

ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent



PARISH INFORMATION

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Dan Sweeney

Adoration: Janet Tankersley

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Minister Volunteer Coordinators

Altar Servers: Don Payne

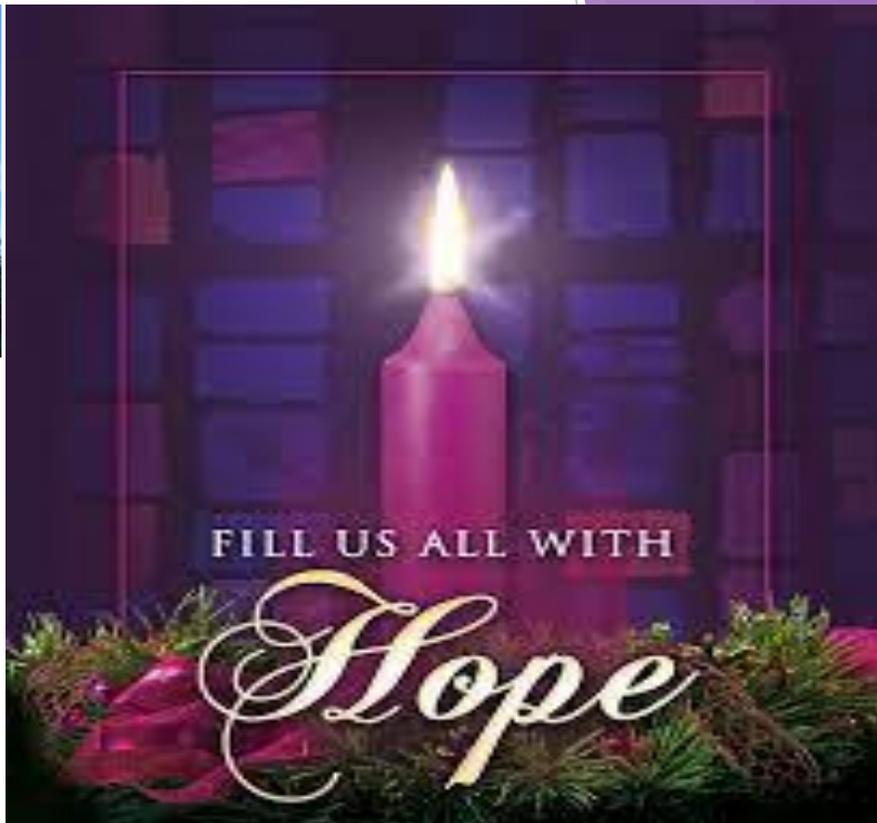
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Prayer Requests: Peggy St Andre

503-631-3531

Email Prayer Chain: Heather Hannam

hahannam@juno.com



MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Mass

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am Mass

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri - 8am Mass

Tuesday - 6:30pm Mass

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays – 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursdays – 8:30am-10pm (*ends with Benediction*)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

If you or someone you know is homebound, wants to receive Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the parish office, 503-631-2882.

Baptisms: Call the Parish Office.

Funerals: Call the Parish Office.

Weddings: Call Fr. Paschal at least 6 months in advance of the planned date.

St. Philip Benizi Website: www.philipbenizi.com

God is good! All the time! All the time, God is good.

Dear friends in Christ, with the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, celebrated across the Catholic world last Sunday, the Holy Mother Church concluded a liturgical circle. Immensely, we thanked God for his unalloyed favors, blessings, guidance, and protection amid the hassles of the Church's year. In the words of encouragement of this Kingly feast, we urged all God's proteges to compulsorily make Jesus Christ the King of everything associated with them. Aware that Jesus is our king like no other spurs us to unashamedly accord him the unquantified respect and dignity he deserves. Also, worshipping and adoring him should be done without foot-dragging; instead, we should daringly dance with pomp and pageantry to the house of God every day, especially on Sundays, to give thanks, honor, and worship him accordingly. The Psalmist sings with joy, "let us go rejoicing to the house of God." (Psalm 122:1).

Moving on our pilgrimage to the promised land, we assemble to cheerfully usher in a new liturgical season in the Church's calendar. The new liturgical season begins on the first Sunday of Advent every year, which falls on the last Sunday of November this year. In each liturgical year, the Church presents us with a different synoptic Gospel to guide and illuminate the paths of our unpredictable journey. Here is the synopsis of the season's Gospel readings: cycle/year A dwells on St. Matthew's gospel. The Gospel of Mark dominates cycle/year B. And cycle C focuses on the gospel of St. Luke, while St John's Gospel is sandwiched between the Christmas and Easter seasons of the three cycles.

The advent season calls us for renewal and commitment to the things of God and our faith in the new year. Advent's liturgical readings are inundated with the themes of waiting, watching, and preparing for the imminent coming of the Lord. It graciously gives us a significant signal to avoid being caught in deep slumber at the Messiah's coming. Advent is essential in our lives because it calls us to prepare adequately for the coming of the Messiah by seeking out the hidden desert, unhealthy areas, and dry places in our spiritual lives. It calls us to work on scorched areas that need manuring to reinvigorate them before the coming of Jesus Christ – both in celebration on Christmas and at the end of all time. Again, it is a time to put on new spiritual armor, renew our spiritual strategy for the best and wear commitment to Godly things as garments.

As we begin our journey toward Christmas, the Church beckons on us to take time to genuinely prepare for Jesus' nativity. And be careful not to pay too much attention to the flashy decorations, the media advertisements, the buying and selling that threaten to rob us of this waiting time and rush us into a moment that is not yet here. Advent should be a time of silence and reflection, waiting and watching, surrendering to and trusting in the lord, spiritual preparation, and housecleaning. It should be four weeks of preparing new tactics which will enable us to survive the uncertain tsunami in the faith journey

Among the conspicuous things, in this season around the altar is the Advent wreath containing the four candles signifying the weeks of Advent. The Advent wreath is blessed on the first Sunday of Advent. The flickering advent candles burn through the enveloping darkness of early December evenings to remind us of the four weeks of Advent, that darkness will never overcome us. The significant light (Jesus Christ) is coming; Christ the light is on the way, but we must be patient and make adequate preparations for his arrival. His visit to our hearts is crucial that we need to engage in proper house-cleaning, push for peace and flee from unwanted behaviors. In the words of Pope Francis, "Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will not only visit us all on Christmas but also, will visit each of us in our own heart. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him! Do not forget: The Lord comes, and if you feel a longing to improve, to be better, it is the Lord knocking at your door. This Christmas, the Lord is coming." Since the Lord is coming, it becomes incumbent on God's children to wait patiently through prayer and silence, growing more in faith, being more ready to welcome the Messiah.

Continued on page 7,

This week at SPB and Upcoming Parish/Archdiocesan Events

Sunday, 11/27/2022

8:00am Mass:+John Glenn (Josh & Mary Pattyn)
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

Monday, 11/28/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass:+John Stanchfield (Becky Wooten)

Tuesday, 11/29/2022

6:30pm Mass: +Fr. Schaffers (Dale & Kim McGriff)
7:00pm: RCIA/Hall

Wednesday, 11/30/2022 St Andrew Apostle

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass: All Souls (Alexander Family)

Thursday, 12/01/2022

9:00am Mass: +Tom Duff (Al & Jackie Davis)

10:00am-10:00pm:

Eucharistic Adoration



Friday, 12/02/2022

7:40am: Morning Prayer/Church
8:00am Mass:+Lorianne Marie Geschwill
(Becky Wooten)

Saturday, 12/03/2022 St Francis Xavier Priest

4:00-5:00pm: Reconciliation/Church
5:30pm Mass:+Charlene Miller
(Don and Loretta Payne)

Sunday, 12/04/2022

8:00am: +Rita Duffy (Josh and Mary Pattyn)
10:30am Mass: All Parishioners

December 3rd & 4th :Time Talent and Treasure

December 10th: Advent Retreat in the Parish Hall with Sr. Loretta Schaff

December 11th: Helping Hands gift cards due back.

St Phillip Benizi Advent Retreat

“Holy Longing: The Intimate Nearness of God”

Saturday, December 10th 2022

8 AM Mass, retreat 9–3 PM.

Light breakfast and lunch served.

Opportunity for Reconciliation following.

Retreat Leader: Sister Loretta Schaff, OSF.

Free Will Offering

Register w SPB Office or Heather Hannam

hahannam@juno.com

HELPING HANDS GIVING TREE – \$25 GIFT CARDS.

We are asking for **\$25 gift cards** from either **Amazon, Fred Meyer** or **Target**. If you normally buy gifts for more than one child or an entire family and can provide more than one gift card, do not purchase \$50 or greater amount gift cards, but rather purchase multiple individual **\$25 gift cards**. They can be purchased online or you can submit money donations to Helping Hands in the collection basket or with your ParishSoft ConnectNow online giving.

Please take a tag off the Giving Tree for donating a \$25 gift card, turkey, or ham. Return \$25 gift cards to the labeled box under the tree near the side door or drop off at the office. **DEADLINE to return items is Sunday, December 11th**. Thank you for providing gifts to local children in need! **Helping Hands Food Closet** needs food and personal hygiene donations for Christmas baskets for 40 families. Items needed include canned fruit, applesauce, chicken broth, chili, flour, sugar, stuffing mix, laundry soap, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap and toothpaste. You can drop off food donations near the door of the church or bring to the office. Thank you for your generosity

*Thank you for your donations!
Your support is very much appreciated.*

Finance Corner

Registered Household 222	WEEK OF 11/20/2022 Actual	Budget
Donors 64	\$3889 (online: \$1235)	\$5156
Fiscal Year	\$94,720	\$94,634

Next Weeks Assignments

Ushers

Lector/Commentator

12/03~5:30pm: Volunteer Needed

Heather Hannam

12/04~8:00am: Jim Charriere

Kristine Bible

12/04~10:30am: Kevin Horace

Nancy Carnahan

December Church Cleaners: Thuc & Gail Alexander (503-740-8312)

December Altar Linens: Debbie Fassel (503-515-7567)

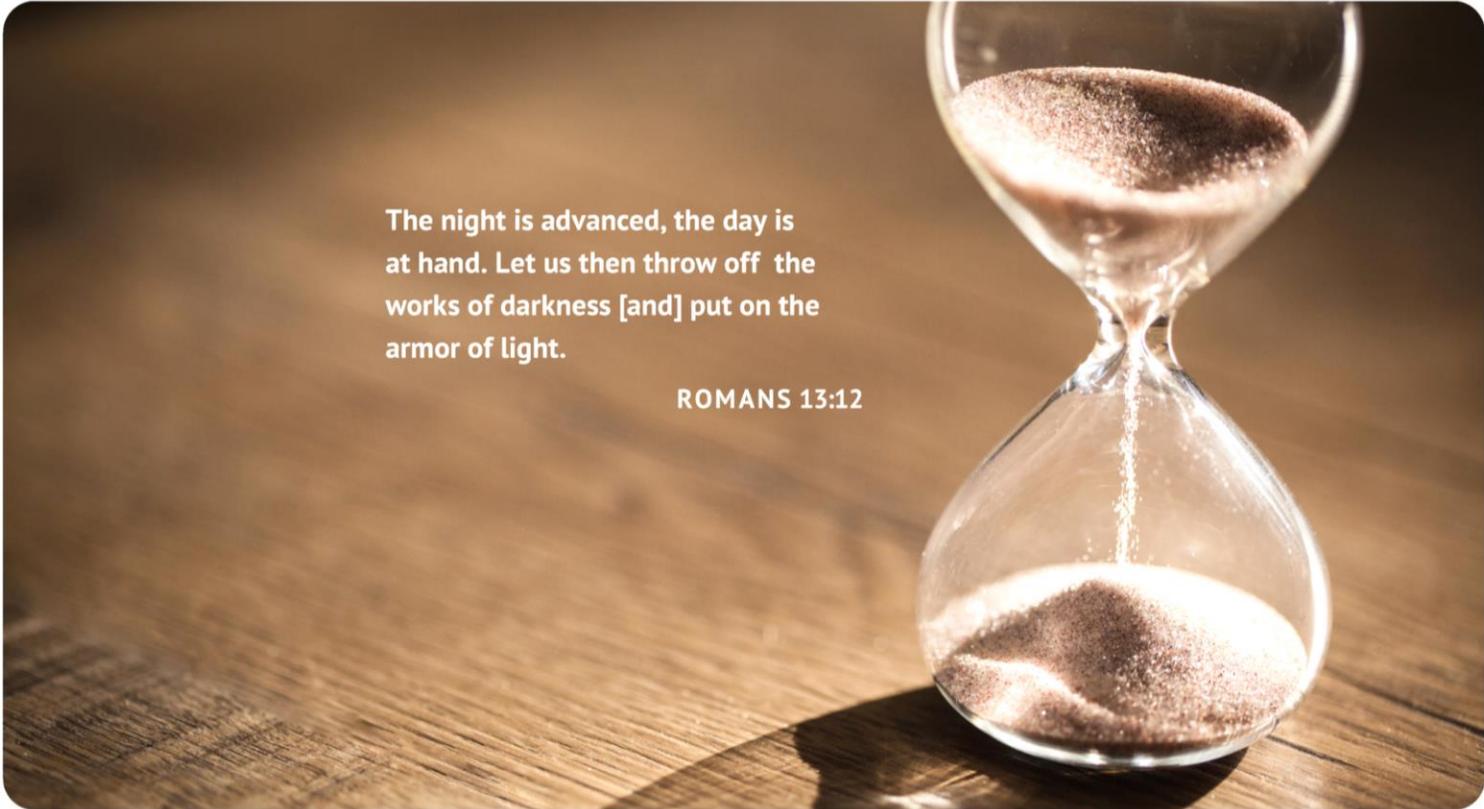


12/4

9:00: Volunteer Needed

11:30: Thuc and Gail Alexander





The night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:12

The Waiting Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If Advent is a time of waiting, then our entire lives must be an Advent, for we spend so much of our lives waiting—at one point for Santa to come with his sack of surprises, at other times for the dizzying lure of summertime. Later we eagerly wait to get our driver's license and then to move out on our own for our first real job and then the independence it promises. We wait for love to find us and, for some, for love to return. Some wait for children, others for the empty nest, and others for retirement.

Our mothers told us not to wish our lives away, and yet we did, and still we do, waiting for life to be more than what it seems to be. Then one day we look

back and wish we could have again all that once was. So maybe Advent is not about waiting for God to make a splash in our lives. Maybe Advent is about God waiting for us to come around and recognize God is with us here and now.

The question for each of us, then, is what are we waiting for at this point in our lives? There is no right answer, only the one each of us has for ourselves.

Reflect

Has there ever been a time when you didn't recognize that God was with you?

Whatever it is, there is no doubt that there is love or joy or peace or meaning at the heart of it, all camouflaged by whatever we say we are waiting for. Beneath it all is the hunger for God-with-us. ●



Fr. Joseph Juknialis, a retired priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, is the new author of reflections for Liguori Publications' *Our Parish Community* bulletins. Fr. Joe has served in ministry as a parish priest and a teacher of homiletics at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee. Retirement has given him time for hiking, canoeing, writing, poetry, gin rummy, the Green Bay Packers, and pursuing his appreciation of nature. In noting the most amazing aspect of his life, Fr. Joe says, "God has always brought me to the place I should be."

Dear Padre,

Should adopted children know who their biological parents are?

Arguments can be made in favor of and against adopted children knowing their biological origins. It appears more and more that adoption agencies encourage knowledge of biological parents over closed adoptions, where this information is not known by the child or the adopting parents. There are many issues here that are packed emotionally, such as why a person was placed for adoption, fear by adopting parents that this new information could compromise their relationship with their child, perhaps fear on the part of biological parents that they will be asked to be involved in a relationship against their wishes.

An argument to be made in favor of disclosure about one's biological parents has to do with one's health. Today we realize that challenges to our health come not just from bacteria and viruses that invade our system from outside ourselves, but also from within, that is, from genetic predispositions to heart disease, diabetes, and other disorders that could compromise our well-being. This information becomes more critical when persons are of an age to marry and to bear their own children. They might want to know as much information as possible to act responsibly in bearing and raising children. ●



From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
November 28 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 4:2-6 Mt 8:5-11	November 29 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	November 30 <i>St. Andrew, Apostle</i> Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22	December 1 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	December 2 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31	December 3 <i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i> Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	December 4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Today it is our task to keep watch: to overcome the temptation of thinking that life means accumulating....It is up to us to unmask the deception that we are happy when we have many things...and to believe that prayer and charity...are the greatest of treasures.

HOMILY, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
DECEMBER 1, 2019

On the twofold coming of Christ

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future. At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.* At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent.*

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple:* that is one coming.

Again, he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.*

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.* Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

(From a catechetical instruction by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop)

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

“Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!” – Pope Francis

St. Philip Benizi Mission Statement

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church being part of the universal church shares in its mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ who came to the world to fulfill His father's will; by proclaiming the kingdom of God, building up the parish community as a witness to God's love and care for the world, helping one another to become what God has called us to be. We are therefore encouraged to work toward God's purpose of “wanting all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4).

Mary - "ever-virgin"

499 The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ's birth "did not diminish his mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it."—and so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as *Aeiparthenos*, the "Ever-virgin".

500 Against this doctrine the objection is sometimes raised that the Bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact, James and Joseph, "brothers of Jesus", are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls "the other Mary". They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression.

501 Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: "The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formation she co-operates with a mother's love."

Continued from Page 2,

Turning to today's liturgy of the word, the first reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah will be our guide for the next four weeks) speaks of the spiritual journey as an ascent to the Lord's Mountain. Isaiah beckons on us to climb to the house of the God of Jacob, to receive God's instruction on how to walk his ways and follow his path. Of course, this spiritual journey to climb the mountain requires adequate preparations. I made sufficient preparations some years back when I had the opportunity to climb Mount Sinai in Egypt. Mount Sinai is about 7,497 feet high, and it takes about 2 – 3 hours to climb. It wasn't an easy adventure despite my preparations, but I was fulfilled when I finally made it to the top, where Moses received the ten commandments from God. Therefore, for all of us that are called to climb the Lord's Mountain, we must prepare adequately, stay awake, and remain focused to get to the top. Isaiah also pointed out that the kingdom of God is not about war, violence, or hatred but a way of faith, love, hope, and peacemaking. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." The theme of universal peace and salvation sounds loud and clear in this prophecy of Isaiah.

The gospel and the second reading deal with the Lord's second coming, which the early Christians believed was imminent. Both readings convey a sense of urgency and summarize the message of Advent through phrases such as, 'Wake up,' 'Stay awake,' 'Stand ready.' Paul urges us to flee from darkness, put on the armor of light, and push hard to conduct ourselves in the way synonymous with followers of Christ. Paul specifically mentioned that lives lived in orgies, drunkenness, lust, promiscuity, rivalry, and jealousy are potent obstacles that wage war in our progress to a good Christian life. Therefore, the time to stop sleeping and get things done correctly is now.

Dear friends, our merciful and loving God has given us a new liturgical year; the old one has gone. Time is passing, so we need to focus on the necessary things and avoid distractions. Remember that life is short; the Psalmist rightly says: "Our life is over like a sign...make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of the heart." (Psalm 90). Indeed, we need to get on with our life-saving work. We must seize the day and do our best because we shall pass through this world only once. So, any good that we can do to any human being, let us do it now; let us not defer it or neglect it; for Christ, the Lord, the Messiah, is on the way. Let us make the best out of this season. May this season be a good moment to get new things going and commit sincerely to following the Messiah. Have a blessed Advent, and always know that God loves you. Remember, the closer we are to God, the better for us.

Blessings

Your servant in Christ

Fr. Paschal Ezurike.



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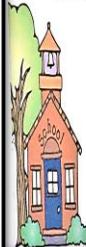


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