



## ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

18033 15TH PLACE NE, SHORELINE | (206) 364-7900 | [WWW.SAINTMARKSHORELINE.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTMARKSHORELINE.ORG)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.” - Lk 1:31

# PARISH INFORMATION



## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, December 20

*Sunday Mass, Pro Populo, The fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:30 am, Mass, Church

10:30 am Mass, Church

### Monday, December 21

9:30 am Daily Mass, Church (Niolito Subaran, RIP)

### Tuesday, December 22

No Morning Mass

### Wednesday, December 23

5:00 pm Confessions, Church

6:30 pm Daily Mass, Church (Catalina Hilo, RIP)

7:00 pm Faith Matters, Church

### Thursday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

*Parish Office Closed*

9:30 am Daily Mass, Church (Rick Millado, RIP)

6:30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

12 Midnight Christmas Mass at Midnight

### Friday, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

*Parish Office Closed*

8:30 am Christmas Mass at Dawn

10:30 am Christmas Day Mass

### Saturday, December 26

No Morning Mass

No Confessions

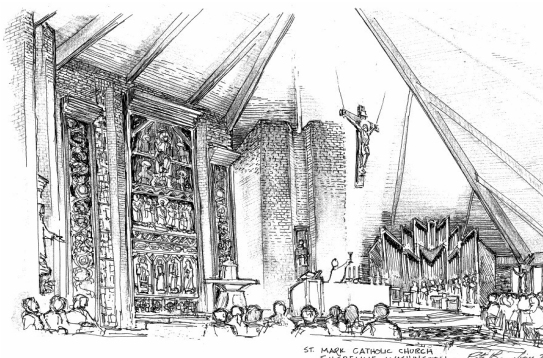
### Sunday, December 27

*Sunday Mass, Pro Populo, The Feast of the Holy Family*

8:30 am, Mass, Church

9:30 am, Community Rosary, Affirmation of Life Memorial

10:30 am Mass, Church



## Pastor

Rev. Jacob Maurer | (206) 364-7900 ext. 101

## Pastoral Assistant for Administration & Stewardship

Todd Chapman | (206) 364-7900 ext. 106  
toddc@saintmarkshoreline.org

## Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy & Parish Life

Veronica Olson | (206) 364-7900 ext. 108  
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## Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation

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## Administrative Assistant

Laura Lynch | (206) 364-7900 ext. 100

## Facilities Maintenance Manager

Carlos Odicino | (206) 364-7900 ext. 110  
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## St. Mark Parish School

(206) 364-1633 [www.stmss.org](http://www.stmss.org)

## St. Mark Parish School Principal

Kathy Keck | (206) 364-1633  
principal@stmss.org

## St. Mark Parish Preschool

(206) 363-7100

## St. Mark Parish Website

[www.saintmarkshoreline.org](http://www.saintmarkshoreline.org)

Stewardship as of December 13, 2020 for  
Fiscal Year July, 2020-June, 2021:

Weekly amount needed: \$17,310

Last Week Collection: \$16,695

Year to date needed: \$415,440

Actual given year to date: \$357,790

Difference: (57,650)

Online Giving:

Total givers: 98

Amount given online: \$8,625



# WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?

- Father Jacob Maurer

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

*Cf. Is 45: 8*

## “Do not be afraid, Mary”

When angels make themselves known to us, some variation of this reassurance is almost always offered - that it is not necessary to be fearful, that the (arch)angels are not there to exact God’s justice but to convey His goodness.

And who can blame us for our reaction? Angels are not like us - not only because they are spiritual beings but because of their closeness to God, their unity with the Creator of all. It



would be like being approached by solar flare with a message from the sun - who wouldn’t worry about being burned in the conversation alone?

So we are offered reassurance: do not be afraid! Moreover, we are told that the Son desires to become one with us, taking on our nature so as to strengthen it against ever being burnt again. We can be joined to God **and** not die.

Dare we hope for such a gift? We’re not angels. We know our own sinfulness - we know that that sin is completely incompatible with God’s goodness. And yet. And yet! There is a promise being offered of purification and unity beyond our wildest hopes.

Lord, help us to not be afraid, help us to trust in Your goodness. Help us like Mary to allow the work of the Lord be done in us.

December 17th marks the beginning of the week before Christmas. Each day is punctuated by the **O Antiphons**. These antiphons are used at Mass as the Alleluia verse and in Evening Prayer as the antiphon before the Cantic of Mary. Their name refers to how each antiphon begins.



An acrostic (in the Latin) is hidden in these seven antiphons - the phrase *Ero Cras* (from the first letter of each antiphon, starting from the last) - meaning ‘Tomorrow, I will come’.

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## The feast of Saint Stephen the Martyr

(December 26), the first martyr after Christ’s death and resurrection, may seem incongruously placed after Christmas day. We go from the joy of Christ’s birth to the apparent sorrow of the death of a saint.

Saint Stephen wouldn’t see it that way, however. He joyfully testified to the Son of Man & the glory of God.

May we likewise proclaim what we hear in these coming celebrations.

Saint Stephen, pray for us!





Dear friends,

Having confirmed the safety of vaccines last week, we move to the question of the morality of taking vaccines - particularly those that have ties to fetal stem cells obtained from abortion. Again we find that the Church upholds our freedom to use these vaccines without fear that we are cooperating in or supporting voluntary abortion. In short, **we may use these vaccines.**

“The technical characteristics of the production of the vaccines most commonly used in childhood lead us to exclude that there is a morally relevant cooperation between those who use these vaccines today and the practice of voluntary abortion. Hence, we believe that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion.”

- *Note on Italian vaccine issue*, Pontifical Academy for Life

Even as the Church testifies to this freedom - and in fact, affirms our moral responsibility to take vaccines for the safety of those around us - we are reminded that “there remains a moral duty to continue to fight and to employ every lawful means in order to make life difficult for the pharmaceutical industries which act unscrupulously and unethically” (*Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses*). As Christians we carry a grave responsibility to call for an end to the use of the fetal stem cell lines obtained from voluntary abortions.

We find the key to *why* we may use these vaccines in the Church’s teaching in *Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses* in the section titled “The Principle of Licit Cooperation in Evil”. We are reminded that using these vaccines constitutes remote (far away or long ago) mediate (many steps separated) material (not sharing the evil intent) cooperation. As such, using vaccines is morally permissible without fear that we are voluntarily supporting evil.

As we renew our commitment to promoting the good of human life, may we ask the Lord to give us the courage and fortitude to call for greater respect for life in all areas of society and science.

- Father Maurer

### Reference documents

*Dignitatis Personae* (On Certain Bioethical Questions), Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, 2008 - [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20081208\\_dignitas-personae\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html)

*Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses*, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2005 [https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/\\$FILE/ncbq\\_2006\\_0006\\_0003\\_0145\\_0154.pdf](https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf)

*Note on Italian vaccine issue*, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2017 <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/the-academy/activity-academy/note-vaccini.html>

**Prayer to St. Joseph**

To you, O blessed Joseph,  
do we come in our tribulation,  
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,  
we confidently invoke your patronage also.  
Through that charity which bound you  
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God  
and through the paternal love  
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,  
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance  
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,  
and with your power and strength to aid us in our  
necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,  
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;  
O most loving father, ward off from us  
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;  
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us  
and from heaven assist us in our struggle  
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,  
so now protect God's Holy Church  
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;  
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,  
so that, supported by your example and your aid,  
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

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we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

Fold in half & cut along the line for  
two double-sided prayer cards



This prayer to Saint Joseph—spouse of the Virgin Mary, foster father of Jesus, and patron saint of the universal Church—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam pluries*. He asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October, which is dedicated to the Rosary. The prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Handbook of Indulgences, conc. 19), and may be said after the customary Salve Regina and concluding prayer. It may also be used to conclude other Marian devotions.



Saint Joseph with the Infant Saviour (Angels in the Clouds)  
Bartolomé Murillo

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Bartolomé Murillo

# Mass Schedule for the Christmas Season



## Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass: 6:30 p.m. (no incense)

Christmas Mass at Midnight: 12:00 a.m. (no incense)

## Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

Christmas Mass at Dawn: 8:30 a.m. (no incense)

Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 a.m. (no incense)

## Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> Masses: 8:30 a.m. (no incense) 10:30 a.m. (no incense)

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. (no incense) *(no 9:30 a.m. Mass)*

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> Mass: 10:30 a.m. (no incense)

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Masses: 8:30 a.m. (no incense) 10:30 a.m. (no incense)

# PARISH EVENTS & NEWS



## Thank You St. Mark Parish From Our Knights of Columbus

Our St. Mark Knights of Columbus would like to thank all parishioners who supported the recent pro-life fund drive. Through your generosity they will donate \$1,000 to Two Hearts Pregnancy Aid Center in Everett. Two Hearts has provided immediate and confidential help, hope and support to women who are, or think they may be, pregnant since 1971. Please find more about the mission of Two Hearts at [www.twoheartswa.org](http://www.twoheartswa.org).

## Catholic Radio & Television

Sacred Heart Radio, 100.3 FM and 1050 AM broadcasts the Mass daily at 5:00 am and again at 9:00 am. Many interesting programs and call-in shows all day can help us be more engaged with our Catholic faith. The complete schedule is available at [www.sacredheartradio.org](http://www.sacredheartradio.org).

EWTN is Catholic television faithful to the teachings of the Church and can be found on your cable or satellite service provider or at [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).

## Archdiocese Website Resources

Have you explored the website of the Archdiocese of Seattle lately? Go to the Home page at [www.seattlearchdiocese.org](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org) and read Archbishop Etienne's most recent newsletter, then try clicking on Liturgy. From that tab you can find the USCCB daily readings, an excellent FAQ's page which covers everything from when we should stand or kneel during Mass to the norms governing the use of candles in the liturgy and there's much more to explore!

### Parish Prayer Intentions

#### For the ill...

Maxine Dion, Myron Miller, Betty Jean Scott,  
Jim & Virginia Helbling, Mary Wittinger

#### For the deceased...

Margaret Gibson

Hugh Murphy

## Daily Mass & Confessions Cancellations

- † Daily Mass at 9:30 am is canceled Saturday, December 26 and confessions are canceled as well
- † Daily Mass at 9:30 am is canceled Monday, December 28
- † Daily Mass at 6:30 pm is canceled Wednesday, December 30 and confessions are canceled as well
- † Daily Mass at 9:30 am is canceled Thursday, December 31

## 2020 St. Mark Parish Giving Tree

Thank you St. Mark parish!

It wasn't nearly as much fun as choosing a star from the tree and then going shopping but your support of our Giving Tree partners (the Carmelite sisters, Regina House, Park Ridge, Next Step Pregnancy Center and more) was truly generous and so very appreciated.

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me."*

## The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

We will have a vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on **Thursday, December 31 at 5:00 pm**.

Mass the day of the solemnity will be **Friday, January 1 at 10:30 am**.

The solemnity is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos which means "God-bearer". On this day we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation.

## Reflection

*"Today, may there be peace within you. May you trust God. You are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us."*

*~Saint Theresa*



# PARISH EVENTS & NEWS



## St. Mark St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Vincent de Paul wants to thank St. Mark parish for the generous support of the Christmas basket program of 2020. Our St. Vincent de Paul society delivered over 70 packages of food using the services of our North City Safeway grocery store. Your generosity helped our neighbors in need during a special season that is magnified by the challenges of the pandemic.

*Your local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes you and your families a blessed and holy Christmas.*

## Parish Office Will Be Closed

The parish office will be closed from Thursday, December 24 until Monday, January 4. We wish you a joyous Christmas as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and we hope you spend quality time with those you love, even if it has to be virtually.

## Nine Days For Life This January

At every stage and in every circumstance we are held in existence by God's love. The presence of an illness, disability or other challenging situation never diminishes the value of a human life. God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities but to perfection in love. Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true gifts.

**Nine Days for the Protection of Life** is a novena beginning on January 21. Each day will be accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. For more information, and to get involved, please visit <https://pro-life-activities.lpages.co/9-days-for-life-2021-english/>

## The 2021 Calendars Have Arrived

The 2021 calendars have arrived courtesy of Beck's Tribute Center.

They are available in the parish office Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm; except when the office is closed for the Christmas holiday.

After Sunday masses parishioners can also pick up a calendar from one of the volunteers in the church vestibule as long as they last. Thank you Beck's!

## St. Mark Parish Faith Matters Program

Faith Matters will return Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm (following the 6:30 Mass). Our topic will be The Epiphany. Everyone is welcome, please join us! Contact Kirk Altenhofen in the parish office with any questions.

## Monthly Community Rosary at the Affirmation of Life Memorial

This month our community Rosary opportunity will be on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 27 after the 8:30 am Mass at the Affirmation of Life Memorial. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend (face coverings are required) this event is hosted by our Knights of Columbus and Respect Life.

## Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a collaboration of over 100 congregations of Catholic sisters dedicated to offering education, supporting survivor services and engaging in advocacy to eradicate modern-day slavery. They work to inform the public, prevent the assault on human dignity and assist survivors to live fulfilling lives while striving toward a world without slavery. Their core values include: belief in the inherent dignity of each human being; commitment to those who are poor and vulnerable; establishment of right relationships to promote the common good; defense of the basic rights of workers; solidarity with one another and the willingness to enter into another's joys and sorrows. The sisters invite us to share these values and join them in their work. For more information please go to <https://sistersagainstrafficking.org/about/>

### Frequently Requested Numbers

Boy Scouts: Dennis Halpin (206) 365-1971  
Knights of Columbus: Greg Insley (206) 271-4599  
St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: (206) 767-6449  
Queen of Heaven Guild: Sylvia Ebert (206) 419-3115  
Funeral Volunteers: Gini Harmon (206) 364-6834  
Marriage Help: Retrouvaille (206) 706-2608  
Holyrood Cemetery: (206) 363-8404  
Beck's Funeral Home: (425) 771-1234  
Harvey Funeral Home: (206) 632-0100  
Marian Caskets: (206) 463-6245



## But the Liturgy of the Word is not about the past.

**T**he Church never celebrates the Eucharist without first opening the Scriptures, the revealed Word of God. On most Sundays, the readings take us through the unfolding of God's plan, from its promise in the Old Testament, through its fulfillment in the New Testament. Through the Old Testament narratives and prophetic writings, we see God's love and care for humanity as he prepares the way for the coming of Christ. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Hebrew people, and they are our prayer book as well. The Second Reading, from the New Testament, tells of the struggles of the early Church to proclaim the saving work of Jesus. And the Gospel reading is "the high point of the Liturgy of the Word," for in the Gospel Christ himself speaks, and the Church hears in the Gospel "the very voice of her Bridegroom."

But the Liturgy of the Word is not about the past. It is about the present. When the Scriptures are proclaimed in the Church, "God speaks to his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and offering spiritual nourishment; and Christ himself is present through his word in the midst of the faithful." When we allow ourselves to listen, really listen, to what the Scriptures are saying to us in our own lives and to the reality we are living in, extraordinary things can happen. When we honestly reflect on our lives and the challenges we face as a society in light of the Scriptures, we open ourselves up to God's transforming power.

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

*The Work of Redemption: Eucharistic Belief and Practice in the Archdiocese of Seattle*

Read the whole pastoral letter at [NWCatholic.org](http://NWCatholic.org)

## The Saints and the Eucharist

On Sundays there is an assembly of all who live in towns or in the country, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows.

Then the reading is brought to an end, and the presider delivers an address in which he admonishes and encourages us to imitate in our own lives the beautiful lessons we have heard read.

Then we all stand up together and pray.



St. Justin Martyr  
(c. 100-165)

## For Reflection

What Scripture passages do I treasure most? How have they made a difference in my life?

What is my relationship with Scripture? Do I read, study, and pray with the Bible on my own?



*Knights of Columbus Fr. Theodore P. Sullivan Council 11217*

**The Knights of Columbus invites St. Mark Parish to participate in the  
Consecration to the Holy Family  
Preparation Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>  
Consecration Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
Novena Runs Through Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**



**Before praying the Consecration to the Holy Family:**

- ◆ Discuss the importance of this consecration as a family.
- ◆ Encourage family members to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
- ◆ As a family, be intentional about fasting. As our physical bodies are drawn to things of the world, it is strongly encouraged to abstain from something that you normally do or consume. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts to refrain from secular activities and be more focused on God.
- ◆ Prepare for the commitment you are making. Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. You have chosen a way of life for your family. You and your family are consciously choosing to be a beacon of light of God's love through His church.

(See prayer next page)

## Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer:

### **Lord Jesus,**

you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.

There you grew in age, wisdom and grace  
as you prepared to fulfill your mission  
as our Redeemer.

We entrust our family to you.

### **Blessed Mary,**

you are the Mother of our Savior.

At Nazareth you cared for Jesus  
and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

We entrust our family to you.

### **Saint Joseph,**

you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,

and gave us a model of fatherhood  
while showing us the dignity of work.

We entrust our family to you.

### **Holy Family,**

we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.

May we be completely united  
in a love that is lasting, faithful  
and open to the gift of new life.

Help us to grow in virtue,  
to forgive one another from our hearts,  
and to live in peace all our days.

Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,  
diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.

May our home, O Holy Family,  
truly become a domestic church  
where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*



# Merry Christmas!



## **Transitioning to Catholic Classical Education**

**Second graders** are learning to detect spelling patterns with their weekly spelling list. Mrs. McAllister waits for the second graders to discover the patterns instead of telling them the answer.

**Third graders** finished learning about the Battle of Hastings when King Harold II of England was defeated by the Norman forces of William the Conqueror seven miles from Hastings, England. Coat of Arms were displayed on a knight's shield to distinguish one knight from another on the battlefield. Third graders created their own coat of arms to distinguish their identity.

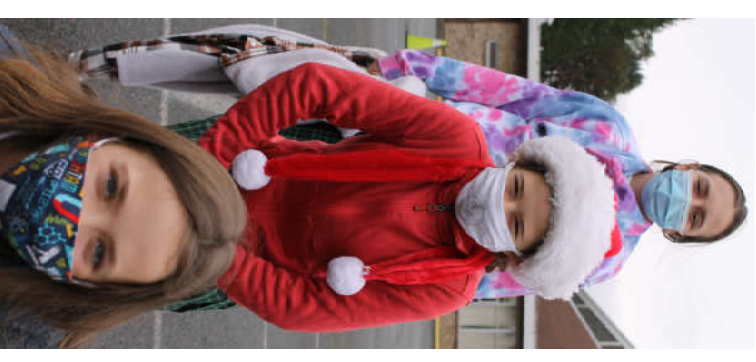
**Seventh and Eighth graders** read Saint Benedict, The Story of the Father of the

Western Monks, and wrote a reflection about the saint.

One student wrote:

“I would want St. Benedict to preach about Heaven because he was really good at preaching and since he lives in heaven, he would help me to become a better Catholic than I already am”.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
God Bless,  
Students, Faculty and Staff at St. Mark Catholic Classical  
School***



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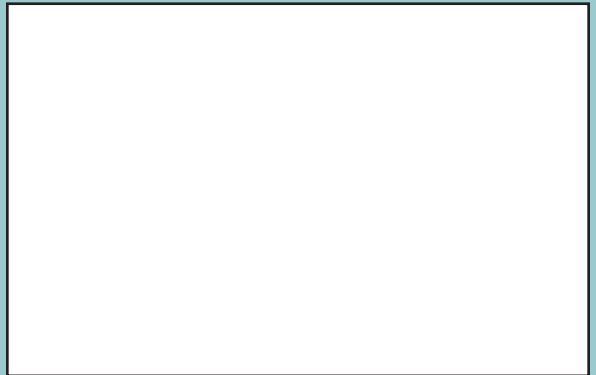
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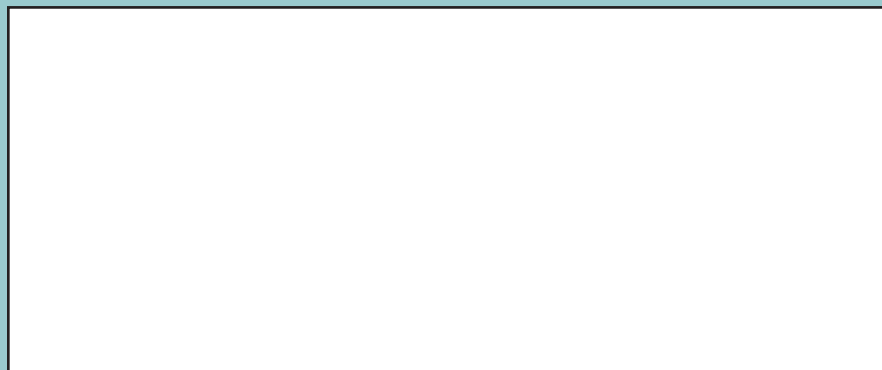
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