



**ST. LUKE AND ST. BERNARDINE  
PARISH**

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**GIVE THANKS  
TO THE  
LORD  
FOR HE IS  
GOOD**

**33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
“Well done, my good and faithful servant.” – Mt 25:21

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

**St. Bernardine Church**  
801 S. Elgin Avenue, Forest Park

**St. Luke Church**  
7600 Lake Street, River Forest



Our parish cookbook will likely get quite a workout this weekend helping many parishioners prepare for Thanksgiving! Yet while turkey stuffing and grandma's green bean casserole may be top of mind, I hope we pause to remember that the seminal reason we gather is to thank our

loving God, who continuously reaffirms his love for us individually and as a community.

Thursday, we will have a special Thanksgiving Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Luke Church. I hope many of us will begin this busy day by celebrating together as a community around the Lord's table. This is a good way to enjoy the day, and to prepare for the season of Advent that begins a few days later.

Anticipating Advent, the scriptures this weekend complete the end time readings we have been hearing for the past several weeks. St. Paul in 1 Thessalonians warns us to "stay alert." Yet he reminds that "all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness." He tells us that Jesus, through his death and resurrection, has already enabled our redemption so long as we retain the light of His word.

We will encounter the imagery of light throughout Advent. Yet it's appearance in this week's scripture readings is a wonderful mark of the faith we carry and share together within our parish and with others we meet. We know that the light of our faith is a blessing we receive from God, and as we thank Him, we pray that we will have the strength to carry His light in everything we do, in every relationship we build, and in every challenge we face.

We also carry the light when we care for others. A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) this weekend.

In other parish matters, Pilot Alpha has just completed its 10th week and will end on November 20. The leadership team that has been working to bring Alpha to this parish will then turn its attention to the Alpha that begins next year. The team is pictured on page 8, and I want to extend a special thanks for all their remarkable work.

Michelle Dal Pino, the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, is no longer working for our parish. However, all Religious Education classes, RCIC and RCIA will continue as scheduled and without interruption. Once I have details on who will lead our Religious Education program for the balance of the school year, I will share that information with all of you.

*Fr. Stan*

### Turkey Sunday Weekend is Here

Three hundred twenty five frozen turkeys have been ordered from the River Forest Jewel and tons of other food have been ordered from Caputo's. As of the publication date, canned goods, fresh produce, stuffing and more will have been picked up from local grocery stores and delivered to the River Forest Community Center, (RFCC) where they are bagged. About one fifth of the turkeys were distributed at our St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Saturday morning. The rest will be picked up for distribution at our three sites serving the North Lawndale, Austin and Little Village neighborhoods of Chicago, along with the 30 or so large frozen turkeys we hope to receive from parishioners.

This Sunday morning other volunteers will have loaded the bags of food onto large vehicles at the RFCC to be delivered to the distribution sites. 350 families will receive food for their Thanksgiving meals because of your generosity and volunteering to help. The families being served are both local at the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Saturday morning or associated with our sharing parish, St Symon of Cyrene, on Sunday afternoon.

You can still help by donating a large frozen turkey, 20 lbs. or more, before and after any Mass **this Sunday up to 12:15 p.m.** 30 large frozen turkeys are needed for the large families getting Thanksgiving meals.

You can contribute to Turkey Sunday by giving cash or writing a check to St Luke and St Bernardine Parish and writing "SLSB Turkey Sunday" on the memo line and giving the contribution to a volunteer before or after every Mass this weekend. You can also contribute electronically by scanning the SLB Turkey Sunday QR code below or this URL link:

[https://ppay.co/9kkiP\\_PQaFU](https://ppay.co/9kkiP_PQaFU)



## SVDP Pantry Marks Two Years of Change, Calls for Community Assistance

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP), St. Bernardine Conference, has been running the dry goods food pantry for many years, but is coming up to a two year anniversary since implementing changes to provide a grocery list for clients to fill out and wait while the order is filled. The clients are satisfied to receive what they select. Before, grocery bags were filled with staple items and given to the clients. Many items were returned as being not needed.

Our clientele has doubled over the last year, now serving 40-50 people per week. We count on the generosity of parishioners and benefactors to donate money or goods from the shopping list to stock the pantry. However, this has not been sustainable. The need has increased substantially and SVDP has been subsidizing a sizable amount of money each week to buy items to stock the pantry.

We appreciate you taking a pantry grocery list while you are shopping. The pantry needs items from the list and cannot accept outdated, open or used items.

A case of an item is also acceptable. Donations can be dropped off at the baskets located at the main entrance at St. Luke and by the south side entrance at St. Bernardine or on Saturday morning. To donate monetarily, please make a check out to the St. Vincent De Paul Society, St. Bernardine Conference and put in the Sunday collection basket or bring/send to the parish office. Any donations of clothing can be given to the SVDP drop off box at the St. Mary of Celle parking lot in Berwyn.

Starting December 1, 2023, SVDP's plan is to limit service to clients living in Forest Park, River Forest, Oak Park and Berwyn.

The pantry is open Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. at the St. Bernardine campus rectory, 7246 Harrison St., Forest Park. It stays open all year, unless inclement weather. Ellen Carr coordinates a designated number of volunteers to work on Saturday mornings and would call or text to confirm with the assigned individuals beforehand.

If interested, please contact Donna Gawlas at (708) 771-8098 or [dgawlas@yahoo.com](mailto:dgawlas@yahoo.com).



### Beware of Phishing Attempts

Be cautious of phishing attempts claiming to be from Father Stan. He will never solicit anything from you, including monetary gifts. Stay vigilant against fraudulent requests.



### Thanksgiving Mass schedule and parish office hours

This year's Thanksgiving Mass schedule will be just one Mass at **9:00 a.m.** at **St. Luke** on **Thursday, November 23**. Furthermore, the Parish Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23-24.

Happy Thanksgiving!

grateful



Thanksgiving



## Update from the Archbishop of Chicago Regarding the End of the Invest in Kids Act/Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Illinois legislature abandoned nearly 10,000 children attending Catholic and other non-public schools this week by failing to renew the *Invest in Kids* scholarship program. Since 2017, *Invest in Kids* has empowered low-income families to choose the school that best meets their child's needs, providing them the same options more affluent families have.

For more than 175 years, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago have provided students a high-quality, faith-based education that prepares them to lead, not just within our Church but in the broader, global community. Catholic schools have educated millions of Chicago area children of all faiths and none during that time.

During the past few years, thanks in large part to the *Invest in Kids* scholarship program and thousands of generous donors who contributed to the program, we were able to educate even more students who flourished academically. During the pandemic, because our schools made the bold choice to reopen safely, our students continued to grow academically. Many other schools were closed to in-person instruction and students in them, through no fault of their own, lost ground academically. How have Illinois' elected officials now responded to our students' academic success and to our schools' leadership and service during the pandemic? By pulling the rug from underneath thousands of needy families.

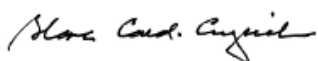
Unfortunately, Illinois' lawmakers ignored both the wishes of their constituents and their responsibilities to the struggling families of this state. Their failure now puts thousands of children at risk of losing the ability to stay in the school that best meets their needs.

This is a cruel and devastating outcome that will have far-reaching repercussions. Students will lose the scholarships that allowed them to attend our schools, those nearing graduation may not be able to graduate with classmates who have befriended them in these years, and families may no longer be able to choose the school that is best for their child.

I share my shock and disappointment at this situation with thousands of students, parents, educators, and other caring citizens throughout Illinois. However, our Catholic Schools, our other partner schools and the broader Catholic community will not be deterred by our elected officials' inaction and will continue to advocate on behalf of families in need. Over our 175 year history we have supported, to the best of our abilities, families in need who want to enroll their children in the school that best fits their needs. We will continue to walk with these families, regardless of their faith tradition, trusting in the support of our families and our generous donors. We take pride in the excellent Catholic schools in our archdiocese, and in our solid record of giving students, particularly those living in poverty, a chance to succeed in the future.

One of the most important decision parents make for their children is where they are going to send their children to school. Making that decision should not be denied to families in need. I ask all people of good will, particularly those who have been educated in our schools, to join me in the fight to provide the life-long advantage of a Catholic education to every family in need. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop of Chicago

## Save the Date for St. Luke and St. Bernardine Women's Club Christmas Party!

The St Luke and St Bernardine Women's Club is hosting their annual Christmas party on Thursday, November 30. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers, wine and punch. After a brief business meeting, a catered dinner will be served. Entertainment, raffles, and desserts will finish off the night. Tickets are \$25.00. Your reservation can be made by enclosing your payment in an envelope marked "Women's Club Christmas Party" and dropping it in the collection basket, at the St Luke rectory or at 544 Ferdinand in Forest Park. Reservations are due by **Sunday, November 26.**

As in previous years, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at the party that will be delivered to Catholic Charities for their annual Celebration of Giving campaign. This year you can also help restock the St Vincent de Paul food pantry by bringing cranberry or apple juice (32 oz plastic bottles) or jars of instant or ground coffee. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

Contact Janet Scodius at 708-651-2356 or email [stlstbwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:stlstbwomensclub@gmail.com) with any questions.



### Calling All Servers!

Altar Server training will be offered on **Tuesday, November 28.** The session will start at **3:15 p.m.** at **St. Luke Church** and is open to all, third grade and up, who would like to help out with this important ministry at Mass. For more information, please talk with Colleen Ortega (708-435-8926) or with Fr. Stan.

Altar Servers Needed, All Ages

## Altar Server Training

Tuesday, November 28

(ABOUT 1 HOUR)

**Entrance**

St. Luke Church  
Ramp/Alley  
Side

MEET AFTER SCHOOL 3:15/3:30 @

ENTRANCE

630.484.5093 / 708.704.1924

SEEKING SERVERS AGED 4TH GR - HIGH SCHOOL

**Entrance**

St. Luke Church  
Ramp/Alley  
Side



### Our Weekly Offerings

For November 6 – November 13, 2023:

Envelopes	\$ 6294
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 8480
Electronic	<u>\$ 8718</u>
Total This Week	\$ 23,492
Total Year-to-Date	\$ 288,557
End of Nov. Budget	\$ 354,166.60
Variance	\$ -65,609.60

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Yearly Budget: \$850,000

### Stewardship of Treasure

*"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities."* - Matthew 25:21

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, to use them wisely, and to be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us. God asks us to be generous with all our gifts, especially the one that means the most to you.



### Time to pick up your Christmas wreaths

If you ordered a wreath from the St. Luke and St. Bernardine Respect Life Committee back in October, it is time to pick them up. You can pick up your wreath on **Saturday, December 2**, between **10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the St. Luke parking lot. Contact Mary Yerkes at [slsbwreathssale@gmail.com](mailto:slsbwreathssale@gmail.com) or at 708-860-8509 with any questions.

## Enchanting Elegance with a Dazzling Performance

We had a wonderful display of community this past weekend at Hospitality Weekend. We had volunteers help put on this amazing event. The event showed many parishioners share a meal with friends.





## Enchanting Elegance with a Dazzling Performance

A classical music showcase dazzled with a variety of instruments to deliver a mesmerizing performance. The ensembles' performance captivated the large turnout, creating a sublime musical experience.



## Thank you Pilot Alpha

We want to thank our wonderful members of Pilot Alpha. Enjoy this wonderful photo of our team taken this last August.



## Remembering Our Loved Ones

During the entire month of November, there will be a space at both churches to place photos of loved ones that have passed. They will be displayed on the Marian altar at St. Bernardine and in a special spot in the back of St. Luke Church. All are welcome to place a photo. Even if you haven't lost a loved one this year, keep the memory of your loved ones alive with this tribute to them.



## Update on our website

Please look at our website for the newest page titled, *Youth Ministry*. You can see all the updates from a growing community within our parish! It is located under the Learn tab and then the Youth Faith Formation tab.

## Submit your 2024 Mass Intentions

This form is conveniently accessible on our website and at both of our church locations. Along with your information, please enclose a \$10.00 offering per Mass Intention, payable to St. Luke and St. Bernardine Parish. How to submit your 2024 Mass Intentions Preferred - Place in Sunday Collection Basket addressed to Carol.

Email: [ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org)

US Mail: St. Luke and St. Bernardine Parish 528 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305

As always, you may also come in during office hours.

QUESTIONS! Please contact Carol at [ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org)



## Baptized in Christ

We joyfully welcome the following children who were recently baptized into our Church and St. Luke and St. Bernardine community:

**Jordan Adele Carpenter**, child of Eric and Christina Soco Carpenter

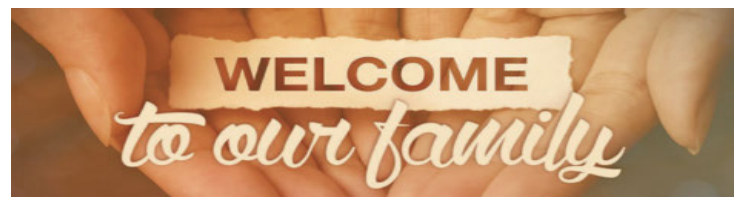
**Chloe Hazel Chavarria**, child of Omar and Cristina Tabares Chavarria

**Daniel Gallarzo**, child of Ezequiel and Begonia Aranda Gallarzo

**Bella Americka Lopez**, child of Joseluis and Laura Ortiz Lopez

**Olivia Mariana Ramirez**, child of Juan Francisco and Adilene Yesenia Lopez Ramirez

**Ezra Logan Zaragoza**, child of Rexmundo and Cristina Tabares Zaragoza



## New to Our Parish? We'd Like to Say Hello!

We're happy to have you join our community of faith. You can learn more about our parish and organizations and how you can get involved on our website at [www.stlstbparish.org](http://www.stlstbparish.org).

You will also find a link to our registration page so we can welcome you as a full member of our growing parish. If you have any questions, call our parish office at 708-771-8250 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.



# THE WEEK AHEAD



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, November 20

6:30 a.m. (SBC) Special Intention

8:30 a.m. (SLC) †William J. Williams & Williams, Karasis,  
Kurr Families

### Tuesday, November 21

6:30 a.m. (SBC) Special Intention

8:30 a.m. (SLC) Parishioner Intention

### Wednesday, November 22

6:30 a.m. (SBC) Special Intention

8:30 a.m. (SLC) †Jimmy Dooley  
†Jose Dela Torre, Jr.

### Thursday, November 23

9:00 a.m. (SLC) †Terry and Marie Rout  
†Williams, Karasis, Kurr Families

### Friday, November 24

6:30 a.m. (SBC) Special Intention

8:30 a.m. (SLC) People of St. Luke and St. Bernardine  
Parish

### Saturday, November 25

8:30 a.m. (SLC) †Maria and Robert Mitre

5:00 p.m. (STB) †Saturnina S. Antipala  
†Frederick Mayers

5:00 p.m. (STL) Children of Alyssa and Dustin  
Jesberger  
†Robert and Maria Mitre  
†Frederick Mayers

### Sunday, November 26

8:00 am (SBC) †Carolyn Brown

†Albert Martini  
Policarpo Nacar  
Tonitte Jumaoas (living)

9:30am (SLC) †Jerry and Marie Rout  
†Timothy Hinsdale

11:00am (SLC) †Josephine T. Dooley

(SBC = St. Bernardine Church / SLC = St. Luke Church)



Do you have a deceased relative or friend you wish to remember in a special way? An anniversary or special occasion? Someone who is ill or recovering from surgery, or some other special intention you would like our community to pray for?

**Submit your 2024 requests for Mass intentions now** by filling out the form available on our website,

<https://tinyurl.com/mass2024>

or at both church locations.

You can send your requests by email to [ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org), place them in the Sunday collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office at 528 Lathrop Avenue in River Forest, 60305.



## DAILY READINGS

**Mon:** 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

**Tue:** 2 Mc 6:18-31/PS 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

**Wed:** 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

**Thu:** 1 Mc 2:15-29/50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

**Fri:** 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

**Sat:** 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

**Next Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6/ 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

## Reconciliation Times

Time for Reconciliation is after the Saturday 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Luke Church and Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Bernardine Church.

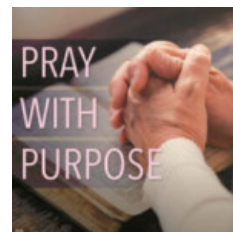


## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Everyone is invited to join us in prayer throughout the week, starting with the morning Rosary after the 6:30 Mass at St. Bernardine and the 8:30 Mass at St. Luke.

On Tuesday evenings, our weekly Adoration Holy Hour is open for everyone for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 5-6:30 pm in St. Luke Church.

If you have a loved one who is injured or preparing for surgery or you have a job interview or are awaiting an important decision in your life, send your intention to us and we will ask our home prayer ministry members to add it to their prayers. You can email your request to [kosga@stlstbparish.org](mailto:kosga@stlstbparish.org). No names are needed; God will know who we are praying for and so will you!



## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Bill Keller, Arnie Goodman,  
George Martini, Lois Santarelli, Bob Gerger,  
Linda Dziubala, George Lane, Barbara Crawford,  
Gary Hopkins, Isaac Beal, Ann Stauffer,  
Helen Kreidermacher, Stafania Sewruk,  
Marianne O'Donoughue, Frank Kurr,  
Zachary Fernandez, and Fr. Paul Reicher

# PARISH INFORMATION



## CONNECT WITH US

**St. Bernardine Church**, 801 S. Elgin Avenue Forest Park

**St. Luke Church**, 7600 Lake Street River Forest

### Parish Business Office/Mailing Address

528 Lathrop Avenue River Forest, IL 60305

708-771-8250 • [stlstboffice@stlstbparish.org](mailto:stlstboffice@stlstbparish.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon  
and 1:00 – 4:00 pm

**St. Luke School**, 519 Ashland Avenue River Forest

708-366-8587 • [stlukeschoolrf.org](mailto:stlukeschoolrf.org)

### Religious Ed/Faith Formation Office

Now inside of Parish Office at 528 Lathrop Ave

708-771-5959 • [mdalpino@stlstbparish.org](mailto:mdalpino@stlstbparish.org)

**Fearon Hall**, 815 Elgin Ave. Forest Park (lower level)

**Waldron Hall**, 519 Ashland Ave. River Forest (lower level)

**Hospitality House**, 533 Ashland Ave. River Forest

### Sacrament questions or sacramental records needed?

Call 708-771-8250

## Staff Directory – area code is 708 unless otherwise listed

**Rev. Stanislaw Kuca**, Pastor

[stkuca@stlstbparish.org](mailto:stkuca@stlstbparish.org) ..... 771-8250

**Rev. Edward Fialkowski** (Weekend Priest)

[efialkowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:efialkowski@stlstbparish.org)

**Rev. Leroy Wickowski** (Retired)

[lwickowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:lwickowski@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8917

**Rev. Krzysztof Swierczynski** (Resident)

**Deacon John Baier** ..... 630-655-0088

**Deacon Robert Slobig** ..... 312-804-0513

**Della DeSonia**, Operations Director

[dellamdesonia@stlstbparish.org](mailto:dellamdesonia@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8921

**Carol Karlowski**, Office Assistant

[ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org](mailto:ckarlowski@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8912

**Colleen Ortega**, Director of Music

[cortega@stlstbparish.org](mailto:cortega@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8926

**Katie Osga**, Administrative Assistant ... [kosga@stlstbparish.org](mailto:kosga@stlstbparish.org)

**Olga Green**, Youth Ministry Coordinator ..... 435-8914

[olgagreen@stlstbparish.org](mailto:olgagreen@stlstbparish.org)

**Sheila Price**, Director of Stewardship & Development

[sprice@stlstbparish.org](mailto:sprice@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8927

**Dave Hodge**, Maintenance Engineer

[dhodge@stlstbparish.org](mailto:dhodge@stlstbparish.org) ..... 435-8953

**Emmanuel Flores**, Communications Coordinator ..... 435-8910

[eflores@stlstbparish.org](mailto:eflores@stlstbparish.org)

**Andrew DiMarco**, School Principal....[adimarco@stlukeschoolrf.org](mailto:adimarco@stlukeschoolrf.org)

**Danielle Coduti**, Assistant Principal....[dcoduti@stlukeschoolrf.org](mailto:dcoduti@stlukeschoolrf.org)



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

### Saturday, November 25

<b>5:00 pm - SBC</b>	Celebrant	Fr. Ed
	Cantor	P Baumann
	Lector	D Gawlas
	Euch Min	M O'Brien
	Ushers	D DeSonia, 3 needed
<b>5:00 pm - SLC</b>	Celebrant	Fr. Stan
	Cantor	G Ragalie
	Lector	T Smedinghoff
	Euch Min	P Chase
	Ushers	W Gamboney, 3 needed

### Sunday, November 26

<b>8:00 am - SBC</b>	Celebrant	Fr. Ed
	Cantor	B Ortega
	Lector	E Cramer
	Euch Min	K Jankun
	Ushers	B D'Souza, B Brown, D Leninger, T Leninger
<b>9:30 am - SLC</b>	Celebrant	Fr. Stan
(Family Mass)	Cantor	Family Mass
	Lector	Family Mass
	Euch Min	1 needed
	Ushers	L Tuzi, K van Meurs, 2 needed
<b>11:00 am - SLC</b>	Celebrant	Fr. Ed
	Cantor	C Dooley
	Lector	A O'Connell
	Euch Min	1 needed
	Ushers	M Bauman, J McInerney, A Dooley, 1 needed

SBC = St. Bernardine Church / SLC = St. Luke Church

For one-time gifts or your weekly Sunday contribution, you can make a fast and convenient gift to support our parish with payments from your bank or credit card account on your computer or smartphone. Try it today at [pushpay.com/g/stlstbparish](https://pushpay.com/g/stlstbparish).



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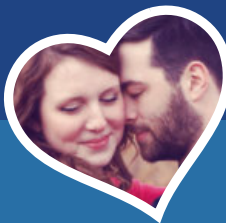
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