



# SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 19, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## WELCOME!


### VISIT OR CONTACT US

6047 Bishops Place  
Saint Louis, MO 63109  
314.352.8100 | 314.353.6603 (Fax)  
straphaelarchangel.org

Mon.-Thu. | 7:30am-4:00pm  
Fri. | 7:30am-12:00pm

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### SCHOOL INFORMATION

6000 Jamieson Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63109  
314.352.9474 | 314.351.7477 (Fax)  
Mon.-Fri. | 7:00am-3:00pm

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday | 7:00am, 4:30pm  
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

### WEEK DAY MASS

Mon. - Fri. | 7:00am  
Mon. - Fri. | 8:00am

### CONFESSION

Tues., Thu., Sat. | 15 minutes before  
7:00am Mass  
Saturday | 3:45pm-4:20pm  
Other | By Appointment

### CHURCH OPEN FOR

### PRIVATE PRAYER

Mon.-Fri. | 8:00am-2:30pm  
Saturday | 8:00am-4:30pm  
Sunday | 9:00am-10:00am

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

### PARISH CLERGY

Fr. John Mayo, Pastor  
frjohn@straphaelarchangel.org

Msgr. Dennis Stehly, VG,  
Priest-In-Residence  
dennisstehly@archstl.org

Gerald J. Geiser, Deacon (Retired)

### LAY LEADERSHIP

Dan Meshoto, Parish Council  
314.452.1017

Lucy Adams, School Board  
314.401.8485

Joseph Cyr, Finance Council  
314.335.7322

Casey Kleekamp, HSA President  
caseykleekamp@yahoo.com

### PARISH STAFF

Ray and Mary Anne Braun, Music  
Ministers  
braun@straphaelarchangel.org

Diane Halbert, Parish Office  
Manager  
halbert@straphaelarchangel.org

Mickey Janos, Admn. Assistant  
janos@straphaelarchangel.org

Pam Hager, Parish Support Staff  
hager@straphaelarchangel.org

Robert Schlueter, Maintenance

Julie Hayes, School Principal  
hayes@straphaelarchangel.org

Kathy Shaver, School Secretary  
secretary@straphaelarchangel.org

Qi Franz, Cafeteria Manager  
franz@straphaelarchangel.org

DECEMBER 19, 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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### Reading I

**Mi 5:1-4a**

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

### Reading II

**Heb 10:5-10**

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Gospel

**Lk 1:39-45**

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

### A Prayer Before Holy Mass

Heavenly Father: I, your unworthy servant, come to worship You in this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By Your grace, kindly help me to listen attentively, pray devoutly, and receive worthily the Sacred Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May Your Holy Spirit open the eyes of my heart to perceive more fully the great Mystery that takes place on the sacred altar. At this Holy Mass, I wish to pray in particular for the following intentions: *(here name them)*.  
Amen.



**Sunday, December 19**

8:00am Mary Mahoney  
10:00am Julia Chrzanowski

**Monday, December 20**

7:00am Jimmy Feser

**Tuesday, December 21**

7:00am Bill and Mary Lou Schicker

**Wednesday, December 22**

7:00am Joann Ahrens

**Thursday, December 23**

7:00am Bill and Mary Lou Schicker

**Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

7:00am Ralph Raskas  
4:30pm Bill Godefroid, SI  
10:00pm Gregory S. Young

**Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

8:00am People of the Parish  
10:00am Joyce Casseau

**Sunday, December 26 - Feast of the Holy Family**

8:00am People of the Parish  
10:00am Marcia Matreci

*“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)*

When we hear the scriptures and Gospel reading at Mass, do we “leap for joy”? If not, we should not blame the lecturer or the priest; rather look inside ourselves. What are we doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do we prepare for Mass each week? Or, do we just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

**Your Contributions to God and Parish**

Dec. 12, 2021 (Envelopes Used)	This Week	Year-to-Date
<b>Regular Env. (50)</b>	\$ 4,515.00	\$ 107,702.00
<b>Loose Money</b>	\$ 1,389.00	\$ 21,902.00
<b>School Support</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 3,121.00
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 110.00	\$ 7,942.00
<b>Holy Days</b>	\$ 818.00	\$ 3,000
<b>Online Giving (48)</b>	\$ 2,467.00	\$ 65,184.00
<b>Tithing</b>	(\$ 100.00)	
<b>Christmas Flowers</b>	\$ 75.00	
<b>New Parishioner</b>	\$ 2.00	
<b>Seminary</b>	(\$ 160.00)	
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$ 9,686.00	
<b>Total for Parish</b>	\$ 9,426.00	\$ 210,347.00
<b>Amount Needed</b>	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 216,000.00
<b>Difference</b>	<u>\$ 426.00</u>	<u>(\$ 5,653.00)</u>
<b>FYE 2021</b>		(\$ 15,462.00)

**From St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there. Through our gifts to the Society, “Light” has shown, bringing real, lasting, and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

## FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

### *From Deacon Jerry*

Deacon Jerry gave me this prayer last week and asked me to share it with the parish:

If you look for Me at Christmas,  
You won't need a special star.  
I'm no longer there just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations.  
You'll have to look beyond the stories and all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting right there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with; you're the reason that I came, and you'll find Me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.  
Love, Jesus

### *Last Call Confessions*

This Monday from 6:00-8:00pm one of the parish priests will be available for confessions in the church. This will be similar to the time of confessions we had on Saturday, December 11. You can come in during this time, receive the sacrament, pray in church, and then be on your way.

Also, we will have confessions at our regular times this week on Tuesday and Thursday morning before the 7:00am Mass or you can contact the parish office to make an appointment for confession with Msgr. Stehly or me.

### *Eucharistic Adoration*

We will have Eucharistic Adoration in our chapel from 3:00-9:00pm this Wednesday. Please sign up for a slot to adore the Lord by contacting the parish office or using the Signup Genius link available through Flocknotes

### *Mass Times for Christmas and The Feast of the Holy Family*

The times for Christmas Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are as follows:

- Christmas Eve 4:30pm and 10:00pm
- Christmas Day 8:00am and 10:00am

On Christmas Day, we will not have confessions before the morning Masses as we typically do on

Saturday mornings.

The solemnity of Christmas supersedes every other celebration, including Sunday Mass. With this being the case, we cannot have a 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 25, as the Mass would count for Christmas Day, not for Sunday. The 4:30pm Mass next Saturday is thus canceled as well as confessions from 3:45-4:20pm that day as well.

The only Masses for the Sunday obligation next week on Sunday, December 26 will be at 8:00am and 10:00am.

### *Vocations*

Just a reminder to keep your eyes open for the return of the vocational chalice next month! We will be sending out a Signup Genius soon for families to take the vocational chalice home with them to pray in a particular way for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

### *Advent/Christmas Home Visits*

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, I am happy to visit any parishioner who is homebound who would like the opportunity to visit with a priest before Christmas. This is a great time to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion.

If you would like me to visit, please give me a call or send me an e-mail and I would be happy to schedule a time to come by your home for a visit and to provide these sacraments.

### *End of the Year Contributions*

If you have an end of the year contribution, we ask that you bring it to the parish office no later than December 26. This will give our parish staff sufficient time to deposit and record it for tax purposes. Thanks!

*On behalf of Msgr. Stehly and I, Deacon Geiser, and our entire staff here at St. Raphael the Archangel, we wish you and your families a blessed celebration of Christmas this year!*

I will see you online or in Church! - Fr. John  
#SRAstrong

## ST. RAPHAEL ADVENT ANGEL TREE—**LAST DAY TO DONATE!**

Our Advent Angel Tree is back this year and we will once again sponsor Peter & Paul Community Services. In addition to a meal program, P&P offers various services to those who are homeless, many of whom are living with mental illness, addiction, or long-term medical conditions. Our parish will provide gifts for residents of the Supportive Housing program that opened in 2014. Garfield Place Apartments provide clients with a permanent place to stay while also providing supportive services, including a nurse, occupational therapist, and educational classes on topics such as financial literacy and healthy eating. The “gifts” we donate will go to the current residents.



Please return your gift **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19**. **DO NOT** wrap your gift - but **DO** attach the tag to the gift so we can be sure it gets to the correct person. We are grateful for your continued generosity, allowing us to provide needed support to this organization that is working hard to improve and change lives for the better. Thank you to all who are able to participate in this Advent Season of giving to those in need.

### Advent, 2021

#### Weekly Confessions

Tuesday and Thursday 6:40-6:50am  
 Saturday 6:40-6:50am and 3:45-4:20pm

#### Special Confession Times

“Last Call” Confessions December 20, 6:00-8:00pm

#### Eucharistic Adoration:

Each Wednesday of Advent 3:00-9:00pm; reservation required

#### Schedule for Christmas

<i>Christmas Eve, December 24</i>	<i>Christmas Day, December 25*</i>
4:30pm	8:00am
10:00pm	10:00am

\* Even though this is a Saturday, there will be no confessions from 3:30-4:20pm and no 4:30pm Mass as the Mass would count for Christmas and not for the Feast of the Holy Family.

Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday, December 26) - 8:00am and 10:00am Mass

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) - Not a Holy Day of Obligation - January 1 at 7:00am

Feast of the Epiphany (January 1 and 2) - Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

# DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Friday	<i>Morning:</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Saturday	<i>Vigil:</i> Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 <i>Night:</i> Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 <i>Dawn:</i> Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 <i>Day:</i> Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

## Laudato Si' - Care of our Common Home

The recent extreme weather events and natural disasters show that humanity is now paying the price of how it has treated creation. For the sake of younger generations and their futures, "we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest, and live differently, thinking not only of immediate interest and gains but also of future benefits. We repent of our generation's sins and join together in prayer for committed action by individuals and world leaders." Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, Pope Francis, and Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, England.

## LECTORS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 24 - 26, 2021

**DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**4:30pm**                      **10:00pm**  
**Barb Cramer**                **Laura Geiser**

**DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**8:00am**                      **10:00am**  
**Suzy Ferrenbach**        **Dennis Matreci**

**DECEMBER 26, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**8:00am**                      **10:00am**  
**Suzy Ferrenbach**        **Frosty Hodes**

## Mass Intentions

The 2022 calendar for Mass Intentions is now available. Please contact the parish office to schedule Masses. Intentions are \$10 per offering.

# ALTAR SERVERS

## SERVERS FOR DEC. 20 - 26, 2021

### Monday, December 20

### Tuesday, December 21

### Wednesday, December 22

### Thursday, December 23

### Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30pm	Lucas Fuhr	Jack Delf
	Brandon Young	
10:00pm	Anna-Grace Guenther	Brendan Cierpiot
	Clara Thompson	

### Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

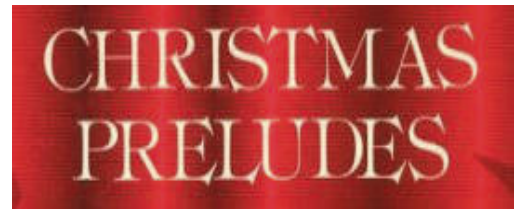
8:00am	Dalila Ramirez	Nahima Ramirez
	1 Volunteer Needed	
10:00am	Katy Pfeiffer	Addi Pfeiffer
	1 Volunteer Needed	

### Sunday, December 26

8:00am	Ava Christlieb	Henry Dirnbeck
	Charlie Dirnbeck	
10:00am	Lucas Feldman	Matthew Franz
	Mac Teeter	

## Christmas Preludes

The choir will perform a variety of Christmas carols for 20-30 minutes before the 4:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve (carols at 4:00pm) and before the 10:00am Mass on Christmas morning (carols at 9:40am).



## Christmas Presentation

The choir will present "A Christmas Journey" program before the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (presentation at 9:30pm). "A Christmas Journey" will portray, in words and song, the thoughts, hopes, and fears of those involved in the journey to Bethlehem.

## Guidelines for Christmas Masses, 2021

Our parish leadership is continuing to closely monitor all updates from the Saint Louis City Health Department and the Archdiocese of Saint Louis to make our celebration of Christmas as safe as possible this year. As of November 30, 2021, here is our plan for Christmas Masses:

### *Before You Come To Mass*

- Thoroughly wash your hands.
- Please bring a mask or face covering with you in compliance with the mask mandate of Saint Louis City.
- If you are sick, under a quarantine order, or are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and participate in Mass virtually.

### *When You Arrive at Mass*

- All pews will be open and social distancing will not be enforced. Please be aware of this, especially if you plan on coming to our 4:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve, which is normally standing room only.
- Please wear your mask as you enter the church until you leave the church building. There will not be incense at any of the Christmas Masses to facilitate safe mask wearing.

- Use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the church.
- Drop off your offertory gift in the baskets located at the Highfield and Jamieson entrances.
- Thank God for the gift of being able to attend Mass together in Church.

### *Reminders*

- Clergy will also wear masks except when proclaiming the Gospel and preaching.
- The pews are sprayed with disinfectant daily and the entire church is mopped as well.
- Twice per week, our cleaning company sprays the church with Virex, a chemical that is certified safe for hospitals and nurseries, but kills all viruses, including COVID-19.

*If you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please contact Fr. John or Msgr. Stehly. Thank you and let us continue to pray for the gift of being able to celebrate Christmas safely together this year and beyond!*

We would like to welcome the following new members to our church. We hope that you know that we are here for you. There are several committees and clubs that you might like to join where you can meet other parishioners. As a faith community, we like to help others in our area and those less fortunate than we are. We hope you will consider joining us in future activities at our church. Please join us at Mass either online or in person at church. Again, welcome to St. Raphael the Archangel Parish; we are happy to have you join us.

*welcome*

Anita Klement  
Molly Browning



## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT



In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Kathryn Lydon who passed away on Friday, December 10. Hers was a private ceremony. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.

### Prayer Network

Our prayer network continues its quiet work of praying for our parishioners who are ill, recovering from illness, and for special intentions as well. We also invite you to remember these petitions daily in your prayers. If you are interested in having an intention added to the prayer chain or to receive the list of intentions, please contact the parish office.





This Sunday is Donut Sunday! Please join your fellow parishioners for a donut after the 8:00 or 10:00am Masses. If you attend 4:30pm Mass, please return on Sunday for a donut and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you! This Donut Sunday is hosted by the Knights of Columbus.



Congratulations to the SRA Chess Teams! Their first meet was on Saturday, December 11. Results included 8 matches won and one stalemate.

### WINTER OUTREACH - A MINISTRY OF MERCY

Encouraged by our Catholic Social Teachings: *“Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,”* many parish communities are committed to St. Louis Winter Outreach as a Ministry of Mercy.

*“As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” (MT 25:31-46)*

As winter approaches, our homeless “brethren” will spend cold days and nights on the streets of St. Louis. In an effort to give them some comfort, we ask your help in providing meals to an overnight shelter during the coldest months. Drivers are also needed to deliver the meals to Americorps Shelter, 1315 Ann Street, on the following days.

DATES: SATURDAYS (1:00pm drop off)  
JANUARY 8, 2022

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

Please consider joining our Ministry of Mercy by providing one or more of the following:

9 x 13 Casserole (Meat, Vegetable, or Breakfast)

Dessert - 12 to 24 servings



Food items may be store-bought. All dishes must be brought baked, frozen, wrapped, and marked. Food is to be dropped off at Our Lady of Sorrows Parking Lot at 1:00pm. If needed, arrangements can be made to drop off or have picked up from your home ahead of time.

For more information, to share a dish, and/or be a driver, please contact Mary Ellen Mueller at 314.374.1712 or email [maryem@brick.net](mailto:maryem@brick.net).

## Holiday Update

Please note, due to the upcoming holidays, the bulletins are due to the publisher earlier than normal. Therefore, please submit any bulletin items as soon as possible.



### SAVE THE DATE!

February 13, 2022, at 2:30pm

Join Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski at the Cathedral Basilica to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony on World Marriage Day! Additional details will be provided in January.

### Our Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish of Saint Raphael the Archangel, celebrate Jesus as the center of our life. Through our active participation in the Eucharist, we strive to recognize Jesus in our daily lives and the lives of others. Our commitment is to grow as a parish family, and live this through our religious, educational, social, and civic involvements, witnessing to all, our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



### Welcome to the St. Raphael Parish Family!

If you are new to our community, we extend to you a heartfelt welcome. Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. You can also call us at 314.352.8100.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate item(s):

New Parishioner

Please Contact Me

New Phone/E-mail/Address/Phone Number

Please Do Not Publish Phone#



## NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Friday, December 31, 2021

6:30 PM - Doors Open

7:30 PM - Dinner is Served

8:30 PM - 12:30 AM - the music of:

THE SCOTT LAYTHAM

and

KARL "Trickee" HOLMES  
DUO

\$40 per person - includes dinner, favors, snacks, set-ups, champagne toast.  
BYOB

St. Matthias Parish Center, 800 Buckley Rd. (63125)

For tickets or further information call:

Sandy (314) 544-2162 after 3 pm or the Parish Office (314) 892-7500

Or email [smaevents2017@yahoo.com](mailto:smaevents2017@yahoo.com)

Tickets go on sale November 2, 2021

\*\*\* Limited Seating Available \*\*\*

\*\*\*\* Masks Are Highly Recommended \*\*\*\*



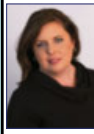
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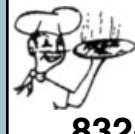
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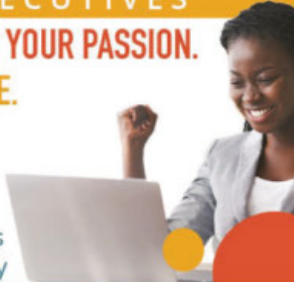


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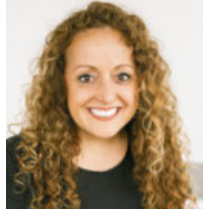
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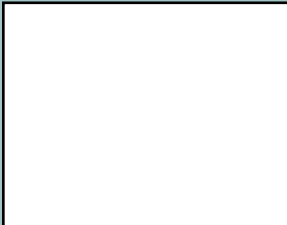
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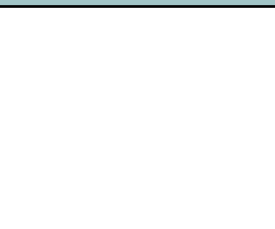
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