



MERCY ALIVE

DECEMBER 15, 2024
III SUNDAY OF ADVENT
VOL. 47 NO. 50



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

- ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

8:00 amDaily Mass
4:00 pm.....Daily Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

7:00 am.....Mass
9:00 am.....Mass
10:30 am.....Mass
12:00 pm.....Mass
6:00 pm.....Mass
7:00 pm.....High School Youth Group

MONDAY DECEMBER 16

8:00 amDaily Mass
12:00 pmDaily Mass
12:00 pm.....Catholic in Recovery -*St. Gabriel*
6:30 pmOCIA- *St. Ann*
7:00 pmSVDP Meeting- *St. Jerome*

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17

8:30 amRosary Makers-*Coffee Shop*
10:30 am.....Called By Faith- *PAC*
12:00 pmDaily Mass
3:00 pmMiddle School Bible Study- *JPII House*
6:00 pm.....Daily Mass & Novena
7:00 pmCharismatic Prayer-*St. Gabriel*

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18

8:00 amDaily Mass
11:00 amCourageous Women- *St. Jerome*
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:00 pmThe Light is ON for You!
6:30 pm.....Catholic in Recovery- *St. Gabriel*

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19

6:00 amTMIY
8:00 amDaily Mass
9:30 amMoms and Tots
12:00 pmDaily Mass
6:30 pmHigh School Bible Study- *JPII House*

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20

8:00 amDaily Mass
12:00 pmDaily Mass

Prayer LINE

For Prayer Line requests, contact:
Ms. Genie Ogden: (225) 293-2367 or
Ms. Carroll Benedetto at wlb14@aol.com

On the Cover

8th grader Presley Trahan celebrated the wonderful Mercy Father Daughter Dance with her father Greg Trahan.

Campus Safety

Please do not leave your purse or any valuables visible on the seats or floor of your car. Place all of your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle in order to avoid anyone who might be tempted to do something the Lord would not want them to do. It is recommended that you do not give cash to anyone soliciting money. This only encourages repeat behavior and is somewhat fearful to those in the Adoration Chapel and the elderly. If you want to support the needy, then give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society where your generosity will surely help the poor and hungry.

Second COLLECTION

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Please call the church office or scan the QR to adopt a family for Christmas.



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete! Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Domine enim prope est. (Phil. 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is at hand. (Phil. 4:4-5)

The entirety of the Advent season is filled with a growing sense of rejoicing, yet of the four Sundays of Advent, the third Sunday, commonly known as Gaudete Sunday, most prominently captures the joy of the season. The name for Gaudete Sunday comes from the Latin word *gaudete* (rejoice), the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this day's Mass. The rose-colored "joy" candle of the Advent wreath is lit, and Father sets aside his purple vestments to don rose-colored ones for the occasion.



Gaudete Sunday is also known as Bambinelli Sunday. Bambinelli is the plural form of the Italian word *bambinello*, which means little baby boy. Pope St. John Paul II began the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday early in his papacy by inviting all the children in Rome to bring the baby Jesus figurines from their family's Nativity scenes to St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent. Following the noon Angelus, the Holy Father gave a special blessing to the *bambinelli* statues. The children then brought them home, where their parents gift wrapped them and put them gently under the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, families unwrapped the infant Jesus figurine first and, with great joy, laid him gently in the manger of their waiting Nativity scenes. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis continued the tradition, and over the last 40 years, the tradition has grown beyond the Vatican and is now a treasured Advent tradition in parishes worldwide.

The tradition of the Nativity scene, however, is far older than the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. In fact, the very first Christmas crèche was created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. Desiring to promote devotion to the birth of Christ, St. Francis prepared a manger, complete with hay, oxen, and a donkey, in a cave in the small Italian town of Greccio. On Christmas Day, Francis cradled a carved doll representing the infant Jesus in his arms, intending to lay him gently in the manger. Much to the crowd's surprise, however, the *bambinello* "seemed to be awakened from sleep when the blessed Father Francis embraced Him in both arms" and cried tears of joy. The miracle moved the people of Greccio, and now, nearly 800 years later, we find ourselves similarly moved by the tender scene recreated in our own churches and homes.

At the site of the original Nativity scene in Greccio on December 1, 2019, Pope Francis explained the importance of this devotion: "Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren. . . . [T]he Christmas creche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition."

On Sunday, December 15, we invite you to bring the *bambinello*, the baby Jesus, from your family's Nativity scene to Mass for a special blessing. May we, like so many generations of the faithful before us, experience the true joy of salvation in our homes this season.



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, "What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?" The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some possible ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, "There will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!" or "What is desert, barren, dry and life-less in you will come to life!" We can hear, "You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary." "Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom."

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: "Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life." We may be able to be specific and ask, "Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting." As we go to work or do laundry or shop, or head home from work, we might ask even more specifically for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the midst of our very busy days.

Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html> Used with permission.

Called to Action

PARISH LIFE

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU! SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



“Prepare the way for the Lord,” cried John the Baptist from the desert to the people of his time. As Catholics, we are given the opportunity to heed St. John’s call by readying ourselves for the Lord’s coming during this Advent Season through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**When was the last time you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
Have you been putting off going to Confession?**

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Confession:

Lord, help me genuinely accept that You have taken all my past - all sin I have committed or accusation against me.

Since You do not condemn me, help me renew my thinking & not condemn myself. Rather, I want to live in the Joy, Peace, & Freedom You have purchased for me by Your death and resurrection in Jesus’ name.

Amen

Additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Mercy:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm



FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HELP THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Food for the Holidays

"For I was Hungry and you gave me to eat."

-Matthew 25:35

During the month of November, each of us is encouraged to be bread for others. Empty baskets will be arranged around the Tabernacle in the Sanctuary. Please bring non-perishable food items to be given to the needy of our area for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Suggested items for the food baskets:

Canned Beans (red and white)

Tuna Fish

Peanut Butter

Corn

Peas

Yams

Potted Meat

(Spam, Vienna Sausage, Ham)

Rice

Individually Wrapped Snacks

Pasta and Pasta Sauce

Canned Fruit

Macaroni and Cheese

Granola

Canned Vegetables

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Cereal

Applesauce

Fruit Cups

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

*“For behold, the virgin shall be
with child, and bear a son,
and shall name him
Emmanuel.”*

-Isaiah 7.14

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 pm (Church & PAC)

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

12:00 Midnight - Chancel Choir
prelude will begin at 11:15 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25th

7:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 Noon

There is not a more beautiful place to be
than at Our Lady of Mercy at Christmas!

PARISH LIFE

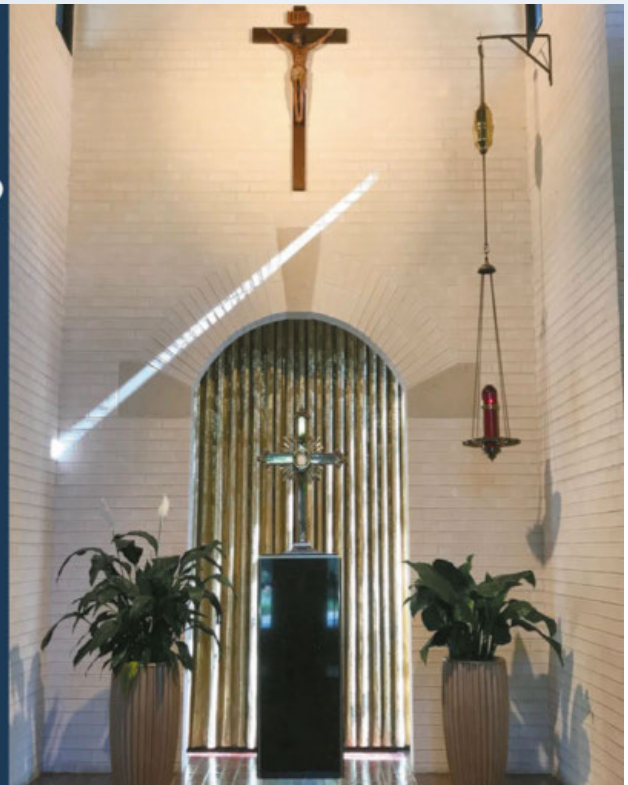
Adoration Chapel

Can you spend an hour with Jesus?

Urgent Need:

Saturday at 1:00 AM

Please Contact Michelle Schroeder
225-926-1883 or sign up at
<https://adorationpro.org/olomchurch>



Catholic in Recovery

For more information visit
www.olomchurch.com
or call 225-926-1883

Monday at 12 noon - Men Only

Wednesday at 6:30 pm - Men and Women

**St. Gabriel Room at the
Parish Activity Center.**

**For those seeking a
Catholic approach for
dealing with real-life
struggles.**





The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

08 December 2024
The Second Sunday of Advent

To The Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese of Baton Rouge:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Together, we pray as a church this ancient prayer invoking the power of the Holy Spirit. This gift of the Spirit is given to all of us in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation that fully initiates us into the Church and fills us with these gifts and the enthusiasm to take on the mission of Christ to renew the world. Many older Catholics remember that the age of Confirmation was younger when we were confirmed. After the Second Vatican Council, in many places, the age was raised to High School since many leaders felt that the sacrament would be better understood at an older age. This practice has worked well, but times have changed.

Our children are experiencing a culture which, at times, is hostile to our faith. Through social media of all forms, young people are confronted at a surprisingly younger age with challenges to their Catholic faith and morals. Given this new reality, I believe it is time to lower the age of Confirmation to give our children the full grace of the sacrament of Confirmation at an earlier age to meet these challenges. After consultation with our pastors, catechists, and other evangelizers, **I have decided to begin a transition plan in our Confirmation programs that will eventually lower the age of Confirmation to the seventh grade.** Obviously, before we reach the seventh grade, we must create a formation plan for the present 8th - 10th graders in our parishes.

I make this announcement now so that each pastor can begin the plan for transition that best meets the needs of their parish. Support from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis will be offered to assist parish leaders in making this transition, which will be made as a parish with schools of religion and Catholic schools working together, under the leadership of their pastor.

This transition will be challenging but I also believe it will be a catalyst for foundational changes in how our parishes help our parents to form their children into missionary disciples on fire for Christ. There is so much more to be said, and you may have many questions. I simply ask your patience, for now. Early in the New Year, you will learn more of the specifics of how this change will be implemented in your parish. You can find a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the diocesan web site (diobr.org) or through resources provided by your pastor.

Come Holy Spirit!

Hope in the Lord,

Most Reverend Michael G. Duca
Bishop of Baton Rouge

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 21, SATURDAY

8:00 am Francis Xavier Le / SPECIAL INTENTIONS:
Kathy McGehee

4:00 pm Paula LeBaron, Joe & Jenny Serio, John and Jackie Kenaley / Dr. Clifton T. Morris, Jr. / Ordell Chambers Laws / Virgil & Eunice D'Armond / Sugar and Cookie Kane / Julio Patolilic / Clyde and Violet David / Eugene Andre Sr. / Ricky Mier / Edwards & Laborde Families / Anna Casso / Peggy Werner / Nancy Valluzzo / Bill Auten / Howard Kidder, Jr. / John Carmena / Eleanor Henley / Paul Burton / Shannon Cormier and Family / Diana Miller / Barbara Guidry / J.A. "Bud" Oliver / Olga Lee Gebert Milano / Larry Dugas / Patsy Harrell / Paul Melancon / Mary Anna Edwards / Mary McCowan / Mr. and Mrs. Myles Morrison / Dr. and Mrs. Dan Lehon / Mr. and Mrs. James Adams / Mr. and Mrs. Alex Reddeck / Adams and Morrison Family / SPECIAL INTENTION: Margaret Downing / David Fabre/ All Priests, Deacons, Seminarians and Religious Vocations

DECEMBER 22, SUNDAY

7:00 am..... Kyle Cassano / Ellie Sances / Mike Lloyd Rinehart / Anna Darensbourg

9:00 am..... Paul Catalanatto / Theresa and Nelvin Fontenot

10:30 am... Scott Litz and Frank Messina, Jr. / Gary Alford / Ann Alldredge / Brenda Fremin, The Fremin Family, Charles and Rosa Drago / Michael S. DiVincenti III

12:00 pm... Anna Casso / Johnson Kadair / Eddie and Sena Mansur, Freida Mansur Sutton & Paula Mansur Roblin / Father Mario Termini and Maxine Termini

6:00 pm SPECIAL INTENTIONS: The Mumfrey Family

DECEMBER 23, MONDAY

8:00 am SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Kassie Rester

12:00 pm... The Panepinto, Serio and Dimartino Families / Anita Compton Evans

DECEMBER 24, TUESDAY

4:00 pm Louis Yonich / Manuel F. Gan / Francis Xavier Le / The Ballard, Chambers and McCay families / Clyde and Violet David / John M Fruge' & Todd Fruge' / Vito Impastato / Eva and Joe Urdiales / Laurence J. Conkerton / Adam Barksdale / Sisters Ashley Elizabeth, Jessica Marie, and Mary Katherine Wood / Edwin Graves / Fr. Daniel Barfield / Thomas Barfield / Mr. and Mrs. Myles Morrison / Dr. and Mrs. Dan Lehon / Mr. and Mrs. James Adams / Mr. and Mrs. Alex Reddeck / Adams and Morrison Family / SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Barfield Family & Graves Family

6:00 pm Byron Smith / Nicaud, Kempff and Matthew Families / Joann Landry / Wayne Watson

8:00 pm Ron Truxillo / April Schaff / Madge Dawson / Mike Lloyd Rinehart / Colleen Cauble

12:00 am... Will Steele / Rudy Naquin / Darwyn Williams / Mary McCowan / Janet Moret

DECEMBER 25, WEDNESDAY

7:00 am..... Page Steele / Jean Beth Luckett Lasserre / John McKay / Eva and Joe Urdiales / Laurence J. Conkerton

10:30 am... Gary Alford / Ann Alldredge / Rigby & Murphy Family / George Leteff / Thad Bourque

12:00 pm... Grey Hammett / Dorothy Bueche Stevens / Joe Stroud / April Schaff / Mike Lloyd Rinehart

DECEMBER 26, THURSDAY

8:00 am Mary Nunez / Donald Ashmore

12:00 pm... SPECIAL INTENTION: Deacon Richard & Tina Grant / Rachel and Byron Lato

DECEMBER 27, FRIDAY

8:00 am Carolyn Adams Songy

12:00 pm... George Mervin Simon, Rosa Simon & Danny Simon / Selden and Grace Tibbetts / Gene DeJean / Eugene Hedges / Sharon Budgewater / Ronnie Domma / SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Priests, Seminarians, & Deacons / Father Cleo / Lato & Rispone Families / Thanksgiving for answered prayers

Sanctuary Light Memorials

The sanctuary light in the church
burns this week in memory of

Joseph and Shirley Zito

The sanctuary light in the Adoration Chapel
burns this week in memory of

Joshua Fontenot

In Sympathy to the Family of:

- **JoAnn Looper**
- **Bill Lanier**
- **Jack Shortess**
- **Mike Wilson**
- **Mary Toler**
- **Lawrence Marino**
- **Daniel Rester**
- **Dennis "Speedy" Allen**

THE SEASON OF GIVING



In this Holy Season of the Savior's birth, I cannot think of a more beautiful and holy place to worship our Lord Jesus Christ than here at Our Lady of Mercy. Our parish provides tremendous opportunities to celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Mass and Confession.

Our strong witness to the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel, and our commitment to St. Vincent de Paul and our outreach to the poor and needy, truly are a bright light in a world that can seem very dark.

Our Lady of Mercy functions not only as a vibrant and active church family but also as a shrine for the City of Baton Rouge and our Diocese.

The doors of Mercy are open to everyone. That is why one of the best charities that you can support during the Christmas Season with your end of the year financial giving, is our own parish. So many people are affected in a good and positive way when you support your church family. If you love the legacy of Mercy and want to continue the light of Christ shining so brightly, I encourage your continued faithful giving in this season of offering our generous heart to God.

God Bless Mercy's faithful families and may the Light of Christ shine more brightly through us.

Happy Advent!

Fr. Cleo

Called to Worship

MASS SCHEDULE & TIMES

WEEKDAYS

MASS TIMES:

M, W, Th, & F: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Tues: 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

RECONCILIATION:

M - F: 45 minutes prior to Mass

SATURDAY

MASS TIME: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

VIGIL: 4:00 pm

SUNDAY

MASS TIMES: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

NURSERY: 9:00 am & 10:30 am (PAC)

PRE-SCHOOL

BIBLE CLASS: 9:00 am & 10:30 am (PAC)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RADIO

1380 AM - WPYR

Listen daily at noon and

10:30 am on Sunday for

Mercy's Mass live broadcast

Weekend of December 21st & December 22nd

4:00 pm*	7:00 am*	9:00 am	10:30 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
Fr. Milano	Fr. Miles	Fr. Antony	Fr. Milano	Fr. Milano	Fr. Antony
Extraordinary Ministers					
R Arabie B Rigby A August C Abshire L D'Armond N Krzystowczyk	A Wilson J Pastorek T Penouilh P Samrow	M Huber R Huber C Haldane M Stumpf Deacon Duplantis L Carter	J Angers L Gemmill A Dalmau J Smith C Ransome Deacon Duplantis Deacon Grant M Taylor	Deacon Grant A Nodier M Nodier M Roussel	B Bargas G Gilbert K Walker L Hopkins
Lectors					
P Rigby G Lalonde	J Gardemal A Haywood S Darensbourg	C Haldane B Haldane	S Toups M Massad	A Bargas H Schiro	G Bertrand C Steele
Altar Servers					
R Arabie (C) P Couvillion E Minvielle	G Samrow (C)	R Huber (C) F Placke C Raemsch	J Angers (C) K Sauviac M Schoen	M Nodier (C) L Schaff L Treuting	B Bargas (C) J Floyd M Floyd

The complete Ministry Schedule is published on our website at www.olomchurch.com.

Called to serve? Contact Deacon Grant to volunteer for liturgical ministry.

*These liturgies are celebrated without incense.

The Sunday 10:30 am Holy Mass can be found on WBRZ+; olomchurch.com; and youtube.com/olombr.



OUR LADY
of MERCY

Sponsored Married Couples Retreat

Attention Married Couples:

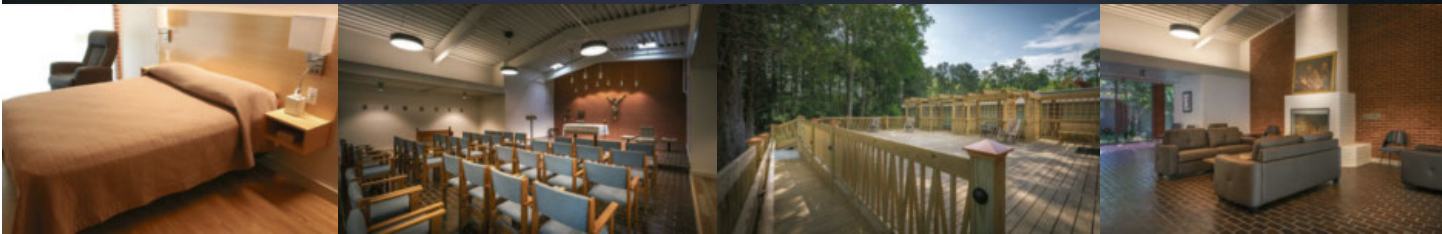
Would you like to spend quality time enriching your marriage?

Then join us on our parish sponsored married couples retreat at the beautiful St. Joseph Abbey's Retreat Center!



Join us for our January 11-12 Retreat!

Reserve your room at
faithandmarriage.org/retreats



Brought to you by Faith and Marriage. The Faith & Marriage Apostolate of the Willwoods Community is dedicated to promoting the Sacramentality of marriage and providing for married couples opportunities for growth, enrichment, and support.



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faithandmarriage.org

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 Christopher M. Funes, MD
 Jamel Martin, MD
 Murli C. Rao, MD
 Kelli Bovard, NP



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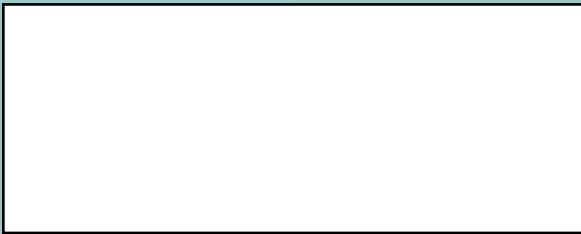
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