

SANTA SOPHIA PARISH

9800 SAN JUAN ST, SPRING VALLEY, CA | 619.463.6629 | WWW.SANTASOPHIA.ORG

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

From our Pastor

This Sunday is the twenty-third Sunday in ordinary time. The readings invite us to become humble instruments of healing in Jesus' hands by giving a voice to the voiceless and by providing our caring love to the needy and the marginalized in our society. The readings also invite us to open our ears to hear the Word of God and to let our tongues be loosened by the Holy Spirit to convey the Good News of God's love and salvation to others.

The first reading, taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, describes the return of the Chosen People to their homeland after decades of exile in Babylon. Upon their arrival, they encountered many hardships. The prophet tells the people to be strong and fear not. He reminds them that when God leads his people home, He will work miracles on behalf of those who need it most. And He will provide everything in order and so, fear not. This promise demonstrates God's care for His people. Through Isaiah, God assures the Israelites that He blesses their return, and that they should be confident and courageous. The life-giving

streams of water bursting forth in the desert symbolize whatever is needed to achieve peace and fullness of life. This prophecy gives the Israelites the assurance that God will continue to protect His people from their enemies, from all hardships, will open their eyes to the reality of what He is providing for them, and will open their ears to what He has to tell them through His prophets.

The second reading, from the Book of James, is a beautiful pastoral letter to the leaders of the faith community. In his letter James points out to the members of the Church that they should show no partiality. They must treat others, whether they are rich or poor, with respect. The poor man, James says, is poor in the eyes of the world, but rich in Faith because he recognizes his dependence on God for everything and acknowledges that dependence in the way he lives and acts. James insists that Christians "*should show no partiality.*" In a society like ours, which values people who have great monetary wealth, great power, or celebrity status, James admonishes against such attitudes. He calls us to show respect to everyone, in our homes and outside them, irrespective of the person's social or economic status. He calls us to treat everyone with respect because we are all children of God, created in His image and likeness.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS & INTENTIONS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

Date	Readings	Time	Intentions
Saturday, September 4th (Vigil) Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37	4:30 pm	+ Vince Garra
Sunday, September 5th Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37	8:00 am 10:00 am	+Leo Gatus + John M. & Mary V. Shea
Monday, September 6th	Col 1:24—2:3/Lk 6:6-11	8:00 am	+ Gisela McGarry
Tuesday, September 7th	Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19	8:00 am	Int. of Herb & + Mary Jane Barrack , etc.
Wednesday, September 8th	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23	8:00 am	Int. of Alfred & + Elaine Barrack, etc.
Thursday, September 9th (Memorial)	Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38	8:00 am	Int. of Edward A Dondero
Friday, September 10th	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42	8:00 am	+ George & Jeanette Malouf, etc
Saturday, September 11th (Vigil) Twenty-Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 50:4c-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35	4:30 pm	+ Bob Sparks
Sunday, September 12th Twenty-Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 50:4c-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35	8:00 am 10:00 am	+ Pam Kay + John M. & Mary V. Shea

In the Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man who has a speech impediment. The healing fulfills the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah in the first reading, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped." The crowd's acclamation ("He has done all things well!") shows that the crowd recognized the fulfillment of this prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah. What we see is not simply the healing of a physical defect, but a concrete sign of the transformative power of God's Love and the fulfillment of God's plan. The power of God's Love continues to work in our lives by transforming our sorrow into joy, sickness into health, death into life.

In order to experience God's love and proclaim the Good News, we need to be transformed. The miracle of the healing of the deaf man is not only about the physical healing of a person who was deaf and dumb, but it also refers to the opening of a person's ears so that he may hear the Word of God and the loosening of his tongue so that he might speak his profession of Faith in Jesus. The miracle has great relevance to us, because a person can have perfect hearing, and yet not hear the Word of God, have perfect speech, and yet be unable to make an act of faith. We are reminded that Jesus has the power to heal the spiritual deafness caused by

our sin and also heal our hearts that have become hardened by a refusal to hear and do His will. Today, Jesus says to us as He said to the deaf and dumb man: "Ephphatha"—"Be opened."

We spent the entire month of August reflecting on the Eucharist, and we will continue to do so, as the diocese wants us to spend the next few weeks focusing on this important theme. They start on September 11 with the Saturday vigil Mass, to be followed by the Sunday Masses the next day. Bishop McElroy taped a brief introduction to the program, which should be played before the first homily. Besides the Bishop wants pastors to lead "teaching Masses" during the weekends of October 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24, and explain various parts of Mass, especially, its symbols, meaning and history of the rituals.

The Holy Eucharist is the foundation of our faith; therefore, the goal is to understand and encounter the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, the person or the community which is rooted in the Eucharist continues to grow. This my prayer for you and for our parish community, Santa Sophia, that we may continue to love the Lord, who is ever-present in the Holy Eucharist. •



September 5, 2021
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. "Mark 7:35 The deaf man with the speech problem experienced immediate relief. Sometimes our stewardship, our charity, our giving, our intervention, has an immediate impact. Sometimes it takes a while. But whether immediate or over time, no kind deed of ours goes without an impact.



Bereavement Sessions

Santa Sophia is offering a seven-week program. It will be offered September 15 & 22, October 6-27, November 3, 2021. Meetings are on Wednesdays from 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the **De Moor Room**. It is open to anyone who has experienced loss. The objective of these sessions is to provide a safe and comfortable forum for participants to explore the changes in life caused by the death of a loved one. For more information or to register contact Donna Hernandez at **619-504-1777** (call or text) or email at **tnonny2@cox.net** or Mike Herron at **619-251-6052** or email at **michaelherron4102@att.net**. Please leave your name and a contact number or email.



COLLECTION REPORT	
August 23, 2021 - August 29, 2021	\$10,120.96
Plate	\$981.46
Envelopes	\$4,458.00
E Giving	\$4,681.50
Breakdown of gifts received	
\$0.00 to \$5.00	13
\$5.01 to \$10.00	32
\$10.01 to \$25.00	86
\$25.01 to \$50.00	54
\$50.01 to \$100.00	23
\$100.01 to \$150.00	6
\$150.01 to \$500.00	7
\$500.01 to \$1,000.00	0
\$1,000.01-\$2,500.00	1
Total contributing households	221
SVdP	\$120

The Holy Eucharist

I don't think I am the first person you have ever heard say, "What an interesting year and a half it has been, huh?" From learning there is a strange new virus, to hearing that it was spreading and not knowing what it entailed exactly, to being stuck in our homes for weeks, to wearing masks, to not wearing masks, etc., there have been a lot of ups and downs these past many months have brought us. Throughout this time, I think we all have suffered in our own ways, each responding to our own particular circumstances within this strange fabric of society under the term, 'pandemic'. However, there is one thing that I think we all share in what we suffered. And that would be, the loss of something we hold so dear, the *Mass* and receiving the Real Presence of our Lord, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

In the beginning of the pandemic as everything was starting to shut down, I thought maybe it was the end of the world! I had to pray and work really hard to keep interior peace at the thought of everything, especially churches, being closed. Once it was announced that this was indeed to be the case, we went to Mass for the last time before the Church as a whole was closed for an indefinite amount of time. I don't know about you, but I could feel a desperate pain shooting through my chest at the thought that the Real Jesus in the Eucharist was going to be locked in, kept away from the world, and the world shut out from His Real Presence. In a small way, it made me think of the pain the souls in Purgatory must experience, existing outside of Heaven, suffering the pain of Jesus' privation as though in fire. He is so close, and yet, so far away.

I also thought of the pain Jesus must feel in being the Holy Prisoner - imprisoned in the Tabernacle with no one to visit Him, and unable to be received by His beloved sons and daughters. His very life palpitates within the Sacred Host, and only when we receive Him is He released, able to be freed from the substance of simple bread and He becomes alive in us. Even though we can't feel it, His blood flows through our veins, His hands and feet move within our hands and feet, His thoughts are our thoughts, His gazes are our gazes. He is free to operate in us for the 20 minutes the simple bread remains in us, loving us unimaginably - our Life Source. So, for us to be cut off from receiving Him, and from Him to be freed within us, giving us *everything*...what else is there? What else do we have?

We did what we could. We attended Mass via Zoom, trying to fill the void. Even though with Zoom Mass we were able to participate in the liturgy, it really was such a distant experience, wasn't it? Without a congregation, there was no sense of 'coming together' to worship Him. The Tabernacle on the screen was lovely, but it seemed nothing more than a picture. Our Divine Lord's loving gaze and streaming grace pouring out from the Tabernacle, upon each one of us who are physically in His presence every time we are in the church, was absent. It just simply, wasn't there. And what a void! Spiritual communion can only take us so far. How our soul needs and requires the True Food, nourishment by nothing other than our Life Source, the Sacred Host.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. For me, and I hope for all of us, this could not be truer of how it felt to be deprived of the Eucharist. Once it was deemed 'safe' to return to Mass, outdoors, what a joyous occasion to attend Mass again! In person! No screen separating us! We could gather together again and lift our voices as one to praise our Creator! And to actually receive Jesus! What an expression of the greatest love, like embracing your dearest loved one you've finally been reunited with, and them embracing you in return, so tightly. Only, this is *Jesus* we're talking about, embracing you in the truest way possible. There is nothing like it. Embrace Him tightly, and never let Him go.

And now here we are, enjoying the fullness and the glory of the Mass indoors, back in our beautiful church, congregating back in His house to worship Him, thank Him, and receive Him. We are again physically before the Tabernacle, celebrating the entirety of the Mass before His True Presence. Praise God!

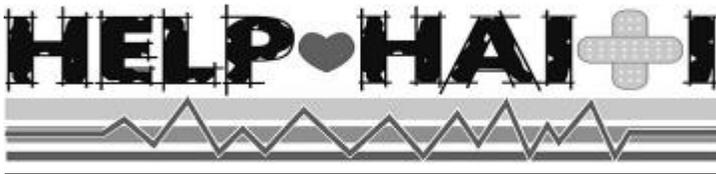
In conclusion, let us not take the Mass, or the greatest gift, the Holy Eucharist, for granted. We are an Easter people! Let us come together and strive to make every Mass a most joyous occasion, remembering the suffering we endured during isolation and the shutdown. Let us give thanks for our freedom to participate in the Divine Liturgy once again. Let us remember that Jesus gazes with such tender love at *each one of us* as we sit before the Tabernacle, before His Holy Presence, His graces streaming into your soul. As we leave today, let us rejoice in that grace, and carry His Living Presence in us, out the church doors, giving Him to all we meet. Have a beautiful Sunday, and God bless. •

-Kathryn Bergstedt



The **Santa Sophia Safe Place Team** is shifting its focus to providing information about resources for people affected by abuse. If you or someone you know needs help with domestic abuse issues, please call the 24 hour hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE(7233)**. **IN AN EMERGENCY, call 911**. The city hotline at **211** can also be a great help in providing information and resources when you have a specific concern. The Santa Sophia Safe Place Team will now concentrate its energy on the sharing of information with our parishioners, or anyone in need by continuing with our vestibule displays 2 to 3 times a year after weekend masses. These will present helpful information on issues of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and

other abuse concerns that affect our community. Team members will continue to be available if you have questions. Thank you for your past and continued support.



Haiti: Assistance to the Earthquake Victims

The National Conference of Bishops in the United States has called for a special collection to respond to the humanitarian and significant church recovery needs due to the recent earthquake in Haiti. Also, several of our parishioners have been asking how they can contribute to this cause. To make your contribution to this effort, you may make your donations through the diocesan website at www.sdcatholic.org, or you can also use Santa Sophia E-Giving by choosing the option "Other Special Collection (Haiti)." Checks may also be made out to Santa Sophia with the words "Haiti collection" on the memo line. You can make your contributions until mid-September, after which I will forward the money collected to the diocese. Please be as generous as you can.

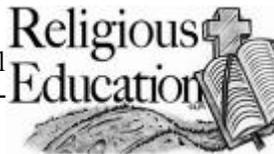


WALKING WITH PURPOSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are starting our fall/winter study on Wednesday 9/8/21. We will be growing closer to Jesus through the study of the Gospel of John guided by the book *Touching the Divine*. Please join us Wednesday mornings from 9:00 - 10:30 in CMO Room 1. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. Questions: **Contact Jeanne Gromer** jeanne.gromer@gmail.com or 619-246-6918.

Religious Education

Religious Education classes will begin this October 2021 for Pre-school through Jr. High and First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.



Registration takes place Monday-Friday, 9-3pm and Sunday's, September 12 and 19, 9-11am in the Catechetical Ministry Office.

Please bring your child's baptism Certificate if it is not already on file, along with registration fees. Please call the CMO at (619) 463-6011 for more information.



San Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day Sept. 11, 2021

The Diocese of San Diego and Diocesan Commission For Filipino Catholics in participation of the Fil Am Community are happy to announce that the San Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day will be held at Santa Sophia Church on Saturday, September 11, 2021. There will be Procession at 9:00AM starting in the school parking lot, Mass at 10:00 AM followed by Reception and Entertainment. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Marriage Enrichment



Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrates the love you have for your spouse and helps you to build, expand, and deepen that relationship. Sign up for the upcoming **September 17-19th Weekend at St. Charles Retreat Center in Imperial Beach**. Food and lodging are provided. There is a \$125 fee and a voluntary donation requested at the end of the weekend. For many couples "Their Weekend" is one of the most significant experiences of their marriages. Sign up today at www.wwme-sandiego.org

Reminder



As of September 5, 2021, the 10:00 am Sunday Mass will move to 11:00 am



SVdP & Santa Sophia Church FOP Walk/Run

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Santa Sophia Conference is pleased to announce that the Annual National **Friends of the Poor Walk/Run** is back to an in-person event on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Come join us for an easy 1 mile walk filled with laughs and fellowship, followed by a light breakfast. Money raised will go to assist those less fortunate in our local community. Registration begins at 7:30 am in front of the pantry, and the Walk begins at 8:00 am with a short prayer. All participants and contributors will receive a commemorative T-shirt. For more information or to register, use the link: <https://www.fopwalk.org/eventlisting/eventdetail/>

NEW
DATE

Saint Joseph: Marceline Marques



The Holy Father Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of Saint Joseph," that began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2020, and is extending to December 8, 2021.

The Holy Father describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Come enjoy coffee and donuts and hear more about Saint Joseph on **Sunday, September 12, after the 8:00 am Mass, in Prendergast Hall**. Marceline Marques will be our presenter. Please join us for this special presentation. For any questions, please call the **CMO 619-463-6011**.

CLERGY

Rev. Devdas Masillamony Ext. 101
 Pastor
 frdevdas@santasophia.org
 Deacon Michael Maria
 deaconmichaelmaria@santasophia.org
 Deacon Michael Moore
 mmoore@santasophia.org
 Deacon John Turcich
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 Sacristan
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Stewardship & Evangelization

Kareen George Ext. 105
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 Estela Diaz (619) 463-0488
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Santa Sophia Preschool

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 Margaret A. Demetris Ext. 110
 Administrative Assistant
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 Steve Browne Ext. 112
 Youth Minister
 sbrowne@santasophia.org

PRAYER REQUESTS**Military Service Members**

As a faith community, let us keep all who serve our country during these troubled times in our prayers. We pray especially for those of our parish who are serving.

PFC John O'Gara, USMC	LCDR Andre Cleveland USN
ENS Ryan Rea US Navy	Lt. Martin Howard
Erik Grimm ET1, US Navy	Sgt. Dane Johnson
Adam Grimm BM2, US Navy	Sf. Sargent Neil McCoy, USMC
Matthew Ricacho Staff Sgt., USAF	Sgt. Connor O' Gara, USMC
SSgt. Austin McHalek, USMC	Adella F. Ramos Sanchez USAF
Reynaldo D. Castro Jr. Lcdr, US Navy	Terrence Koakane G. Perez USAF
Daniel Rosales, US Navy	Cpt. Daniel Cobian US Navy
Adrian Sanchez USAF	Adrian H. Galang, USAF
IS1 Scott Williams, US Navy	Eulalia Gomez, USAF
Sonny Almeida NG	Lauren Girardin US Navy
Asia Jade Padilla US Navy	Juan Pablo Rios Muro US Navy
2nd Lt. Brandon K. Beamon, USSF	Raymond Joseph Padilla US Army

If you have a friend or relative who is serving in our military, and want their name to be added to our prayer list, please send an email to edandash@santasophia.org or call the parish office.

Daily Prayer for Priests

O Jesus,

I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
 For your unfaithful and tepid priests;
 For your priests laboring at home or
 Abroad in distant mission fields.
 For your tempted priests;
 For your lonely and desolate priests;
 For your young priests; For your dying priests;
 For the souls of your priests in Purgatory.
 But above all, I recommend to you
 The priests dearest to me:
 The priest who baptized me;
 The priests who absolved me from my sins;
 The priests at whose Masses I assisted and
 who gave me Your Body and Blood in
 Holy Communion;
 The priests who taught and instructed me;
 All the priests to whom I am indebted in
 any other way
 (especially.....).
 O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,
 And bless them abundantly
 in time and in Eternity.
 Amen.

Sunday, September 5th- Bishop Robert Brom
Monday, September 6th- Rev. Dominic Nguyen, SJ
Tuesday, September 7th- Rev. Roldan Nuñez
Wednesday, September 8th- Rev. Sylvester Nwutu
Thursday, September 9th- Rev. Dominic Obour
Friday, September 10th- Rev. Emmanuel Ochigbo
Saturday, September 11th- Rev. Michael O'Connor

Prayers for our Family and Friends

Medina Prades, Michael Drevena, Louis Sablan, Liam Jack Stone, John Garbaczski, Rufina Herman, Chuck Marsh, Anthony Wilson, Donna McWalter, Scott Spruth, Theresa Geno, Reggie Chale, Don Weismann, Janet Canepa, Jane Clark, Dee Sanford, Michal Corcoran, Vincent Zizzo, Tellie Dominguez, Greg Deering, Rita Morneu, **Andrea VanVranken**

Names in bold are newly added this week. Also pray for the special intentions written in the Book of Needs in the back of the church.

This Week at Santa Sophia

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH
LABOR DAY: PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH
CUB SCOUTS 6:00 PM-8:00 PM-VERHOEVEN ROOM
BOYS SCOUTS 6:30 PM-8:30 PM-DE MOOR ROOM
RCIA 7:00 PM-8:30 PM-CMO ROOMS 1 & 4
MEN'S CURSILLO 7:00 PM-8:30 PM-CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH
WALKING WITH PURPOSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM-10:30 AM-
CMO ROOM 1 & 2
CONFESSION 5:00 PM-6:00 PM-CHURCH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH
KID'S CHORALE 4:00 PM-DE MOOR ROOM
ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL 6:30 PM-DE MOOR ROOM
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING 7:00 PM-8:00 PM- VERHOOVEN
ROOM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

LEGION OF MARY 9:00 AM-11:00 AM-DE MOOR ROOM
4:30 PM MASS-CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

8:00 AM MASS-CHURCH



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish or Catholic school employee or volunteer can be made by contacting 858-490-8353 or misconduct@sdatholic.org

Santa Sophia Catholic Church and Academy Office Hours

Parish Office: (619) 463-6629 Fax: (619) 463-8101
Monday ~ Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Academy Office: (619) 463-0488 Fax: (619) 668-5469
Monday ~ Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
Preschool Office: (619) 463-0141 Fax: (619) 463-8101
Monday ~ Friday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
CMO Office: (619) 463-6011 Fax: (619) 668-5458
Monday ~ Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm



Sign up for E-Giving at:

<http://www.santasophia.org/donate/>
For any assistance please call the parish office.
We thank you for your continued support.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! We warmly invite you to join our faith community. To register, please visit the parish office anytime after the morning Mass until 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday or you can pick up a registration form in the vestibule of the church or go online at www.santasophia.org.

BAPTISM

Please contact Margaret Demetris at (619) 463-6011 for Baptism preparation information. Parents are encouraged to begin the preparation process before their child is born.

ADULT/CHILD RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Please contact Margaret Demetris at the Catechetical Ministry Office at (619) 463-6011 for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact Elisabeth Dandash at edandash@santasophia.org, before setting the date, time and location of your wedding. In the Diocese of San Diego, couples should plan on a nine-month (minimum) period of marriage preparation.

QUINCEANERAS

Please contact PJ Dondero at the Parish office at (619) 463-6629 before setting the date, time, and location of your Quinceanera.

FUNERALS

Please contact Bob in the Parish office at (619) 463-6629 ext. 104.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

For more information regarding the weekly bulletin, contact Josie Piraino-Chavez jpiraino-chavez@santasophia.org
Submissions are due **Fridays by noon**.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Located on church grounds at (619) 463-6629 ext. 235.



Please check our website at
www.santasophia.org.
We update it daily with new
information. Thank you for your
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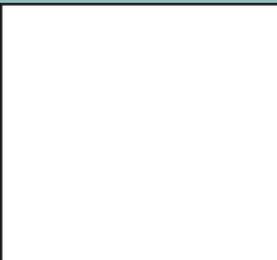


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