

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
Peoria Heights, IL 61616
stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)
msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)
Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Fr. Fortunatus Rutaiwa.....In Residence

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

Director of Faith Formation:
Mary Cushing.....(x1310)
marycushing@stthomas-church.net

School Principal: Maureen Bentley....(x1210)
maureenbentley@stthomas-school.net

Administrative Assistant: Terri Moon.....(x0)
terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

Bulletin Editor: Peggy Sullivan.....(x1301)
peggysullivan@stthomas-church.net

Finance & Tuition: Sheris Catton.....(x1341)
sheriscatton@stthomas-church.net

CCD Coordinator: Liz Plaskon...(309)339-4775
ccd@stthomas-church.net

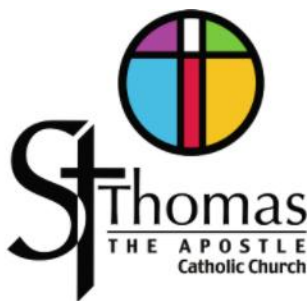
Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
parishnurse@stthomas-church.net

Music Coordinator: Ann Horst...(309)208-4862

Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

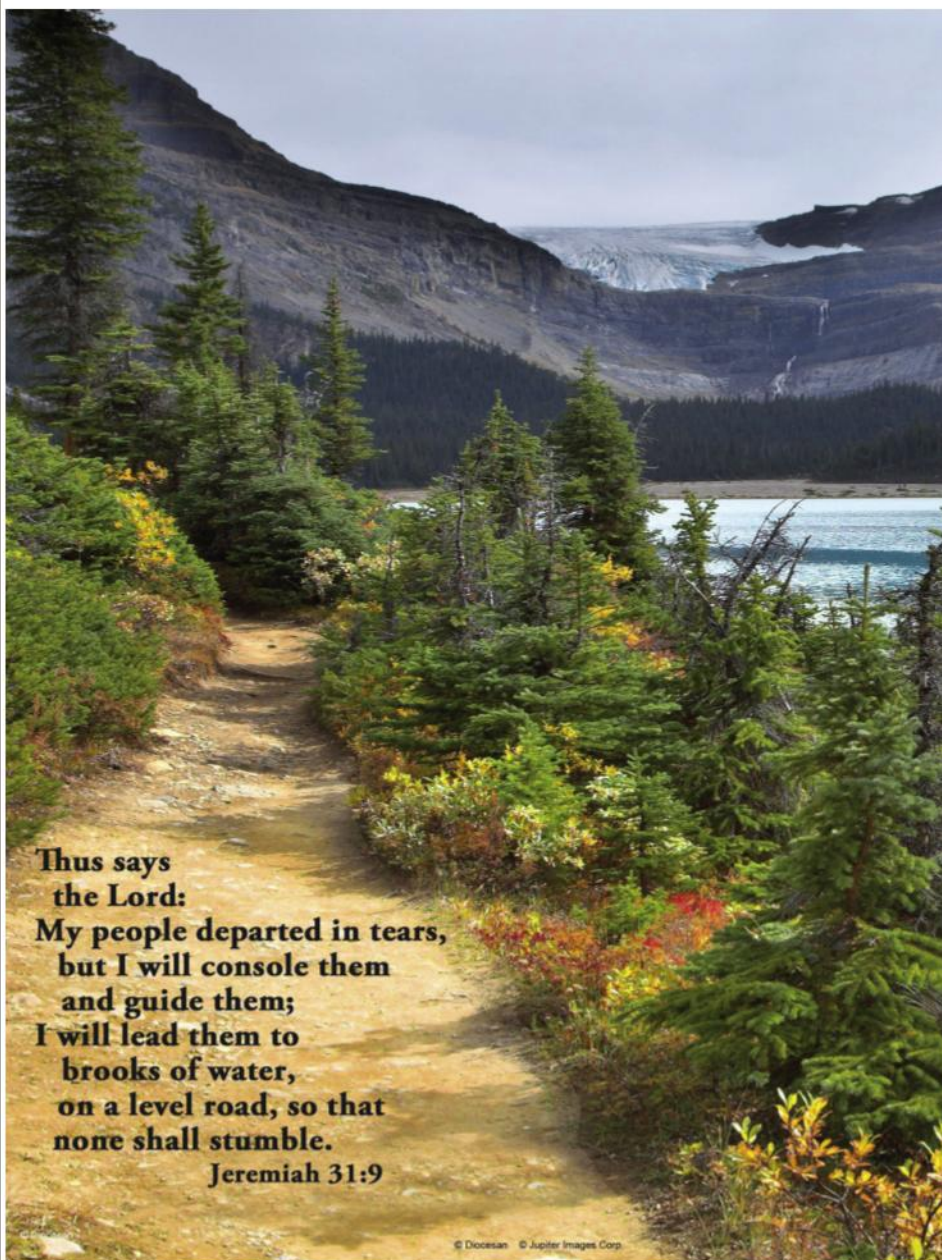
Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).



October 27, 2024

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Thus says
the Lord:
My people departed in tears,
but I will console them
and guide them;
I will lead them to
brooks of water,
on a level road, so that
none shall stumble.
Jeremiah 31:9**



From Our Pastor

We are on the cusp of November, which brings us closer to the end of our calendar year. November is a time that we often remember the souls of the faithful departed: those in Heaven whom we honor on All Saints Day, and those in Purgatory whom we pray for on All Souls Day.

Please note that November 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please attend Mass on Thursday evening or Friday to honor the Saints in Heaven. See the bulletin for the Mass schedule.

All Souls Day is a day of great charity toward the dead, and a traditional day to visit cemeteries. We pray for those who need our prayers during their time of purification. This is a day also for us to remember that each of us must face our own death. This reflection is sobering but also hopeful as we remember that Jesus Christ passed from death to life before us.

As we pray and offer Masses for the poor souls, you are invited to request Masses to be offered for your loved ones. By writing or calling the parish office, we would be happy to schedule your Mass requests. The customary offering for Masses is \$10.

November is also the time for us to renew our Parish Council. We have three members who complete their three-year term. I am grateful for their advice and guidance over the past years, and I encourage you to recommend parishioners who you think would give good and wise counsel to take their place. Please submit any recommendations for new parish council members by *November 12th*.

Finally, we have a group of lay persons at St. Thomas who are devoted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. These Carmelites meet once a month on a Saturday at our parish. If you are interested in growing in your spiritual life according to the Carmelite tradition and under the patronage of Our Lady, you are welcome to attend.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of October 27, 2024

Sunday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52
Monday	Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles Ephesians 2: 19-22; Luke 6: 12-16
Tuesday	Ephesians 5: 21-33; Luke 13: 18-21
Wednesday	Ephesians 6: 1-9; Luke 13: 22-30
Thursday	Ephesians 6: 10-20; Luke 13: 31-35
Friday	All Saints Day Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a
Saturday	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Wisdom 3: 1-9; Romans 5: 5-11 OR Romans 6: 3-9; John 6: 37-40
Sunday	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Deuteronomy 6: 2-6; Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 12: 28b-34

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 28, 2024

7:00 a.m. Rita Williams/Mike Phelan & Kim Jaegle
8:00 a.m. Dr. Bill Cusack/The Leary Family

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sue McWhirter
8:00 a.m. Pete Portman/Denise McCormack

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

7:00 a.m. Betty Pegg/The Grawey Family
8:00 a.m. Joanne Shields/Jeff & Jennifer Shields Family

Thursday, October 31, 2024

7:00 a.m. Frances D. Smith/Jack & Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m. John R. Pusey/Paul & Ann Horst
5:30 p.m. Pat McCauley/The McCauley Family

Friday, November 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Joe Broussard, II/Mike & Mary Lou Bartley
12:15 p.m. Blanche Sherman/Laura Sherman
2:30 p.m. Jim Becker/Jim & Chris Becker
5:30 p.m. For the People

Saturday, November 2, 2024

8:00 a.m. Marianne Hunt
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Richard & Patricia LaHood/Michael & Whitney Akelson

Sunday, November 3, 2024

8:00 a.m. Jackie McNamara/The Messmer Family
10:00 a.m. Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
5:00 p.m. For the People

Week of October 27

EXTRA CONFESSION SUNDAY Sunday, October 27, following all Masses

MEN'S BASKETBALL Sunday, October 27, 7:00 p.m., School Gym

ROSARY Tuesday, October 22, 10:00 a.m., Daily Mass Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, October 30, 6:00 p.m., School

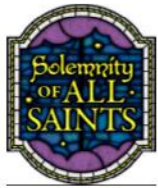
OCIA Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ALL SAINTS DAY MASSES Thursday, October 31, 5:30 p.m., Friday, November 1, 7:00 a.m., 12:15, 2:30, & 5:30 p.m., Church

TMIY Friday, November 1, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee & Donuts (PreK/K)	November 3
Adoration	November 8
St. Thomas Holy Hour	November 21
Extra Confession Sunday	November 24



All Saints Day Masses

Thursday, October 31
5:30 p.m.

Friday, November 1
7:00 a.m., 12:15, 2:30, & 5:30 p.m.



Pray with the Pope

October 2024

For A Shared Mission

Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

Weekly Collection

October 20, 2024

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,000	\$320,000
Sunday Collections.....	\$10,482	\$223,262
Electronic Collections.....	\$890	\$52,203
Total Collected.....	\$11,372	\$276,465
Over/(Short).....	\$(8,628)	\$(43,536)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly with your envelopes or checks in our regular Sunday collection. Electronic contributions can be made through direct debit, or by using the Giving tab on our parish website: stthomaspeoria.org. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Terry Tully

Allyn Schmidt

Baptism Congratulations

Greyson Phillip Becker, son of
Brittany and Kurt Becker

Parish Council Openings

The Parish Council is a group of nine individuals who were selected to represent the Parish by advising and assisting the pastor in the following ways:

- by promoting the Catholic faith in the Parish and in the community;
- by developing a pastoral plan and facilitating the participation of parishioners;
- by monitoring Parish activities for effectiveness;
- by coordinating charitable works for those in need in the Parish and community.

Members of the Council commit to a three-year term and meet once per month for one hour, generally on the third Tuesday of each month, with breaks for holidays.

Prospective candidates should be practicing Catholics who support St. Thomas and are engaged in the life of the Parish. It is helpful if the candidate brings some familiarity or involvement in the activities of the Parish or the School

If you would like to be considered for an open position on the Parish Council, or if you would like to nominate someone to be considered, please contact the parish office.

Sponsor of the Week





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. CLEMENT COUNCIL #12407

Seminarian Fund Turkey Sale

BENEFITING SEMINARIANS FROM THE PEORIA DIOCESE

show your thanks

WITH YOUR TURKEY PURCHASE
Support the seminarians of the Diocese of Peoria by purchasing your Thanksgiving turkey through the Knights of Columbus, St. Clement Council.

Price
Frozen Turkey
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$35**

OR
Deep Fried Turkey
Approximate size 11-13 lbs. **\$65**

**ORDER ONLINE BY NOVEMBER 11TH
AVAILABLE ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST**
stclementkofc.org/onlineorder.php



PICK UP DATES
Frozen Turkeys distributed after Masses on November 23rd and 24th outside Hettinger Hall.

Fried Turkeys available
Wednesday, November 27th from 10AM-1PM outside Hettinger Hall.

Thanks to the generous support of Kelleher's, our parish Knights will sell a limited number of whole turkeys. Choose a frozen bird or a deep-fried turkey prepared by our own Knights. A very limited number of fried birds will be available, which come with uncooked giblets in a covered foil pan for refrigeration and reheating instructions. **Don't miss out - order yours today while supplies last!**

Don't need a turkey, but still want to support the Seminarian Fund? There are two options from which to choose! You can make a monetary contribution, or you can purchase a frozen turkey for St. Vincent De Paul which will be used to support those in need in our community. These can be purchased in our online shop or drop a check in the collection payable to the Knights of Columbus, St. Clement Council 12407 with "Seminarian Fund Donation" or "Seminarian Fund SVDP Turkey" in the memo.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners the Knights were able to support two seminarians in 2023, John Paul Stedwill and Anthony Willi from our parish.

Questions? Contact Andrew Morlock @ amorlock90@gmail.com or 314-799-7241

Thank you for your generosity!

When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus



Disaster Assistance Opportunity

You no doubt have learned of the devastation in our country due to hurricanes Helene and Milton. If you have wanted to help but were not sure how, we offer this opportunity. The National St. Vincent de Paul Society has a Disaster Services division. They are currently working in the Asheville, North Carolina area in cooperation with three SVdP conferences in the region. They are also working in Florida. SVdP volunteers are providing labor and basic assistance of all kinds, and they need donations.

Our St. Thomas SVdP Conference is gathering money to send to be used in the areas of greatest need. We invite you to send a check in any amount to our treasurer, Cissy Carlson, using our church address, 904 E. Lake Ave., Peoria Heights 61616, with a note designating *disaster relief*. We will then send the sum of donations to them on November 18th.

You may of course also donate directly to the National SVdP if you prefer:

<https://www.svdpdisaster.org>

We thank you for considering this - and for all that you do to make our ministry successful.

~ Mary Kay Pilat

Winter Coat Drive



St. Thomas Parish will once again be participating in a Winter Coat Drive, to benefit the Salvation Army Coats for Kids program, serving those less fortunate in our community.

Barrels for donations are located at the top and bottom of the church staircase. Please bring in any new or like-new Winter Coats, gloves, hats, scarfs and drop them in the barrels. The **coat drive will run through Sunday, November 10th**.

Thank you for your support of this program.



Wrapping Paper Drive for Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities needs our help. The elves at Catholic Charities will be wrapping between 500-600 presents to be delivered this Christmas Season. They need wrapping paper, Christmas gift bags, and ribbon.

St. Thomas is sponsoring a Wrapping Paper Drive for them. Please consider donating any old or new Christmas gift wrap, bags, or ribbon from your closet to the cause. **We will be collecting the supplies from October 13th—November 3rd**. Supplies may be dropped off in the lower level of the Church by the stairs

Thank you for your generosity.



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal September 7-8, 2024



Do everything for the Glory of God

Thanks to the generosity of 147 parish families, we are well on our way towards our goal of \$130,063. Of \$117,825 pledged \$75,158 is paid. Each gift is important to the mission of the diocese. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please return a pledge card with your response today. There are cards on the tables in the back of church. Your gift helps support the central ministries of our diocese including religious education of our young people, faith formation of adults, training of our future priests, Newman Centers on our college campuses and much more. Every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish. To those who have contributed, we are most grateful.

To those who have pledged,
thank you!



OCIA Schedule

Oct 23: Holy Catholic Church

Oct 30: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life, Liturgy, Sacraments

Nov 6: Liturgy, Sacraments

Nov 13: Baptism, Confirmation

Nov 20: Eucharist

Nov 27: No Class, Thanksgiving

Dec 4: Blessed Virgin Mary, Rosary

Dec 11: Penance, Anointing, Funerals

Immediate Opening at St. Thomas School

1. Teacher's aide/aftercare support worker
Hours: 1:30-5:30 p.m. daily

If you are interested in either position please contact Mrs. Maureen Bentley, Principal, at MaureenBentley@stthomas-school.net

Catholic Women's League Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, November 11, 2024

9:30 am Social

10:00 am Meeting

Light Refreshments

at Buehler Home - Gathering Center
3415 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria 61604

Peoria Cursillo November Ultreya
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
6001 N University St, Peoria IL
Saturday, November 2 at 4:30 pm
Speaker: Sue Bridgewater
Hosted by Kevin Moss and SVDP Cursillistas

2024 Theme:
"God is with us and is
working miracles"

Guests & families
are welcome and
encouraged to attend

Pray the Respect Life Month Novena October 22-30, 2024

Join thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different prayer intention, as well as a short reflection, ideas for building a culture of life, and more. Download the novena or sign up to get the daily prayers delivered straight to your inbox! Visit: [Respect Life Month Novena](#) | [USCCB Respect Life](#)

An additional reflection for this month: [I Came So That They Might Have Life](#) | [Respect Life](#)

Remembering and
praying for our
beloved dead.

CATHOLIC
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION
OF PEORIA

All Souls' Day Memorial Mass
Sat., Nov. 2, 9:30 am
Msgr. Jerry Ward, Presider

St. Joseph of
Arimathea Chapel
Resurrection Mausoleum
7519 N Allen Rd, Peoria

www.ccapeo.org
309.691.5889

Morning of Recollection by the Divine Mercy Cenacle of Peoria

Saturday, November 9th
9:00 a.m. - Noon

St. Jude Church, Hettinger Hall

Continental breakfast; 2 talks by Fr. Jeremy Freehill of St. Ann parish, Peoria; and praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet for your intentions. Daily Mass at St. Jude available 8:30 a.m.

FREE, but please RSVP for breakfast planning to paulagottemoller@gmail.com or polster500@msn.com

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items needed at this time are: Rice, Boxed pasta, stuffing & potato side dishes, Mac and Cheese, Cereal, Crackers, Pasta Sauce & Dry Pasta Canned Meat, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Soup, Canned or Dry Beans (Legumes), Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper

Thank you for your generous support!



Catholic Women's League of Peoria, Illinois

The 2nd Annual Christmas Tea Fundraiser

*Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, & Friends
All Are Welcome*

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM -- 4:00 PM

Place St. Philomena Parish Center
1000 W. Albany Avenue
Peoria IL 61604

AGENDA

2:00 PM	Welcome & Prayer
2:15 PM	Tea-Time Menu
	<i>Scones</i>
	<i>Finger Sandwiches</i>
	<i>Dessert</i>
3:15 PM	Entertainment
3:45 PM	Closing Prayer



RSVP BY November 30, 2024 – Seating is Limited

Clip and Mail to Ann Gerardo, 3415 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria IL 61604.
If you have questions, call Ann Gerardo at 630-464-8474.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Area Code Number

Email: _____

Cost Per Person		
Adult: \$35.00	Number _____	Total _____
Teen: \$20.00 (13-18)	Number _____	Total _____
Child: \$10.00 (5-12)	Number _____	Total _____
\$200 for Reserved Table of 6	Number _____	Total _____
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____



Make check payable to Catholic Women's League

Additional Guest's Names:

2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____
6. _____	

Parish Registration

Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, **or** mail to the Parish Office **or** Register on our website at stthomaspeoria.org. Under *About* open the *New Parishioner Registration*, complete and submit the form.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____ Mr ___ Mrs ___ Ms ___

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____

Friendsgiving Potluck

We invite all women, as we
Gather at the table to feast in
friendship, faith and community

November 10, 12:00 p.m.
St. Mary's of Lourdes Hall
424 Lourdes Church Rd., Germantown Hills, IL

There is a 10:30 am mass if anyone would like to go before the Potluck

Turkey, dressing and gravy, place setting and drink provided.
All you need to do is bring a dish to pass
(If you go to 10:30 mass, you may drop off dish in Hall before)

Silent Auction - Door Prizes

RSVP: Mary Jo Grebner 309-360-4876

Take this opportunity to join in an invite to all the women across the diocese
to join in this beautiful Friendsgiving Potluck to start the Holidays together!

Hosted by: PDCCW; Women Connect Ministry

visit
itoosociety.org
for additional event info
and to preorder for
Saturday's drive-thru

**ITOO HALL
FARMINGTON RD**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 (3PM-6PM)
preorder/drive-thru only (all orders prepaid)
orders due by end of day Friday, November 1
no orders taken on site Saturday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 (11AM-5PM)
dine-in seating / buffet serving
carry-outs available
bake sale & raffles

Meal includes: cabbage rolls, baked kibbeh,
green beans, chicken & rice, salad, pita bread

\$20 / MEAL

Save the Date!

ST. JOSEPH NEWMAN CENTER

ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

Friday | 07 | February
2025

5:30 PM COCKTAIL HOUR
6:30 PM DINNER & PROGRAMMING
GUEST SPEAKER: FR. DOUG GRANDON

PEORIA, IL

Catholic Campus Ministry for Bradley University



How to Submit Bulletin Information
Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net with subject *Bulletin*.

Submissions are due by Friday noon, one full week prior.

Send images or logos separately as attachments.

Submissions may be edited for content and length. Please, DO NOT send PDFs.

Sacrament of Baptism
Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.

Confessions
Saturday 4:00-4:45pm
&
6:00 p.m.-until last confession heard.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff are also available by email or voicemail. To leave a message, call 309-688-3446, and at the prompt, press:

- 3 - Msgr. Gray
- 0 - Terri- Administrative Assist.
- 1341 - Sheris—Finance & Tuition
- 1310 - Mary-Faith Formation

If you have items to deliver for the Parish Office, you are welcome to put them through the mail slot of the Office downstairs in the Church, or under the door of the main Sacristy upstairs. The Church is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day.

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JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
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