

St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church

June 16, 2024



**St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape
Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge**

900 South Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA, 19403

Tel.: (610) 650-8960 • Fax: (610) 650-8961

www.saintsophiachurch.org email: office@saintsophiachurch.org

Sunday Worship: 8:45 am - Orthros: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Office Hours - 10 am to 4 pm

Rev. Fr. Symeon Williams
office@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey



PRAYER MINISTRY



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:6-7*

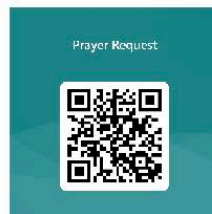
"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive." *Matthew 21:22*

"For with God, nothing will be impossible." *Luke 1:37*

Clearly, there is nothing more powerful than the power of prayer. Imagine someone struggling or suffering and then having multiple people praying for them daily! Our "Prayer Warriors" do just that. They will pray for individuals added to the list daily for a period of 6 months.

If you know of someone in need, you can add them to our prayer list using one of the following methods:

1. Fill out a request form at the box found in the church narthex **OR**
2. Send an email to Prayers@SaintSophiaChurch.org **OR**
3. Use the anonymous online form (the link is found under Prayer Ministry on our website), or you can use this link <https://forms.office.com/r/kMx49JdptM> **OR**
4. Use the QR form below (also found on the box in the narthex) which takes you to the anonymous form.



Epistle Reading

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Ἀνάγνωσις ἐπιστολῆς

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 20:16-18, 28-36 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλευσαι τὴν Ἐφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδεν γάρ, εἰ δυνατόν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἐφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπίσκοπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. Ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα, τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. Διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νοουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. Καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. Ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσοῦ ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα. Αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεαίαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσιν μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπηρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. Πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν, ὅτι οὕτως κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεύειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπεν, Μακάριόν ἐστιν μάλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. Καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεις τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ, σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.

GOSPEL READING The Gospel According to John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 17:1-13 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐπήρε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωὴ, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ κόσμου εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφάνερωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωκαν ὅτι πάντα ὃσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστὶν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξήλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἐρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σὰ ἐστὶ καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμὰ, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσὶ, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἅγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ὃ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὦσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφή πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.

June Poor Box Donations Thank you for considering a gift!

Please consider supporting the philanthropic outreach of our Church through the Philoptochos Poor Box located in the Pangari. Each month 100% of the donations are designated for a local charity.

Donations made to the Philoptochos Poor Box for June benefit **Pillars of Light and Love** and its cafe **So Much to Give Inclusive Cafe**. The cafe employs 63 people with disabilities, giving them opportunities to work and learn. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at www.somuchtogivecafe.org. You can see their good work in action at 3401 W. Skippack Pike in Skippack. The cafe is open Wednesday through Sunday.

Please pray for those who are employed at So Much to Give Inclusive Cafe and their families as well as those who work on their behalf. Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at <http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html> or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philoptochos adding "poor box" to the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME



SATURDAY AUGUST 17, 2024 - 6:05PM

\$65 PER TICKET - PAYMENT IN ADVANCE
ONLY 30 TICKETS AVAILABLE

FOR TICKETS: EMAIL STSOPHIAPARISH@SAINTSOPHIACHURCH.ORG OR TEXT/CALL 215.206.8180



ST. SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS

Tiropites

Frozen 6-packs - \$25

With Cooking Instructions

ONLY 3 PACKS LEFT

We accept Zelle (ladies@saintsophiachurch.org)
and Venmo payments

FOR ORDERS: Kathy T. 610.539.5413



venmo

St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge

TAKE & BAKE

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Enjoy some of our beloved Greek delicacies for days and weeks to come. All entrees are frozen and come with complete baking instructions.

ENTREES

SPANAKOPITA (1/2 tray, 9 pcs)	\$45
PASTITSIO (1/2 tray, 6 pcs)	\$45
MOUSSAKA (1/2 tray, 6 pcs)	\$50

LIMITED SUPPLY!

CONTACT JOHN PAPADIMITRIOU



THE NICENE CREED (The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.

Amen

ENGLISH

Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed be Thy name, Thy
Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil.

GREEK

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
ἁγιασθήτω τό ὄνομά σου,
ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
γενηθήτω τό θέλημά σου, ὡς
ἐν οὐρανῷ καί ἐπί τῆς γῆς.

Τόν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τόν
ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν
σήμερον καί ἄφες ἡμῖν τά
ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καί ἡμεῖς
ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν καί
μή εἰσενέγκης ἡμᾶς εἰς
πειρασμόν, ἀλλά ρῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπό
τοῦ πονηροῦ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ENGLISH PHONETICS

Pá-ter i-món o en tis ou-ra-nís
a-gi-as-thí-to to o-no-má Sou,
el-thé-to I va-si-lí-a Sou,
ge-ni-thí-to to thé-li-má Sou, os
en ou-ra-nó ke e-pi tis ghis.

Ton ár-ton i-món ton
e-pi-ou-si-on dos i-mín
sí-me-ron ke á-fes i-mín ta
o-fe-lí-ma-ta i-món, os ke i-mís
a-fí-e-men tis o-fi-lé-tes i-món ke
mi i-se-nég-kis i-más is
pi-ras-món, al-la rí-se i-más a-pó
tou po-ni-roú.

Phonetics by Dr. Christine Kerxhalli,
orthodoxtoday.wordpress.com

SAVE THE DATE!



NOV 8, 9, 10 2024

**GOYA FALL
RETREAT**  **INNABAH CAMP &
RETREAT CENTER**



A DVYC EVENT — FAITH/FUN/FELLOWSHIP!

Project Mexico 2024 UPDATE



Our team is all set! We are ready to be the hands and feet of Christ and put our Faith in the Lord to work for a deserving family that does not have a home. But we still need help to fund travel expenses, building supplies, tools and more.

Helping is easy! You can donate funds directly to St. Sophia via Venmo, Zelle or by cash or check and note that they are for Project Mexico. We will make sure these funds are used specifically for this important and deeply rewarding mission. If you would like to learn more, join the team next year or learn how you can help sponsor our team, please email John Pogas, the group leader, at johnpogas@gmail.com.



venmo

Communion Prayers

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy, without condemnation, to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life. Amen.

Behold, I approach for Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, For You are fire consuming the unworthy. But cleanse me from every stain.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as you behold the divine Blood. It is a burning coal that sears the unworthy. The Body of God both deifies and nourishes me: It deifies the Spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine eros You have changed me. But burn up with spiritual fire my sins, and grant me to be filled with delight in You, so that, leaping for joy, I may magnify, O Good One, Your two comings.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

June 16, 2024
Fathers of the 1st Council
Tychon the Wonderworker

40 Martyrs of Rome ❖ Mark the Just of Apollonia



Welcome Fr. Symeon Williams! On your first day as our new proistamenos, we welcome you with open arms and look forward to your ministry with our parish!

Coffee Hour: Join us for lunch, Philly style, as we welcome Fr. Symeon to our parish.

Sponsor Coffee Hour! If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please sign up on the Coffee Hour Sponsor Sheet on the window at the back of the hall near the coffee/refreshments table. We need sponsors for the coming weeks. **Please note that the church will supply coffee, creamer, juice, and paper products to eliminate waste and clutter. We ask that coffee hour sponsors donate \$25 (payable to St. Sophia Church) to offset these expenses. Thank you!**

Festival Lawn Signs: Please return any Festival Lawn Signs that you may have taken, as we recycle them. You may place them in the alcove outside of the Office Entrance.

St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Vigil Candle: If you are interested in sponsoring a vigil candle, please see a Parish Council member at the Pangari – no advance signup necessary and several individuals or families can sponsor each week. The proceeds of these donations will go to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Each vigil candle lasts one week; the asking donation is \$10.

Exciting Mortgage Reduction News! An anonymous donor has come forward to match donations made to the mortgage reduction fund **up to \$100,000** for 2024. This is a great opportunity to reduce our mortgage by **one-third**. With your help, we will make a huge difference in our mortgage expenses.

Please Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved recently? Are you receiving our weekly emails and occasional phone calls? If any of your contact information has changed (emails, phone numbers, address) **please** send an email to the Parish office at office@saintsophiachurch.org to update this information. Thank you!

Stewardship/Mortgage Reduction: PLEASE keep in mind that our fixed costs are ever present. Be sure to send in your stewardship and mortgage reduction payments before you leave for vacation. God bless you for your support of our parish!

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sun. June 16 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Father's of the First Council; Father's Day
Sat. June 22 nd	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
Sun. June 23 rd	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Holy Pentecost
June 24 th through June 28 th		Fr. Symeon away – Camp Good Shepherd, Branchville, NJ
Sat. June 29 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Peter & Paul the Holy Apostles
Sun. June 30 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles
June 30 th through July 4 th		Fr. Symeon away – 47 th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, San Diego, CA
Thurs. July 4th		Independence Day – Parish office is closed
Fri. July 5th		Parish office is closed
Sun. July 7 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 2 nd Sunday of Matthew
Sun. July 14 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Sat. July 20 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy The Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah)
Sun. July 21 st	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Sun. July 28 th	8:45 am	Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Before Pentecost – Saturday of Souls: On this day we remember all pious and Orthodox Christians who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Saturday of Souls is on **June 22nd**, with **Orthros at 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am**. Forms for the names of the departed are available at the Pangari (and attached). Please submit your names to the Parish office by 12 noon on Friday, June 22nd. **DO NOT text the names or submit them via Facebook**. Please also remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by making koliva and attending the holy services to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest. Please remember that the names you submit are read on all three Saturdays. Please PRINT CLEARLY, AND ONLY BAPTISMAL FIRST NAMES ARE NECESSARY.

Welcome Father Symeon!



Please welcome our new Proistamenos, Father Symeon Williams! Father graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology with his Master of Divinity in 2013.

After seminary, Father Symeon served as a Pastoral Assistant and Youth Director at several churches in the Metropolis of New Jersey. He spent three years at St. Nicholas in Wyckoff, New Jersey, followed by six and a half years at St. Nicholas in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

In February 2023, Father Symeon began his service at his now former parish of St. George in Piscataway, New Jersey.

Metropolitan Apostolos gave him the name Symeon in honor of St. Symeon the God-Receiver who received Christ at the Temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:22-35). If you look on the wall behind the chanter's stand, you will see the icon of St. Symeon as he received The Christ Child on the 40th day, thus fulfilling the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he wrote, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son" Isaiah 7:14.

Join us in fellowship today after Divine Liturgy as we welcome Father Symeon with a feast of Philly favorites including hoagies and Tastykakes!

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