.

National Collections - the Archdiocese of Newark has ten collections during the year to benefit various organizations such as the retired priest's fund, the church in Eastern Europe, the religious retirement fund, and mission appeals. **Money from the national collections go directly to the Archdiocese of Newark.**

St. Vincent De Paul Collection - money donated to St. Vincent De Paul is distributed prior to Thanksgiving and prior to Easter to local foodbanks, soup kitchens and social centers that provide food and shelter for those in need.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to our Parish!

TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS: PREVENTING SCAMS IN OUR PARISH

There is increasing use of many Pastor's names, via email or text message, to try to scam parishioners. They have tried it severally with many pastors in our diocese. Please do not be scammed. You can prevent this by taking a few things in consideration.

- A. If you receive a text message or email and you don't know your pastor's phone number or email, do not reply to the message sent in his name unless it comes from the Parish Office. **You need to call the Parish and verify the message.**
- B. If someone texts, emails or calls you in a way that implies urgency, attempting to get you to act quickly before you have time to carefully read and examine the message. Be careful how you respond. Verify first.
- C. If you receive any text, email, or call pressuring you to send funds via gift cards for whatever reason, by asking you for the code numbers or PINs on the back of the cards so that the card can be redeemed immediately, be careful how you respond. Verify first.
- D. If you receive any text or email, or call telling you a story about the urgent need of your pastor or someone you don't relate with at that level, that involves a medical emergency, being stranded somewhere, or for travel needs, be careful how you respond. Make sure the phone number or email address is verified.

We just need to be smart and we can beat these attempts at scamming parishioners. It is nearly impossible to locate where the scam is originating from or the number being used. What we can do is to be watchful. Always look at the number and email from which the message is being sent. If it is not a number or email address you are familiar with, your best bet is not to respond or verify before you respond.

Msgr. Anselm

"Give and gifts will be given to you ...
the measure with which you measure will in turn be
measured out to you." **Luke 6:38**

COLLECTION & SOS

	<u>NEEDED WEEKLY</u>	<u>ACTUAL WEEKLY</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
JANUARY			
Week 1	\$ 7,307	\$ 5,497	\$ 1,810
Week 2	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,482	\$ 1,175
Week 3	\$ 7,307	\$ 6,983	\$ 324
Week 4	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,452	\$ 1,145
Monthly SOS	\$10,040	\$ 5,562	\$ 4,478
Christmas Collection	\$25,000	\$24,220	\$ 520

Dear Parishioners,

In order for us to stay in the GREEN, it is important that we meet our weekly budget collections and SOS. Please let us continue to support the weekly Sunday collection so that we can achieve our goals of balancing the budget going forward.

Thank you for your support of the parish and your continued generosity.

Msgr. Anselm

6 Ways To DONATE

ONLINE GIVING:  -SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING- stmichaelunion.org	BANK TRANSFER:  stmichaelunion@comcast.net <small>In the Comment section, indicate where your donation should be accounted for, e.g., USAN (with your Group Name), Offertory, Tithe, etc.</small>	CONTACT FREE: QR CODE  <small>Scanning the code above with your mobile device directs you to the online donation page</small>
MAIL IN:  1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083	DROP OFF: AT THE PARISH CENTER  1211 Orange Ave, Union, NJ 07083	DURING OFFERTORY: AT MASS  <small>You can use designated envelopes OR use your envelope but indicate where your donation should be accounted for.</small>



Prayer to ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Mass Intentions & Novenas

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

February 3

8:30 am Joseph Vincent Luistro
5:30 pm Remegio Deligero

SUNDAY

February 4

7:30 am Felicia Mauricio Manuntag
Dennis Capio
9:00 am For the Parishioners
Bernardo R. Armendi, Sr.
10:30 am Phillip Bozulus,
Jiana Martina Verga (Living)-Birthday
Augustin & Erlinda Narciso (Living)-51st Wedding Ann.
12:00 noon Barbara Lombardi
Carmel Salvatore

MONDAY

February 5

8:30 am Alarcon Family
12:00 noon Edward Hopkins

TUESDAY

February 6

8:30 am Novena of Masses
12:00 noon Cristeta Belardo Amarra

WEDNESDAY

February 7

8:30 am Socorro Dagat (Living)-Healing
Amoakon Mian
12:00 noon For the Parishioners

THURSDAY

February 8

8:30 am Yvonne Lacson (Living)-Birthday
12:00 noon Faidherbe & Ina Mevs
Lito Vibar

FRIDAY

February 9

8:30 am Roger Boetsch
Marcelo Cruz
12:00 noon For the Paishioners

SATURDAY

February 10

8:30 am Novena of Masses
5:30 pm Matthew Herbert (Living)

SUNDAY

February 11

7:30 am Patricia Neufeld, Rafael Vibar
9:00 am Boac Family (Living)
For the Parishioners
10:30 am Josephina & Jesus Alvero
12:00 noon Ramon Ramos
Alice Burrell

ALTAR OFFERINGS

The Altar Bread & Altar Wine are offered in memory of Carmel Salvatore, requested by Leonardis & Manco Family.

The Sanctuary Lamp is offered for Lucy Scalgione, Family & Friends.

NOVENA OF MASSES FEBRUARY 2024

Jose & Lucille Arnaldo	Phil Matrale
Mary & Idolo Russomano	James Ford, Sr.
Pierre & Rubinetti Families	Frank Rubinetti
Jorge & Hilda Criado	Margarita E. Ezpeleta
Ramon Valera	Paul Brenner
Antonio Simao DeMelo Madeiros	
Christopher, Mary Grace & Mary Kate Morales-Living	
Special Intentions-VG	
Jeff Pogorzelski (Living) - Healing	
Manuel Pereira Aarujo & Lucilia Silva Sousa Araujo	
Patsy Scalgione & Deceased Family Members	
Living & Deceased Members of the Orlando, Landolfi, Siciliano & LaManna Families	
Living & Deceased Members of Del Rosario & Perez Families	
Living & Deceased Members Onyenanu & Durugo Families	
Living & Deceased Members of Maddy & Boulin Families	
Rodrigues, Medeiros & Araujo Families	

PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR

Grace Fortino, Dolores Rust, Lucy Nwauku, Judy Reid, Ana Torres, Rita Homiak, Stephen Berberabe, Norma Tuano, Jeff Pogorzelski, Virginia Attanasio, Mary Leeman, Marie Esposito, Jose M. DeJesus, Andre Graigwell, Nicole Pozeinick, Amy Dombroski, Samantha Lopes, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, Ken Lang, Valarie Carter, Willie Green, Shirley Dobard, Joyce Toth, Maria Ferrara, Coady Brown, Alex Pretto, Paulo Goncalves, Frances Machado, Antoinette Agriloo, James Scholz, Michael Nworu, Victoria Nworu, June Musa, Marivic del Rosario, Theresa Ojeawere, Kathy Chavez, John McEvoy, Sofia Teixeira, Carlos Dacruz, Anthony Staynings, Socorro Dagat, Peter & Cathy Fortunato, Anna Lepski, Nicole Ferlo, Therese Ferlo, Dolly Kramer, Junita Ottenstroer, Baby Sophia Alfano

DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Please remember in your prayers our parish, friends and family members who have passed on to the Lord, that they may inherit the promise of everlasting life in heaven.

Especially

Members of St. Michael's Parish

2024 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

Please stop by the Parish Center (1211 Orange Ave.) to book your Mass Intentions for birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death anniversaries and any other special occasions. The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Volunteers are the pillar of our Church community. Please come and join and be a volunteer in our Family Activities Committee, Multicultural Committee, Social Events Committee and our Adult Faith Formation Committee. Please call the Parish Center (908) 688-1232, ext. 100 for more information.

Ministry Happenings

CYO YOUTH MINISTRY



This upcoming Tuesday at CYO we will be having our annual re-retreat night where we will be presenting a slideshow of all our pictures taken from our "Lost & Found" retreat! We ask that anyone who attended the retreat, please wear your "Lost & Found" shirts to CYO and to school that day to spread the word!

RCIA PROGRAM

Deacon Michael Alfano RCIA classes are every Saturday morning in the Phil Matrale Hall (LC) - Murphy Room at 10:30 am. Please contact Deacon Michael at michaeljalfano@aol.com if you want to learn more about the program.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

Consider joining the Eucharistic Ministry, it is a rewarding experience, bringing Christ to others at mass and those who are unable to attend mass. At this time our parish is in need for new candidates for the Eucharistic Ministry. At this time we are in need of men and women 18 years and older to volunteer to the Ministry of the Eucharist. We presently have openings for all masses. If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Terry Dziedzic at (908) 418-3730 or dziedzic@comcast.net and Deacon Michael Alfano at (201) 995-7211 or michaeljalfano@aol.com.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP



COME AND EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT **PERSONALLY** WITH ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH Catholic Charismatic Renewal Prayer Group

DAY: Wednesday
TIME: 6 PM-7:30 PM
VENUE: Murphy Room, Phil Matrale Hall (LC)

SISTER ANN'S FOOD PANTRY

We thank you our parishioners for your generous contributions during the past holiday season. God Bless you all.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The **Religious Education Office** is open Monday through Thursday 9:30AM to 2:30PM (except holidays) or by appointment. We are located in the Parish Center at 1211 Orange Avenue. You can also contact us by phone 908-964-0965 at any time and leave a message or via email at smccd@comcast.net.

Coordinator of Religious Education

Clare Andriola

Coordinator of Home-Based Religious Education
Lois Scanio

HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS)

Please consider making donations to the Ministry. We are constantly in need of clothing, sanitary and feeding items for children (**New born to Age 5**) and for mothers.

Please call **Bisi Longe** (908)247-4461 or **Tania Massicot** (973) 420-8659 for a comprehensive list of items needed. All items must be **NEW**.

Please note that donations can also be made online on a one-time or recurring basis, on the parish website at www.stmichaelunion.org (Click on the Parish Giving Icon).

Join the **HANDS OF GRACE (HUGS) MINISTRY** in celebrating "Giving Bear Sunday" every 3rd Sunday of the month. Look out for our Purple Bear in the vestibule with a basket for cards for family needs. Please stop by and pick a card or 2 to help ensure the ministries inventory never dries up.

The HUGS Ministry services 50 families in our parish and community by giving out Grace Bags monthly to mothers and children-newborn to age 5.



WELLNESS MINISTRY

(FREE) DANCE/EXERCISE Class
For the Family

Saturdays 9:30—10:30 am
Phil Matrale Hall (LC)



Announcements

FAREWELL MASS & FELLOWSHIP FOR DEACON MICHAEL CAVALLO

Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark has reassigned Deacon Michael Cavallo St. Joseph Church in Maplewood. We are all grateful for his 7 years of service at St. Michael's Church and wish him success in his new assignment.

There will be a Farewell Mass presided by Bishop Lorenzo Elias on Sunday, February 11 at 12:00 noon and Fellowship after the Mass.

SAVE THE DATE BUS TRIPS

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Bus trip to **Wind Creek Casino**. Bus leaves parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is \$35 with a \$25 slot play return.

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Sight & Sound Trip to see **Daniel**. Bus boarding at St. Michael parking lot at 7:15 am, departure 7:30 am sharp. Cost: \$170 includes show ticket, lunch, breakfast snack.

2024 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 29). If possible the fast on Good Friday is continued until Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obligated to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 18 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26, 2024.**

Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS

February 18, 2024



Our next Coffee and Fellowship Sunday will be on February 18 after all the Sunday Masses at the Phil Matrале Hall (LC). We hope you can join us.

To those who would like to volunteer to any of our fellowship, you are most welcome to join us. During fellowship Sunday, we will be there from setting up at 7:30 am until clean up which is about 2:30 pm. We understand, life can be very busy and hectic, so, time commitment is all up to you. For questions, you may contact the Parish Office (908) 688-1232, ext 100 or Cynthia Grandeza at (908) 591-1065.

REMINDER

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024 IS
ASH WEDNESDAY**


and the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

Mind and Spirit Ministry

Come and join us on **Thursday February 8th at 7pm**, in the Phil Matrале Hall (LC), to be together in prayer and discussion regarding anyone experiencing **Personal Tribulations**. Let us unite and reflect on the love God has for us all, no matter what we go through.

A Poem by Shirley Hile Powell

*Oh, sweet and loving Savior,
I give my burdens to You.
I feel like You are the only One
Who knows what I go through.
You knows what lies within my heart
And the burdens that I bear.
Sometimes I feel that You, Lord,
Are the only one who cares.
Please hold me close to You, Lord,
When troubles come my way
And let me feel Your presence
Until they all pass away.*



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