St. Joseph's Parish

A community of communities where each person can encounter Christ and lead others to him. Our vision is what you do for the least one, you do for Me.

120 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT APRIL 6, 2025 2025 THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Fr. Joe Astarita, Pastor, jastarita@gmail.com

Fr. Felix Castro, Vicar, facastrog1@outlook.com

PARISH OFFICE 201-939-0457 Stjosepher@aol.com

Office hours: Mon-Thu, 8 am—4 pm

Monica Sidorick, Parish Secretary
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StJoseph@boldym.com
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busofcstjer@gmail.com
Monica Sidorick, Cemetery Administrator,
stjosephcemeterylyn@gmail.com

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5 PM,
Sunday 8, 10 & Noon,
Spanish 1:30 PM

So he was left alone with the woman before him.
Then Jesus said to her,
"Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?"
She replied, "No one, sir."
Then Jesus said,
"Neither do I condemn you.
Go, and sin any more."



Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Tue, Wed & Fri) and 12:05 PM (Mon & Thu)

Thursdays: Blessed Sacrament Exposition at 12:30 PM: Fridays 7 –7:30 AM **Mondays:** Novena to St. Anthony

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

SAT 11 - NOON, FRIDAYS 7-7:25 AM, THURSDAYS at 12:30 PM, or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick/Last Rites:

Call the office to arrange for it while the person is still conscious.

Baptism: 4th Saturday of the month **Marriage:** one year in advance, call the office.

All our Masses are streamed at www.stjosepher.com/ watch or click on FB or YouTube. For daily reflection emails sign up on our website.



SATURDAY, April 5, Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm + Irene Pienciak & Diane O'Keefe 6:30 pm Neo-Catechumenal Mass

SUNDAY, April 6, Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am + Lois & Adolph Banca 10:00 am + Thomas Conti

12:00 pm + Nicoletta DeVirgilio

1:30 pm (Spanish)

MON, April 7, St. John the Baptist de la Salle, Priest

12:05 am + Rose Moore

TUESDAY, April 8

7:30 am + Helen Sorrentino

WEDNESDAY, April 9

7:30 am + Palma & Anthony Marinaro

THURSDAY, April 10

12:05 pm + Gaetano & Sabina Marra

FRIDAY, April 11, St. Stanislaius, Bishop & Martyr

7:30 am + Ron Tizzano

SATURDAY, April 12, Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm + Joseph & Maria Cassella 6:30 pm Neo-Catechumenal Mass

SUNDAY, April 13, Palm Sunday

8:00 am + Robert Michael Skane

10:00 am + Dolores Bellina 12:00 pm + Christopher Kucan

1:30 pm (Spanish)

Passion is the evil in adultery. If a man has no opportunity of living with another man's wife, but if it is obvious for some reason that he would like to do so if he could, he is no less guilty than if he was caught in the act.

—Saint Augustine

AL EVCEDE: De la compalita de la la

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT: Professor Alice von Hildebrand, a distinguished Catholic writer and the wife of the late Dietrich von Hildebrand. Alice and I have been close friends for many years and you may have seen our series on suffering on EWTN. She reminded me of a very important line which I had forgotten. It was a statement by the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: 'Nothing is worse than wasted suffering'. Of course, one is tempted to ask, 'Why did this accident occur?' While I am being tempted to ask this, I am looking at a picture of St. Padre Pio, who said, 'Don't ask why, ask what - what am I supposed to do?' That seems rather obvious, except one must admit a deficiency of virtues and throw oneself before Christ crucified and the Holy Spirit. We all suffer. Some suffer well, some poorly, some bitterly, some in union with Christ, some in union with Our Lady and the saints, some in union with God as they know Him, some only in union with the other people in the hospital, and some all alone - but we suffer. How much better it is to suffer even poorly and inconsistently in union with Christ. —Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR

2025 LENTEN REGULATIONS

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 9 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 15. *Canon 920, §1.

All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025 - 3PM

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples who will be celebrating their 5th, 25th and 5oth years of Christian marriage in 2025. This year there will be ONE anniversary liturgy for all couples from all counties - celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin on Sunday, June 1, at 3PM at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Registration due by May 10. Please contact the rectory to register.

SHOULD I CONFESS?

St. John said: "If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God..." And that's because God sent His Son for our sins. If we have not sinned, then something is wrong with God for sending His Son to be sacrificed. And that simply is not so! People say no one steals anymore; they simply lift something, or in the case of some large corporations, someone simply made an error in judgment. No one lies anymore; they simply misrepresent the facts. No one kills an unborn child; they simply terminate a pregnancy. Who is kidding whom here? Some people say they are for a "woman's right to choose". A woman's right to choose what? All this represents a clever way of candycoating the reality of sin because we don't like to admit that we sin. If we close our eyes to sin in our lives, we don't need Jesus. And if we don't need Jesus, then we are surely lost!

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SANCTUARY OFFERINGS

The **ACOLYTE CANDLES** which burns during the Mass near the altar reminds us of our loved ones in the presence of God and is offered this week for **CIP NEWBALL** requested by Damien & Julian.

The ALTAR BREAD & WINE that will become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at our Masses will be offered for CIP NEWBALL requested by Lorraine.

The SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week in honor of CIP NEWBALL requested by Alicia & Hector.

DAILY EMAIL FROM ST. JOE'S

You can sign up for a daily email on the gospel or the readings of the day by going to the parish website: stjosepher.com and go to Messages, click on Daily Email.

A WAY TO HELP YOUTH OF ST. JOE'S TO ATTEND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

There are parishioners who ask for help with paying tuition at Catholic High Schools and we agree that their child would be better off with a Catholic education. We have a fund for this purpose if you would like to provide help to students who have this desire to study and deepen their faith.



Lt. Patrick Stevens (Iraq 2nd tour)
Lance Corp. Kevin Murphy
Deanna Dickson
Dylan Monks, Donny Kolich &
Brian Inguanti

BAPTISMS

"In all truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born through water and the Spirit; what is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of the spirit is spirit."

Baptisms are on the 4th Saturday of the month and there are two preparatory meetings.

Come to the office to arrange for Baptism.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Ronald Tizzano, Anthony D'Amore, Genaro Dones, Sr, Peter Parisi, Rosa Maria Arias, Christopher DiStasio, AnnMarie Meile, Ronald Burch, Sherrie Mobilia, Jeanette Dursi, Domenica Ultimo, Anna Presti, Celia Jones, Hugh Wynne, Helen Beese, Maddalena Binetti, Kathleen Walsh, Natalina Kucan, Stanley Parzecki, Gaetano Delli Veneri, John Wrinn, Maria Carusone, Susanna Cerami, Bill Stallone, Marie Logatto, Buddy Davis, John Giannuzzi, Frances Pierantoni, Marie Veccia, Julia Walsh, Frank Jacullo, Marjorie Patak, Marilyn Schneider Kopacz, Dorothy Crifasi, Carol Capuano, Margaret Aprigliano, Mary Carroll, Roger Shine, Lucia Ottomanelli, Rose Greenleaf, Antonina Caramico, Loretta Siriday, Margo Brislin, Anita Minichini, Robert Seppentino, Louis Locarro, Mary Scancerella, Philip Balchan, Barbara Azzarello, Mary Murphy & Norma Gray.

THE PRAYER CORNER: "Like burning incense, Lord, let my prayer rise up to you."

As a community of faith, we offer the support of our prayers for one another. These brothers and sisters are in **acute** need of our prayers:

Despina Latorre, Pineda Family, Lorraine Newball, Antoinette Moralishvili, Antonietta Bazzarelli, Stefano Gargano, Nancy Oddo, Fr. Doss, Ron Leibow, Dean Hansen, Donald J. Boone, Geraldine Morocco, Angela Houghton, Mel King, Debbie Ravettine, Kalene Spina Gage, Denise Swanteck, Anthony Bellone, Maria Jose Rodrigues, Ava Romano, Dorothy Podolski, Crystal Harrell, Anna Davis, Arlene Surdyka, David Janusz, Jennifer Hanlon, Cookie DeRosa, Ann Graham, John Green, Nicole Silva, Ann Bongi, Kevin Cahill & Betty Farina and all who are sick and suffering around us. To accommodate all who need our prayers, names may be removed after one month. (Please call the parish office if you would like to add a name to our prayer list.)

COLLECTION

Total Giving	\$4,223
1st Envelope (# giving 70)	\$1,292
2nd Envelope (# giving 48)	\$460
E-giving (23)	\$455
Cash	\$2,016

803 people attended Mass this weekend.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you so much for your very generous food donation that allow us to serve the needy. The current needs for our pantry are: tomato sauce, canned fruit, veggies, coffee, soup, beans, cereal, mac'n cheese, hot chocolate, Chef Boyardee. If you find yourself stocking up on bargains, why not consider buying a few extra items and donating them to our Food Pantry?

PANTRY is open Tuesdays 10-12 Noon.

ST. FRANCIS INN

The Inn is collecting **OATMEAL** (**NOT INSTANT**) for the month of **APRIL.** For info visit: www.stfrancisinn.org

DEFFERED GIVING

Many families over the years have left a bequest in their wills for St. Joe's. It is a wonderful way to help our parish to remain vibrant, continue serving the families and save on taxes. If they had three children, for example, they would divide the estate into four, one for each child and one for the parish. Call for more information.

PALM CROSSES PICK-UP

The Rosarians' Palm Crosses will be available for pickup after all the Masses this weekend, in the lobby.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The weekend was very busy for the Knights and for those who came to the catechesis this year. Both groups had about thirty people for their retreats, which included some youth and many couples. Faith is a journey that takes a lifetime with God's help through his Word and his Sacraments. Without his help at least weekly we easily become worldly people so please keep them in your prayers.

This weekend we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation after all the Masses. Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more, which was like a new life for her. The best way to prepare for Easter that is a victory over death and sin and all of the situations that kill us each day is to fall into the arms of the one who always forgives us.

The Pharisees were trying to trap Christ. They did not care too much about justice since they did not even bother to find the man, or about the woman who they used for their own purposes. Their only intention was to trap Jesus. If he let her go, then he was against the Law of Moses. And if he said it was ok to stone her, where was the mercy? He came to save the sinner.

Well, it is not easy to trick Jesus Christ and what does he do? He was already sitting down, and he starts to write on the ground with his finger. Some think he was writing the sins of the accusers, or maybe he was just doodling. It could be his accusers thought of a phrase from Jeremiah about God writing our sins in the dust. Who knows?

Then he said, "Let the man without sin cast the first stone." Maybe they thought of what he said earlier in his ministry that to look at a woman with lust was to commit adultery or how can you tell your brother to remove the splinter from his eye if you have not removed the plank from yours. And then he started to write a second time and they went away starting from the eldest.

Finally, Jesus is left alone with this woman and tells her that he does not condemn her and go and sin no more. He doesn't just brush off the sin and minimize it. He tells her not to do this again. He does not threaten her. Imagine her fear and what was going through her mind in all of this. Stoning someone to death is not an easy death.

I think Christ is telling us that to receive forgiveness from our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we need to show a purpose of amendment. What does that mean? It is the true desire to never commit that sin again. That is required for the person to receive forgiveness from God. It is not that the person will never commit sin again but that he has the firm desire to avoid it.

God will always help us and as it says in the first reading: he gives us "a way out," as he did to the Jews in Egypt. God always provides a way, a friend, a Word in church, to help us get out of our rut. Ask for this "way out" during these last two weeks of Lent, and Christ will help you.

THE 2025 ANNUAL APPEAL

I am happy to see that we are more than halfway to attain our goal & more people are giving. I am grateful for your generosity, and I rely on it because it helps support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese.

Your support to the Annual Appeal helps us accomplish across the Archdiocese what we would not be able to do alone. Our Parish goal is \$25,723. There are two financial benefits to our Parish if we achieve this goal. First, if we reach this goal in cash by June 30th, our Parish is eligible for a two percent reduction on our fiscal obligations to the Archdiocese. Second, if we go over goal in pledges as of June 30th, we will be eligible for a rebate, which comes back to our Parish, unassessed, to be used at our own discretion. So far we have \$19,112 paid from 70 families and \$20,362 pledged.

I always make my gift to the Appeal. Please consider taking a step with me on this Stewardship journey by responding to Cardinal Tobin's invitation to support the Appeal, I hope you made your commitment already and if not please do so soon. You can also make a gift online by going to rcan.org/sharing. Thank you for your time and consideration. You are in my prayers. Please pray for the success of the Annual Appeal.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the
Catholic Church. Must be a practicing Catholic (attend
Sunday Mass regularly). Must have received the
Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
If married, must be married in the Catholic Church.
If single, not living with significant other, nor married
civilly only. "You should NOT feel good about choosing
godparents that are not living the faith."

GIVING WHEN IT COUNTS

Many years ago, a little girl named Liz was critically ill, suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. Her little brother hesitated for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying,

"Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale, and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

4

SEVEN CAPITAL SINS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church also refers to these sins as "deadly sins". "Vices can be classified according to the virtues they oppose or also be linked to capital sins which Christian experience has distinguished, following St. John Cassian and St. Gregory the Great. They are called "capital" because they engender other sins, other vices. They are pride, avarice [greed], envy, wrath, lust, gluttony and sloth" (CCC No. 1866).

Pride: an excessive love of self or the desire to be better or more important than others. "Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that 'everyone should look upon his neighbor (without exception) as "another self," above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity" (No. 1931). Lust: an intense desire, usually for sexual pleasure, but also for money, power or fame. "The God of promises always warned man against seduction by what from the beginning has seemed 'good for food ... a delight to the eyes ... to be desired to make one wise" (No. 2541). Gluttony: overconsumption, usually of food or drink. "The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco or medicine" (No. 2290).

Greed: the desire for and love of possessions. "Sin is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods" (No. 1849). Sloth (or Acedia): physical laziness, also disinterest in spiritual matters or neglecting spiritual growth. "Acedia or spiritual sloth goes so far as to refuse the joy that comes from God and to be repelled by divine goodness" (No. 2094). Anger or wrath: uncontrolled feelings of hatred or rage. "Anger is a desire for revenge ... The Lord says, 'Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment." (No. 2302). Envy: sadness or desire for the possessions, happiness, talents or abilities of another, "Envy can lead to the worst crimes. 'Through the devil's envy death entered the world" (No. 2553).

Prayer is: the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness. -- St. John Chrysostom

Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy. --St. Isidore of Seville

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RACHEL VINEYARD RETREATS: Healing the pain of abortion

2025 dates: March 28-30 and September 19-21. For info contact Cheryl Riley at 973-497-4350 or Cheryl.riley@rcan.org.

CONFESSION: This sacrament is offered every Sat at 11 AM -Noon, Fri 7-7:30 AM, Thu at 12:30-1 pm & by appointment.

MY PARISH—MY RESPONSIBILITY **ELECTRONIC/ONLINE GIVING**

is a convenient no hassle method, of making your Sunday offertory to the church. For more information or to sign up you can visit WeShare on our website: stjosepher.com OR by going to stjosepher.churchgiving.com

OR arrange for Auto-Pay at your local bank; this is the better way since e-giving takes a percentage of your gift; your bank doesn't charge for this. You can also use the QR code below:



REGISTER AS PARISHIONERS

All Catholics living within the boundaries of East Rutherford/ Carlstadt should officially register in our parish. If you haven't registered, you can stop by the office or go https:// stjosepher.com/register-as-a-parishioner/ and download the registration form and drop it off. We encourage you to register, even if you don't sign up for envelopes. You need to be a registered parishioner to be a godparent/sponsor.

LITANY OF HUMILITY

Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val, Secretary of State, Pope Pius X. O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honored ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...



Lisa Valentino: <u>Stjoseph@boldym.com/</u>
(973)988-3428
BOLD YOUTH MINISTRY

Wed, April 9th PST/Discipleship Small Group

All on our leadership Team are asked to join us at 6:30pm for dinner and then our small group discussion and prayer time as we continue our series on JOY!

Wed, April 30th - "The Evidence" TNL 7-8:30pm

Join us for discussion, snacks, prayer and an awesome Easter surprise, as we dive into the compelling historical evidence and eyewitness accounts that support the core of our faith.

Two great summer events to join us at this summer; Catholic Heart Workcamp & Steubenville Youth Conference

Join us July 6th-11th in Cumberland Maryland with teens from across the country as we serve those in need and grow closer to God. Whether we work at a "neighbors" home or serve at a church in need of repair or even a soup kitchen. This week can be life changing and is also fun. Or join us July 18th-20th at Franciscan University in Steubenville Ohio for a youth conference with over 2500 high school students from across the country. Live music and workshops and talks, Adoration, Mass Confession and so much more. Encounter Jesus in a way you never have before. Registration for both events are open. Contact Lisa Valentino for more info. and pricing. stjoseph@boldym.com



Friday, April 18th 6pm "Living Stations of the Cross"

All in Middle school are invited to join us as we lead our parish through "Mary's Way of the Cross" on Good Friday at 6pm. Join with us for this awesome Good Friday tradition at our parish and if you would like to be a part reach out to Lisa Valentino.

LENTEN INSIGHTS

Abba John the Dwarf said, 'If a king wanted to take possession of his enemy's city, he would begin by cutting off the water and the food, and so his enemies, dying of hunger, would submit to him. It is the same with the passions of the flesh: if a man goes about fasting and hungry, the enemies of his soul grow weak.'

Isidore the Priest said, 'If you fast regularly, do not be inflated with pride, but if you think highly of yourself because of it, then you had better eat meat. It is better for a man to eat meat than to be inflated with pride and glorify himself.'

"The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us to make a complete gift of self to God."

LENT IS THE TIME TO VISIT THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN

God wants to heal us but unfortunately, too often we don't go to him with our spiritual sickness in order to be healed. We stay instead in the darkness.

There exist numerous home remedies for the most common illnesses, but there is one sickness that cannot be healed through our own efforts. That sickness is the life of sin we are currently in and the many times we walk away from God. No matter how hard we may try to achieve inner healing through our own mental experiments, only God can heal us and bring us lasting peace through the forgiveness of sins.

What we need to do is to fly to the Divine Physician and to show him all of our ailments.

Pope Benedict XVI reflected on this spiritual truth during an Angelus message on the Fourth Sunday of Lent in 2012. St Augustine comments: "So far, then, as it lies with the physician, he has come to heal the sick. He that will not observe the orders of the physician destroys himself. He has become a Savior to the world... You will not be saved by him; you shall be judged of yourself".

In this quote, St. Augustine is explaining how Jesus, the Divine Physician, wants to heal us, but he can only heal us if we want healing. Pope Benedict XVI continues his reflection by expanding on this reality, linking it to the sacrament of confession: Therefore, if the merciful love of God — who went so far as to give his only Son to redeem our life — is infinite, we have a great responsibility: each one of us, in fact, must recognize that he is sick in order to be healed. Each one must confess his sin so that God's forgiveness, already granted on the Cross, may have an effect in his heart and in his life.

He further explains how, "it is only by opening oneself to the light and only by sincerely confessing one's sins to God that one finds true peace and true joy. It is therefore important to receive the Sacrament of Penance regularly, especially during Lent, in order to receive the Lord's forgiveness and to intensify our process of conversion."

Sometimes it can be more convenient to ignore our sins and to hide them from God, or even from ourselves. We bury them deep within our soul, not letting them be exposed to the light of Christ. However, if we do that, we will never experience healing. This happens whenever we go to the doctor and don't tell him something that is ailing us.

Our doctor can't heal something that he doesn't know about. While its true that the Divine Physician knows everything, he wants us to recognize our spiritual sickness and to bring it to him of our own free will. God wants to heal us and to bring us back to spiritual health. What we need to do is to let him and we can do that by going to confession and opening ourselves up to the healing power of mercy that Jesus grants through the ministry of the priest.

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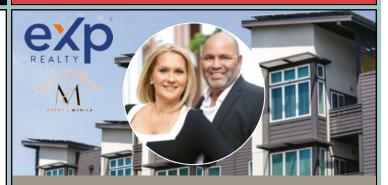
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