



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER

The
Light

DECEMBER 21, 2025

TV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TV DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO



PASTOR

Rev. Manuel F. Alvarez

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. David Zallocco

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Juan Escamez

Rev. Francis Gnanasegaram

Rev. Stephen Saawuan

Rev. Fidelis Uko

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Roberto Fleitas

Deacon Miguel Parlade

Deacon Srinath Perera

Deacon Gustavo Roversi

TOGETHER, WORSHIPPING THE LORD, FORMING DISCIPLES, SERVING IN THE NAME OF JESUS
JUNTOS, ADORANDO AL SEÑOR, FORMANDO DISCÍPULOS, SIRVIENDO EN NOMBRE DE JESÚS

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Time	Language
6:15 am	English
8:00 am	English
5:30 pm	Español

SATURDAY

Time	Language
8:00 am	English
5:00 pm	English (<i>Saturday Vigil</i>)

SUNDAY

Time	Language
7:30 am	English
9:00 am	English
10:30 am	English
12:30 pm	Español
5:30 pm	English
7:00 pm	Italiano (<i>1st Sunday, Montefi</i>)

WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

Priests are available to hear Confessions every Saturday morning, from 8:30am to 10:00am in the church.



ST. JOSEPH PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Visit www.cotlf.org/adoration for more details



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER - RETILLY PARISH CENTER

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Address

2711 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

P. (305) 446-9950
F. (305) 482-6183
www.cotlf.org



OFFICE STAFF

Luis Cuza - Ext 308
Director of Music Ministries

Ivonne Davila - Ext 302
Admin. Asst. to the Pastor
Sacramental Records Coordinator

Juan del Sol - Ext 310
Weddings Coordinator

Ashley Dominguez - Ext 309
Director of Development

Jorge Santibáñez - Ext 307
Parish Manager
Director of Religious Education

Ariadna Schanz - Ext 300
Receptionist

Charlotte Ushela - Ext 304
Parish Secretary / Virtus Coordinator

Nubia Vivas
Custodian

Rene Denis
Maintenance - Commodore Prop. Mgmt



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:15 am - 3:15 pm

Address

2701 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

(305) 446-1738
www.stscg.org

Administered by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of L.A. - Sr. Rosalie, Principal

SACRED STEPS | SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT COTLF



Welcome to the Catholic Church!
Congratulations to our newly Baptized:

- Emma Carracelas Cabrera



Congratulations and God's blessings to our newly married couples:

- William Krekeler & Niurka Valdes
- Ricardo Santivanez & Sofia Borron
- Carlos Rosell & Neleyn Romero



Rest in Peace.
Let us pray for our recently deceased:

- Julio Gutierrez
- Gustavo Ceballos
- Alberto Herrera

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least two (2) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/baptism for more information.
- Arreglos de bautizos se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con dos (2) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/baptism para mas información.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/weddings for more information.
- Arreglos de bodas se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con seis (6) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/weddings para mas información.

SIGNS OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

DEC 14, 2025

Attendance:	2,245
In-Church Collection:	\$ 13,495
Online Giving Offertory:	\$ 15,571
Drop-off/Mail-in Offering:	\$ 5,271
Children's Collection:	\$ 426
Devotional Candles:	\$ 987
Poor Box/Charities:	\$ 238
<i>Immaculate Conception:</i>	<i>\$ 3,762</i>

Thank you for your generosity!

¡Gracias por su generosidad!

Grand Total: \$39,750

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$6,036

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

OUR PARISH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 pm (Vigil) + James Brennan
 7:30 am + Suzanne Dockerty
 9:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 10:30 am *Missa Pro Populo* - For All Members of Our Parish Family
 12:30 pm + Julian Morales
 5:30 pm + Bill and Marlene Kerdyk
 7:00 pm (Italian) Celebrated only on First Sundays, Monthly

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

Monday of Week IV of Advent

6:15 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 8:00 am Nubia Vivas' Birthday
 5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

Tuesday of Week IV of Advent / Memorial of St. John of Kanty, Priest

6:15 am Alberto and Virtudes Torre de Alba
 8:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Wednesday of Week IV of Advent

6:15 am + Alan Y. Hopkins
 8:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 4:00 pm (Vigil) For the Children of Our Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Midnight Mass For Peace in the World
 9:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 10:30 am *Missa Pro Populo* - For All Members of Our Parish Family
 12:30 pm + Cristina Parlade
 5:30 pm Eduiska Sayegh's Health

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr

6:15 am Marina Paz's Birthday
 8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of Prieto-Perez and Suarez Families
 5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 am Ray Lopez's Birthday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

5:00 pm (Vigil) + Maggie Brown
 7:30 am Scott Pearson's Birthday
 9:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 10:30 am *Missa Pro Populo* - For All Members of Our Parish Family
 12:30 pm + Eduardo Rodriguez Arias
 5:30 pm Intentions of the Sardiñas Family
 7:00 pm (Italian) Celebrated only on First Sundays, Monthly

SUNDAYS

11:30 am Carmel of Elijah (Cafeteria) - *Once Monthly*
 1:30 pm Homeless Ministry Service Outing (Varies) - *Once Monthly*

MONDAYS

10:00 am Seekers Bible Study (Morras Conf. Room & Zoom) - *Biweekly*
 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
 7:00 pm Talleres de Oracion y Vida (Chapel Conf. Room)
 7:30 pm Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio (Morras Conf. Room)
 7:30 pm Emaus de Hombres (Reilly Conf. Room)

TUESDAYS

7:45 am That Man is You Men's Group (Parish Office Center)
 8:30 am Holy Face Devotion (Church)
 7:00 pm OCIA Adult Formation Classes (STS Cafeteria)
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Legion of Mary House)
 8:00 pm English Charismatic Prayer (Chapel Conf. Room)

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 & 6:30 pm Religious Education Classes (St. Theresa School)
 7:30 pm Women's Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)
 8:00 pm Communion & Liberation (Chapel Conf. Room)
 8:00 pm Oración Carismática en Español (Morras Conf. Room)

THURSDAYS

7:45 am Walking with Purpose Women's Group (Cafeteria)
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (Comber Hall) - *Once Monthly*
 7:00 pm Schola Cantorum / Parish Choir (STS Music Room)
 7:00 pm Scouts (Cafeteria)
 7:30 pm Men's English Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)

FRIDAYS

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Reilly Conf. Room) - *3rd Friday*
 6:00 pm American Heritage Girls (STS Cafeteria) - *2nd & 4th Friday*
 6:30 pm Singles Ministry (STS Cafeteria)
 8:00 pm Marriage Covenant (Zoom)

SATURDAYS

7:00 am First Saturday Devotion / Rosary (Church)
 9:00 am Baptism Preparation Classes (Reilly Parish Center)

OTHER MINISTRIES

Grieving with Great Hope Bereavement Ministry
 Liturgical Ministries (Altar Servers, EMHCs, Lectors, Ushers)

Greyed out ministries are not currently meeting.
 Visit www.cotlf.org/ministries for more details about each group.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

IV/Sunday of Advent

Year A, Missal Pages 120-124

Sunday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Monday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79
Thursday	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday	1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Friends,

This week we celebrate our 100th Christmas here at Little Flower. We welcome all our visitors who will be joining us to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. Many of you have probably not been in our church since it was painted and refurbished this past summer. We pray you find the same welcoming home that you have always encountered: a church that is peaceful, prayerful, and always leading us towards our Lord.

Back in 1926, our founding parishioners celebrated their first Christmas without a building (our first church that is known as Comber Hall today was not finished until 1927), so much like Mary and Joseph, our founders did not have a posada to offer up the first Christmas Mass. Now we have a beautifully refurbished church ready to welcome in the thousands of people who will joyfully join us for Mass this Christmas to celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

This has been a year of tremendous grace here in our parish and in the Universal Church. In a few weeks, Pope Leo XIV will close the Jubilee Year of Hope that was opened for our dearly departed Pope Francis just one year ago. This global jubilee coincided with our own parish and school centennial year which began this past September 15th on the day the school was founded in 1925, and it will run through October 2026 which is the month we celebrated the foundation of our parish back in 1926. In just three months, we have had so many graces celebrating our centennial. We had a day of celebration for the school children, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with the Archbishop on the school grounds, and as a parish received the relics of St. Therese, our patroness, early this month. And we are not done yet because the new year has lots of exciting surprises in store for us: some planned and some unplanned because the graces that God surprises us with are eternal.

For now, we focus on Christmas and give thanks to the Almighty for the opportunity to celebrate together as a parish family during this milestone year and at the close of this Jubilee of Hope.

Earlier this month, Pope Leo XIV offered these words: "...how much the world needs this hope! Nothing is impossible to God. Let us prepare ourselves for his Kingdom, let us welcome it. The little child, Jesus of Nazareth, will lead us! He who placed himself in our hands, from the night of his birth to the dark hour of his death on the cross, shines upon our history as the rising Sun. A new day has begun: let us arise and walk in his light!" (Angelus, 12/7/25)

Christmas allows us to emerge from the darkness of sin, to cast off the things of this world, and to walk as God's children who have been enlightened by the light of the Child born in Bethlehem. We stand before the manger in awe, and thank our Savior for coming to save us. To follow The Little Way of St. Therese: let us be small like Him, let us be meek like Him, and let us rejoice in the small blessings God bestows on us each and every day, not only on Christmas.

The priests, Carmelite Sisters, and staff of Little Flower and St. Theresa School wish all of you a merry and holy Christmas and an abundance of God's blessings in the new year. Allow yourself to caught up in the beauty of the Christmas story. Allow yourself to become little like our Savior.

Merry Christmas,



DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PÁRROCO

Mis Queridos Amigos,

Esta semana celebramos nuestra centésima Navidad aquí en Santa Teresita. Damos la bienvenida a todos nuestros visitantes que se unirán a nosotros para celebrar la Natividad de nuestro Señor. Muchos de ustedes probablemente no han estado en nuestra iglesia desde que fue pintada y renovada el verano pasado. Oramos para que encuentren el mismo hogar acogedor que siempre han encontrado: una iglesia llena de paz, propicia para la oración y que siempre nos guía hacia nuestro Señor.

En 1926, nuestros feligreses fundadores celebraron su primera Navidad sin un edificio (nuestra primera iglesia, conocida hoy como Comber Hall, no se terminó hasta 1927), así que, al igual que María y José, nuestros fundadores no tuvieron una posada donde celebrar la primera Misa de Navidad. Ahora tenemos una iglesia bellamente renovada, lista para recibir a los miles de personas que se unirán con alegría a nosotros para la Misa esta Navidad para celebrar el nacimiento del Mesías.

Este ha sido un año de inmensa gracia aquí en nuestra parroquia y en la Iglesia Universal. En pocas semanas, el Papa León XIV clausurará el Año Jubilar de la Esperanza que fue inaugurado por nuestro querido Papa Francisco hace apenas un año. Este jubileo mundial coincidió con el centenario de nuestra parroquia y escuela, que comenzó el pasado 15 de septiembre, día en que se fundó la escuela en 1925, y se extenderá hasta octubre de 2026, mes en que celebramos la fundación de nuestra parroquia en 1926. En solo tres meses, hemos recibido muchísimas gracias al celebrar nuestro centenario. Tuvimos un día de celebración para los niños de la escuela, celebramos una Misa de Acción de Gracias con el Arzobispo en los terrenos de la escuela y, como parroquia, recibimos las reliquias de Santa Teresita, nuestra patrona, a principios de este mes. Y aún no hemos terminado, porque el nuevo año nos depara muchas sorpresas emocionantes: algunas planificadas y otras inesperadas, porque las gracias con las que Dios nos sorprende son eternas.

Por ahora, nos centramos en la Navidad y damos gracias a Dios por la oportunidad de celebrar juntos como familia parroquial durante este año tan importante y al cierre de este Jubileo de la Esperanza.

A principios de este mes, el Papa León XIV pronunció estas palabras: ¡cuánto necesita el mundo esta esperanza! Nada es imposible para Dios. Preparémonos para su Reino, acojámoslo. El más pequeño, Jesús de Nazaret, nos guiará. Él, que se puso en nuestras manos, desde la noche de su nacimiento hasta la hora oscura de su muerte en la cruz, resplandece en nuestra historia como el sol naciente. Ha comenzado un nuevo día: ¡despertemos y caminemos en su luz!» (Ángelus, 7 de diciembre de 2025)

La Navidad nos permite salir de la oscuridad del pecado, despojarnos de las cosas de este mundo y caminar como hijos de Dios, iluminados por la luz del Niño nacido en Belén. Nos postramos ante el pesebre con asombro y agradecemos a nuestro Salvador por haber venido a salvarnos. Siguiendo el Pequeño Camino de Santa Teresita: seamos pequeños como Él, seamos mansos como Él y alegrémonos por las pequeñas bendiciones que Dios nos concede cada día, no solo en Navidad.

Los sacerdotes, las Hermanas Carmelitas y el personal de la parroquia y la escuela les desean a todos una feliz y santa Navidad y abundantes bendiciones de Dios en el nuevo año. Permítanse dejarse cautivar por la belleza de la historia de la Navidad. Permítanse hacerse pequeños como nuestro Salvador.

Feliz Navidad,



MASSSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00 pm — Children's Christmas Vigil Mass

11:30 pm — Christmas Musical Prelude

12:00 am — Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25th

9:00 am — English Mass

10:30 am — English Mass

12:30 pm — Misa en Español

5:30 pm — English Mass



MASSSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Wednesday, December 31st

6:15 am — English Mass

8:00 am — English Mass

5:30 pm — Misa en Español

Thursday, January 1st, 2026

9:00 am — English Mass

10:30 am — English Mass

12:30 pm — Misa en Español

5:30 pm — English Mass

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The annual *COTLF Giving Tree* is now present in the vestibule of the church and parishioners are encouraged to bring new, wrapped gifts, with a tag indicating whether the gift is for a boy or girl with the corresponding age range. Donated gifts will be given to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who distribute them to children and families in need from throughout our local community. Thank you for your generosity!





Archbishop Thomas Wenski, in communion with the universal Church and Pope Leo XIV, invites you to join him for a special

CLOSING MASS OF JUBILEE YEAR

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 27, 2025

5:30 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY
7525 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida

Please RSVP at
www.adomdevelopment.org/jubilee



Seating is offered on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure to arrive early. For more information, please email events@theadom.org.

2026 PARISH CALENDARS

Following all Masses this weekend, the 2026 Parish Calendars will be distributed to all parishioners.

We kindly ask that you take only 1 per household to ensure there are calendars available for all parishioners throughout the day. Extra calendars may be requested on a first-come, first-served basis next week in the Parish Office.

We thank our Parish Calendar sponsors,
Pillar Hopkins & Associates Realty, Inc,
The Law Offices of Patricia Bango Diaz, and
SeaChange Solutions, Inc
for once again supporting the purchase
of these beautiful annual calendars!



COTLF IS HIRING!

Church of the Little Flower is seeking to hire a full time Parish Finance Manager. This professional reports directly to the Pastor and is responsible for supporting the Pastor in planning, directing, and coordinating all of the financial operations of the parish. Candidates will perform all duties and responsibilities in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of the Archdiocese of Miami and COTLF.

Scan to view Job Description and to apply:





Building on Our Legacy

www.cotlf.org/centennial

CENTENNIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

- Work in the choir loft continues to progress, with the steel frame now fully in place to support the new loft flooring system. The new HVAC system for the organ has also been installed and connected.
- Up in Gloucester, Massachusetts, the new pipe organ is continuing to come together at the CB Fisk workshop. The organ will be fully assembled in the workshop for the Opus 166 Open House on Saturday, January 10th, when it will be publicly played for the very first time. Following the Open House, the organ will be fully disassembled, carefully packed up for transport, and begin its journey south to Coral Gables, arriving here at the parish in early February!
- On the STS Multipurpose Center front, the project has gone out to bid to Archdiocese-approved general contractors. Work is also quietly progressing on the full set of construction documents and we hope to move forward with permitting, groundbreaking and the start of construction by the end of the school year!

2025 CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY LETTERS

The annual Charitable Contribution Summary letters will be going out to all parishioners who donated a minimum of \$250 throughout the 2025 calendar year by late January 2026.

As we close out the year, now is a perfect time to make an end-of-year gift to maximize your tax deductions. Whether you are making a new gift or paying off a pledge, all gifts received by December 31st will be included in the 2025 letters.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

We are grateful to all our campaign donors who have made work on the Centennial projects possible! If you would like to set up a new pledge, increase your current pledge, give a new gift, restart your contributions, or check the status of your campaign giving, please contact Ashley Dominguez, Parish Director of Development, at ADominguez@cotlf.org • 305-446-9950, Ext 309



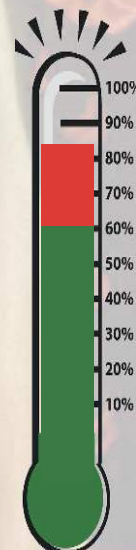
CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$13,000,000

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$10,763,354.83 (82.8%)

TOTAL GIVEN: \$7,832,352.36 (60.25%)

Updated as of December 17th



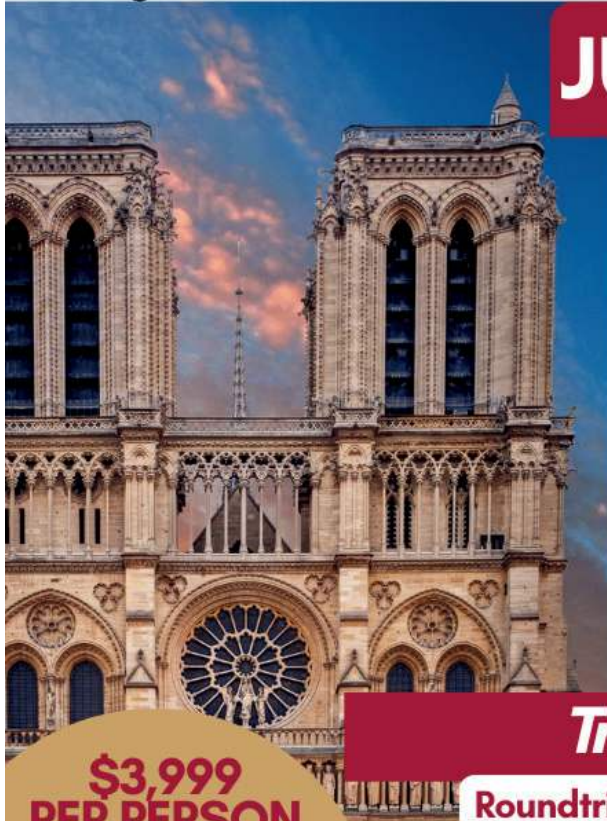
100 Year of Grace: A Marian Pilgrimage Celebration



Building On Our Legacy

The Church of the Little Flower invites you to journey through faith & history to the homeland of our patroness during our Centennial Celebration.

JUNE 23 - JULY 3, 2026



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Loire Valley Region**

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Private guide services for sightseeing



BOOKING & INFORMATION **305-446-9950 / TOURS@COTLF.ORG**

Deposit & Registration: A \$350 non-refundable per person deposit is required at booking time together with the registration form & copy of the passport. A valid American passport (valid at least 6 months after the return date) is necessary to travel. Deposit deadline: December 20, 2025

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BPWEORFOFPEGLORY

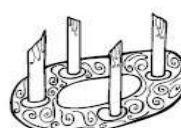
Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

BPOEIJENTEROWIHEI

WOISPWTHEIDKINGOEKAJOZI



Which candles are lit today on the Advent wreath? Color this wreath to match the one at your church.







You are to name him

10 5 19 21 19

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Countdown to Jesus' Birthday...

1

Sunday!





Gospel

An angel visited Joseph in a dream. The angel told him that Mary would have a son. Listen to the Gospel to hear the angel's message.



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