

ST. JOSEPH & ST. AGATHA

UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



1st SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon, Feb 22	Tues, Feb 23	Wed, Feb 24	Thurs, Feb 25	Fri, Feb 26	Sat, Feb 27	Sun, Feb 28
6:30pm Anniversary Mtg. St. Agatha events in brown St. Joseph events in black	8am Quilting 8:15am MASS 9am Quilting 6:30pm School Board	AGIE Crew	8:15am MASS	4-6:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Stations of the Cross	5pm MASS by Reservation	8am MASS by Reservation 9:15am PSR 10am MASS by Reservation

- TOGETHER IN FAITH -

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00pm St. Joseph
Sunday, 8:00am St. Joseph
Sunday, 10:00am St. Agatha

Weekday Masses

Tues & Thurs 8:15am St. Joseph
Wed & Fri 8:15am St. Agatha

Reconciliation

Call either church office for an appointment.

Parish Staff

Rev. Von Deeke, Pastor
vondeeke@hotmail.com

Deacon Corby Valentine,
Permanent Deacon
deaconcorby@stjosephfreeburg.org
618-795-3737

St. Joseph Office Staff

Mrs. Laura Wolf, Parish Secretary
parish@stjosephfreeburg.org

Mr. Brad Niebruegge, Maintenance
618-539-0129
brad.niebruegge901@gmail.com

Mrs. Jean Reinneck, Music Director

Mrs. Carol Schlitt, Choir Director

Mrs. Kelly Schaaf, Principal
principal@stjosephschoolfreeburg.org

Mrs. Katie Waeltz, School Secretary
office@stjosephschoolfreeburg.org

St. Agatha Office Staff

Mrs. Carol Mayfield, Bookkeeper
cmayfield@stagathaparish.com

Mrs. Melissa Gummersheimer, Music Director

Pastor's Residence

9 N. Alton Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

From Fr Von's Desk

It was good to be able to preside at all of the Masses last weekend. Thanks to Deacon Corby Valentine and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who made this possible. I plan to celebrate the partnership Masses in the future. It will be some weeks yet, though, before we start weekday Masses at Saint Agatha Parish, for I will not be able to drive for some time.

I saw my surgeon last week Thursday, 11 February. He said that I am doing well. He adjusted my knee brace so that I can now bend my knee through 30 degrees of angle. He gave me an order to start therapy in Freeburg. I hope to begin this week.

With Ash Wednesday last week, we have now begun the Lenten Season. It is a time for us to ask the Lord Jesus to help us to renew our Baptismal promises at Easter. It is time to ask our Lord to forgive our sins, so that we may live even now in closer union with him. It is a time for us to fast, pray, and reach out to others with love and charity. It is a time for us to ask Jesus to help us carry the crosses he allows in our lives, that we might imitate him.

To help in our Lenten journey, we have the Little Black Books from the Diocese of Saginaw. We also have, in them, bookmarks reminding us of the Formed video website, available to members of both of our parishes. We have also had available the Matthew Kelley *Best Lent Ever* journals, for those who are following his Lenten video reflections online. These are opportunities for greater prayer and reflection this Lent. We also have the rice bowls available, one opportunity to help others in need with what we have saved from giving up things we do not really need.

May this Lent be a blessed time for all of us, as we draw closer to Jesus, so that he might lead us, through life, death, and resurrection, to eternal life with him and with each other.

—Fr. Von Deeke

Our Locations

St. Joseph Church

P.O. Box 98
6 N. Alton Street
Freeburg, Illinois 62243
p: 618-539-3209
f: 618-539-4772
w: stjosephfreeburg.org

Office Hours

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

St. Agatha Parish

205 S. Market Street
New Athens, Illinois 62264
p: 618-475-2331
p: 618-475-3579 (Parish Hall)
f: 618-475-3177
w: stagathaparish.com

Office Hours

Monday 9:00am-2:00pm

Wednesday & Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

- THIS WEEK -

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48



Sunday Readings

First Reading:

I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed
by the waters of a flood;
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth. (Gn 9:11)

Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those
who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

Christ suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)

Gospel:

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for 40 days,
tempted by Satan. (Mk 1:12-13)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

TUES., Feb 23 8:15am—St. Joseph	Lenten Weekday Jim Wolf, Pat Mueth
THUR., Feb 25 8:15am—St. Joseph	Lenten Weekday Kathy McGuire Hoffman, Marcello McGuire
SAT., Feb 27 5:00pm—St. Joseph	Second Sunday of Lent Frances Rendleman, Richard Reyling, Butch & Peggy Wolf
SUN., Feb 28 8:00am—St. Joseph 10:00am—St. Agatha	Second Sunday of Lent The People of St. Joseph and St. Agatha Paul Schaefer and Mary Jean Nolte

	Feb 27, 5pm Mass Second Sunday of Lent	Feb 28, 8am Mass Second Sunday of Lent	Feb 28, 10am Mass Second Sunday of Lent
GREETERS/USHERS	Debbie Castillo Melissa Reinhart Tim Reinhart Katie Welsch 1 Needed	Dawn Dossett Elizabeth Hurley Rhonda Price Torrey Welsch Paul Wolf	Loretta Kramer Barb Wilson
USHERS	None Needed	None Needed	Denise Fietsam Jill Mulholland
SANITIZERS	Lori Kreher 2 Needed	Jann Taylor 2 Needed	Julie Nuernberger 1 Needed
Rosary Leader			John Schweiger
Lector	Jessica Tribout	Justin Reinneck	Bryan Shane Rausch
Cantor	Laura Wolf	Laura Wolf	Jean Geppert
Organist	Elaina Reinhart	Jean Reinneck	Melissa Gummersheimer

-FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT-

Vocation Corner

“Life is about saying “yes” to the things that help you to grow in holiness and “no” to the things that don’t. Life is about searching for the best version of yourself. Today’s culture doesn’t have a vision for the human person. The goal of today’s culture is consumption as we no longer are the consumers---we are being consumed. It is time for us to start thinking about where our lives are leading and to where God is calling us. The ways of the world lead to confusion. God’s way leads to clarity, order and to a meaningful living with joy. Life is a choice we all have to make. So, fulfill God’s vision for you and answer his call with a “yes”.”

The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. Pg. 79-81.



Althoff Catholic High School

Althoff Catholic High School is proud to host its sixth Annual Gala, “Catch the Crusader Spirit,” virtually on March 19-27, 2021. Revenue from the Gala helps support the school’s mission of educating young people, in the Catholic tradition, to lead successful, faith-filled lives.

Althoff is appealing to your generosity so that a special auction item can be purchased in the name of St. Joseph parish. Please consider a donation for this worthy cause. Checks can be made payable to Althoff Catholic High School and sent directly to:

Althoff Catholic High School
Attention: Sheila Daniels, Special Events Coordinator.
5401 West Main Street
Belleville, IL 62226

Donations must be received no later than March 1, 2021. Each donor will receive an acknowledgement letter from Althoff Catholic for their tax records.

Your support is a wonderful way to show the community that you believe in Althoff Catholic and are committed to insuring Catholic secondary education is available at Althoff Catholic for years to come.

Learn, Act, Connect & Pray

We too are tempted, yet we too have worth and purpose. We are called by Our Father to a vocation that He has in mind for us. Whether it being praying for the unborn, helping a mother in need, or welcoming an immigrant to our community, these small acts make a big difference in building up the Kingdom of God. During these 40 days of Lent, may we pray for God’s grace to move in our lives as He shows us new opportunities to grow in faith as we firmly say “yes” to all God has in store for us. Lent has just begun. Let’s work to emerge stronger than ever in our faith pray “Lord, help us follow you into new life this Lent.”

Respect Life Corner

“**The Spirit drove Jesus out of the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.**” In Mark’s Gospel, 1:12-15, Each year, the First Sunday of Lent we are immediately taken to the scene of Jesus’s temptation in the desert by Satan. The forty-day time period signifies a time of preparation and orientation that allows Jesus (and us) to see the world in a new way. Like Noah’s forty days on the boat in in the First Reading from Genesis, it is a rebuilding of our commitment to God and allowing His vision for our lives. After the temptation, Jesus emerges with full authority, stronger, as He proclaims that “the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.”

40 Days for Life

St. Joseph and St. Agatha have signed up to be present and pray for an end to abortion, specifically at Planned Parenthood in Fairview Heights on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**. Our parish is proud to do their part helping complete the *40 days for life campaign*. We need 12 people! Each person will cover a **2-hour shift** starting at 7:00am – 7:00 pm. Grab a buddy!!! Doing good works together will be great fun! This will be Rain or Shine... whatever the weather...we will be there for GOD! Evil doesn’t get a rain out – neither do we!
Please call or text Shelley Wolf 618-791-2269 for questions or to volunteer for a shift!



First Sunday of Lent

It’s Okay to Be Tempted. True. But it is not okay to give in. Just as Jesus spent his forty days in the desert protected by the Spirit, let us have the same trust that God guides us on this Lenten retreat to right Kingdom thinking, speaking, and behaving. Let us sing with the Psalmist that God’s ways are love and truth, guiding the humble to justice.

- Since the Kingdom of God is at hand, how will I repent?
- What must I stop saying and doing to embrace more fully this Kingdom?
- How can I work for justice?

Bible Study

In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating the Feast of Passover, or as it is known to Christians, “The Last Supper” and it is a Passover meal. Why is the subject of another lesson. Today, read Lk 22: 24-28. This passage describes the dispute between the apostles as to who was the greatest among them. It concludes with Jesus telling them assignment will be sitting on thrones to judge the 12 tribes of Israel. There is a similar story but a parable in Lk 14:7-11 about how often invitees sought out the seats of honor only to be replaced by a more eminent guest. In both stories, the message is that we are to seek the lowest seat or be the servant to others. Doing so reaps greater prominence. Humility is the key, but why is this seeking the best seat even an issue? Well, there is a traditional Jewish “community rule” (1QS 2:14ff) that requires that at all sacred meals (Feasts etc.) seating is to be by rank. Both these meals qualify as a sacred meal so all must be so seated. That is the thinking behind the stories. Christ changes things so that the least will be held in the highest esteem by the Lord. May God bless, open your eyes and heart, and keep you safe.

COALITION FOR LIFE
ENDING ABORTION BY RE-LEASING

SPRING 2021
40 DAYS FOR LIFE
FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 28, 2021
VIGIL HOURS EVERY DAY
7:00am - 7:00pm

PRAYER & FASTING | PEACEFUL VIGIL | COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We will join the ranks of one million volunteers in **816 cities** across **61 nations** for this peaceful, life-saving campaign. With God's help, **40 Days for Life** has witnessed **16,742 babies saved** from abortion, **196 abortion worker conversions**, and **104 closed abortion centers**.

St. Joseph

OUR DATE: **March 6, 2021** OUR TIME: **7am-7pm**

PRAYER VIGIL LOCATION:
Planned Parenthood Fairview Heights
317 Salom Pl, Fairview Heights, IL 62208

CONTACT: Shelley Wolf PHONE: 618-791-2269 EMAIL: papermoonshelley@yahoo.com

CoalitionforLifeSTL.com

Pray for ...

Jean Price	Dave Tarvin
Donna Tebeau	Rose Hinrichs
Lois Parent	Michele McClure
Paul Feurer	Dorothy Hentzel
Sharon Patterson	Jenilyn Marsh
Margaret Heil	Don Hinrichs
Dave Gorman	Family of Dave Luebbers
Beverly Hughes	
Fr Von Deeke	

Please contact either Parish Office to add or remove someone from the prayer list. Each prayer request will be honored for approximately six weeks, but can be added again.

Healing after Abortion
Free confidential counseling from Project Rachel of the Diocese of Belleville
CONFIDENTIAL HELP LINE: 618-722-5068
DIOBELLE.ORG/RESPECTLIFE
PROJECTRACHEL@DIOBELLE.ORG
HOPEAFTERABORTION.ORG

Stewardship Gardens by Gene Racho

As this is being written the snow is snowing and the wind is blowing. If you are interested you can look up the rest of the song. In the depths of the cold; days of below zero it is time to start thinking and planning for this year's garden. This is the time new ideas are presented, talked over and a decision made as to which ones will be tested and how the results will be evaluated. That's what the Stewardship Garden is all about. Producing good fruit for our Lord and distributing it to those in need. Since Christ is in all, the food is being given back to Him. His garden, He provides all, His workers till, sow, maintain and harvest. He provides the sun, moisture and workers deliver it back to Him. Seeds prospered through His blessings. The cycle is scriptural. Look it up. God has given you the time. Here is another important thought. Last year was, and this year promises to be, a challenge. Lots of folks praying for the end of the "pandemic" and a return to normal. Is that the right thing to do? Working in God's garden teaches us to look at challenges and seek long term, correct solutions. Solutions that won't be harmful to the land, the crops, and the people that consume the food. Will a simple end to the pandemic be the correct solution? Why would God allow such a thing to happen? The Bible tells us bad things happened to God's people for a reason. They usually powered through it and went on living as they had before. Sounds familiar. "We'll get through this so we can get back to normal". Some say a new normal but that has political implications that need not be dwelled upon. "God, end the pandemic so we can get back to what we were doing before." What were we doing before? Finding ways to entertain ourselves and push Him totally out of our lives? Doing things that He told us not to do: finding false gods to worship, destroying people's lives, terminating lives, especially those not yet seeing the light of day? The list goes on. Might we pray that we, those who call themselves His people, and even those who have been deceived or brought up not knowing Him, humbly acknowledge our sinfulness/evil ways, repent and have a sincere change of heart then ask that He return and guide our lives according to His perfect plan? Want to know the outcome of either path? The Bible gives us both endings. It's our choice what to do. Recall what we have been taught: Put GOD first; be Catholic. Reflect the light of our Lord to all those you encounter. We pray God bless you and prosper all you do in His name.

Gibault Catholic

Host Families Needed



Gibault Catholic High School is seeking families with big hearts who are willing to share their homes with an international student for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact Desiree Frasure at dfrasure.educatius@gmail.com or Becky Ramlose at bramlose@gibaulthawks.com or call us at 936-3883 to learn more about this exciting opportunity. Gibault families can receive \$1,000 off of tuition for becoming a host family.

You're Invited to Visit Gibault!

We invite you to learn more about life as a Hawk! Shadow Visits are a great way for 7th - 8th graders and students from other high schools to spend a day on our campus. Attend classes, eat lunch in our cafeteria, enjoy off mods, and meet teachers and coaches, all alongside a Student Ambassador!

We also offer Private Tours for the entire family. Tours allow the whole family to see our campus and ask our Director of Enrollment any questions you may have.

To schedule a Shadow Visit or Private Tour, contact our Director of Enrollment, Kelly Day, at kday@gibaulthawks.com or 939-3883.

Applications

Applications for our Class of 2025 and transfer students are still being accepted. Visit <https://gibaulthawks.com/apply/>.

How to get your Vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine is becoming available for those that qualify. If you are interested in signing up for the vaccine and unsure how to do so, here are some ways to begin the process:

1 Let your county health department or hospital know you want to set up a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. **For St. Clair County**, County residents can fill out the COVID-19 Notification for Vaccine Availability form online at <https://www.co.st-clair.il.us/departments/health-department/covid-19-information/vaccine-notification> to be added to the vaccine waitlist. If you don't have internet access or need help signing up, call the health department at 618-825-4447. **For Monroe County**, County residents can sign up for the phone and email alert system CodeRED. Notifications will include the date and time of the county's vaccination clinics, as well as which residents are eligible to seek appointments. **For Randolph County**, County residents can call the health department at 618-826-5007 to be added to the vaccine waitlist.

2. Two local Walgreens locations are setting up appointments for vaccinations: 6505 N. Illinois St. in Fairview Heights and 102 W. Vandalia St. in Edwardsville, according to the state's vaccine locator at coronavirus.illinois.gov. Anyone in the metro-east who is eligible to receive the vaccine can set up a vaccination appointment with Walgreens online at walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19. You'll have to make an online account. The pharmacy isn't setting up appointments over the phone.

Confirmation Posters

Our next four students to be featured are below. Please remember these students in your prayers as they prepare for this amazing gift from God, the Sacrament of Confirmation!

St. Joseph Church: **Jaxon Daubach and Jacob Kennedy**
St. Agatha Church: **Alex Fritz and Haley Rau**

Enrich Your Lenten Journey

There are several Lenten programs that you may want to explore as we journey towards Easter this year.

Dr. Timothy Gray's Daily Lenten Reflection found on FORMED. The 2020 reflections are currently there, but expect new reflections for 2021 once Lent begins.

THE SEARCH, a seven-episode series hosted by Chris Stefanick, also on FORMED. Each episode is approximately 20 minutes long. Some of you may have attended Chris's program in Mascoutah a few years ago.

THE CASE FOR JESUS, launches Ash Wednesday on FORMED.

FORGIVEN, a four-part series on Confession, found on FORMED.

To use any of the programs on FORMED, just go to formed.org. If you already have an account with them, sign in with your email and they will send you a link to access their programs. If not, click on "Sign Up", and then click "Sign up as a parishioner". Type in "62243", and click on St. Joseph, 6 N Alton Street Freeburg IL. That will take to a link to enter your information to start a new account with your name and email. St. Agatha parishioners are welcome and encouraged to use FORMED with the above instructions.

BEST LENT EVER through DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, which is based this year on Matthew Kelly's book I HEARD GOD LAUGH. A limited number of the Lenten Journals to accompany this program were placed in the church through the Dynamic Catholic book ministry. Sign up through Dynamic Catholic's website, dynamiccatholic.com.

Reconciliation

If you are interested in reconciliation please call either church office to make an appointment with Fr. Von.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is Ash Wednesday and our students still haven't made it into school this week. The weather had different plans this week for our students and they have been at home doing remote learning. Our teachers have been working hard from home to provide our students with work each day to complete. A remote day allows us to continue to have school without using snow days.

On Tuesday, Mr. Middendorff assigned our middle school students to write down their Lenten goal. Students were asked to look at three areas to focus their goal on: prayer, service, or sacrifice. Have you decided on your Lenten goal for this season of Lent? Over these next 40 days I plan on working on all three areas and to grow closer to God.

I ask for our parishioners of St. Agatha and St. Joseph to pray for our students this Lenten season. May God bless you this Lenten season as we continue to pray for you!

Kelly Schaaf
School Principal

School Bus Driver

St. Joseph School is in desperate need of finding a qualified bus driver. To be considered a qualified candidate at a minimum you must hold a CDL license with a passenger endorsement.

This would be a daily route from St. Agatha parish parking lot to St. Joseph parish parking lot in the morning. The bus would need to be at the St. Agatha parish parking lot no later than 7:25am and leave St. Agatha no later than 7:35am. In the afternoon students would be picked up at the St. Joseph parish parking lot at 3:20 and return to the St. Agatha parish parking lot and then return the bus to St. Joseph. Time commitment per day is approximately two hours and pays \$30/day. Please contact the school office at 539-3930 or email Mrs. Schaaf at principal@stjosephschoolfreeburg.org



151st Anniversary Celebration

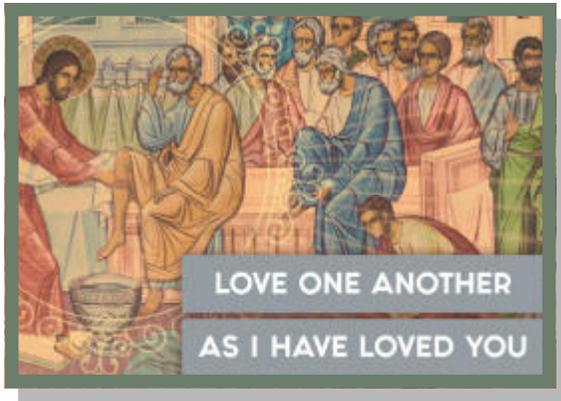
To finalize the booklet for our 151st anniversary celebration, we are looking for a few recent photos of parish or school activities.... from the past several years. Please email any you wish to share to charbold4@gmail.com.

Cemetery

Christmas decorations will be removed from the cemetery on March 2nd. If you want to keep any of the decorations please do so by March 1st.

Food Collection

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting non-perishable food items during the Lenten season. You can drop off before and after mass until noon; at the Parish Center.



Committee Member Needed

We are looking for a St. Agatha parishioners that may be interested in serving on the Social Ministry and Community Life Committee. Tasks include but are not limited to wellness checks on parishioners, sending sympathy cards, etc. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Lisa

Hager at lisahager.od@gmail.com or 618.830.3334.

St. Agatha, Feb 14, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$890.00
Loose Collection	\$20.00
Online Giving	\$1,840.00
Total (Feb. Goal is \$3400.00)	\$9,161.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Cemetery Donation/Memorial	\$.00
Paver	\$150.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information	
Collections required to date	\$110,550.00
Total Collections to date	\$114,585.00



Fish Frys

St. Joseph will be having Fish Frys every Friday starting this Friday and running through March 26th. We will be serving 4-6:30pm. You can place your order by calling 539-4720 or come in to order. Your food will be delivered to your car when it is ready. We are always in need of workers please call the church office if you would like to volunteer.

Lenten Black Books

Please be sure to pick up your little black book for Lent. They will be in the back of church and in the Parish Center entry.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be presented on Fridays at 6:30pm during Lent. They will be held at St. Joseph this Friday, February 26.

Rice Bowls

Rice Bowls can be found in the back of church or in the Parish Center entry. Please take one and home and fill during Lent. They will be returned after Easter. Thank you!

St. Joseph, Week of Feb 14, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$1,997.00
Loose Collection	\$5.35
Online Giving	\$8,783.00
Total for (Feb. Goal is \$26,400.00)	\$14,534.35
Debt Reduction	\$840.00
Adopted Parish	\$90.00
Cemetery	\$20.00
Education Endowment	\$325.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$125.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information	
Collections required to date:	\$251,036.00
Total Collections to date:	\$240,843.15
Principal Balance - Parish Center Loan	\$219,347.00

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 freeburgautobody@gmail.com

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