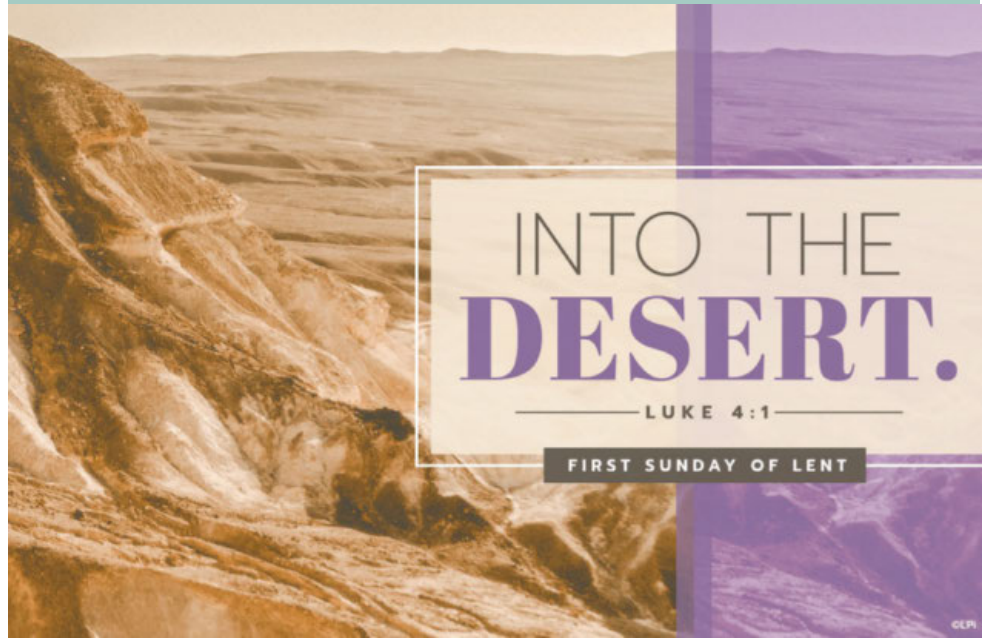




March 9, 2025 | First Sunday of Lent



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Deacon Michael V. Comerford

**DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**  
Deacon Mark Bialkowski

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
Peter Gonciarz

## GET IN TOUCH!

### RECTORY OFFICE

**Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**  
(closed on Th. and Fri. from 1—2 p.m.)

716-828-9444 • 716-828-9429 fax  
olvrectory@olvbasilica.org

### SCHOOL

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Mary Doyle-Szlosek, Principal

716-828-9434  
elementary@olvbasilica.org  
www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org

### FAITH FORMATION

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

**Sunday: 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**  
**Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

Carmelann Zomeri, Director

716-828-9437  
faithformation@olvbasilica.org

### GIFT SHOP AND MUSEUM

**Open Daily 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**  
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James Murphy, Gift Shop Manager

716-828-9433  
olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org

## COME & WORSHIP

### BASILICA HOURS

The Basilica is open for private prayer every day during the following hours:

**Sunday: 6:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.**  
**Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 6:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m.**

### WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 4:30 p.m.**

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday—Saturday:**  
7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

There is an additional Mass at 8:15 a.m. on Fridays when school is in session.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturdays:** (except Holy Saturday)  
3:00—4:00 p.m. and 7:00—7:30 p.m.

**Eve of First Fridays:** 3:00—4:00 p.m.

**Eve of Holy Days:** 3:00—4:00 p.m.

### GUIDED BASILICA TOURS

Please call the Rectory Office at 716-828-9444 if you are interested in scheduling a group tour.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,

At the time of the writing of this bulletin column, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, remains hospitalized. I encourage everyone to join me in continuing to pray for him at this time:

*O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd. Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens (unbaptized), by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance. The 40 days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper. From the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil, the *Alleluia* is not said.

**Abstinence:** All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**Fasting:** All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

### Stations of the Cross &

**Friday Evening Masses during Lent:** Every Friday during Lent we will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

### "THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE"

### A LENTEN PARISH MISSION FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

March 24, 25, and 26

I encourage you to please plan on participating in our three-day Lenten Parish Mission here in the Basilica later this month. Fr. Charles Marie Rooney, O.P. and Fr. Luke Mary VanBerkum, O.P., members of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans), will lead us on this parish mission to help us better understand how the Eucharist transforms us, renews us, and fills us with hope.

Fr. Charles was raised in Darien, CT, graduated with a B.A. from Duke University in 2016 and an M.A. in philosophy from Maynooth University, Ireland in 2017, and was ordained a priest in 2024. He is presently assigned in Washington, DC, where he is finishing his licentiate in sacred theology and providing local pastoral assistance in English and Spanish.



Fr. Luke grew up outside of Detroit, MI, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2016, and was ordained a priest in 2022 in Washington, DC. He spent a year finishing a licentiate in sacred theology, and now serves as parochial vicar at St. Gertrude Church in Cincinnati, OH.



The three-day mission will begin with talks on Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25, and then will culminate with a solemn Eucharistic Healing Service on Wednesday, March 26. Each day's event will be offered following the 12:10 p.m. daily

Mass and then again at 6:30 p.m. in the evening. Please feel free to attend whichever time works best for you. The mission will also include plentiful opportunities for Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and praying the Rosary. I know that their message will be exactly what we all need to hear, especially during these challenging times for our Church. Please come and bring a friend and spread the word... All are welcome!

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES 2025:

The Season of Lent always coincides with our Annual Catholic Charities Appeal and Fund for the Faith. As we heard on Ash Wednesday, the three disciplines of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. There is no better way to exercise the call to almsgiving than to support our Catholic Charities Appeal, which last year helped provide many essential services to those who needed it most in our community.

The Diocesan Goal for Appeal 2025 is \$8,500,000. **Our Parish Goal here at OLV Basilica for this year's appeal is \$155,004. To date, we have raised \$36,989.01 from 130 donors.**

To make a gift, please mail in your donor card to Appeal 2025, donate online at [ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org), or text HOPE4WNY to 44321. Please identify yourself as a parishioner of Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, so that our parish is credited to ensure we make our goal. For details about Catholic Charities, visit [ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org).

Jesus' message is clear: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Your support of Appeal 2025 carries out Jesus' call to us and brings HOPE and help to children and adults in every corner of Western New York.

May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you and your loved ones. God bless you!

**GRATEFULLY,  
FR. DAVID**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8—Saint John of God, Religious

- 7:30 am OLV Golden Treasury Intentions  
11:30 am **Wedding: Karina Hunt & James Walsh**  
(no 12:10 p.m. Mass today)  
1:30 pm **Wedding: Hannah May & Daniel Dillon**  
4:30 pm Cheryl Ann and Stella Gawel by the Gawel Family

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9—First Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Holy Name Society  
10:00 am Carol Ann Denny (Anniversary of Death) by Family  
12:00 pm Kevin Bartosz (Anniversary of Death) by wife Denise and children  
4:30 pm George & Charlotte Frantren by Donald Frantren

### MONDAY, MARCH 10—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Mr. Charles F. Cannan by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Sullivan  
12:10 pm John L. Tiberio (Birthday Remembrance) by wife Mary Ann & Family

### TUESDAY, MARCH 11—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph  
12:10 pm William Jeffrey Wood by the Weitz Family

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph  
12:10 pm Carolyn Grantges by Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph  
Eleanore F. Kaczmarczyk (Anniversary of Death) by Pat and daughters  
12:10 pm Chester Pula by Mr. & Mrs. David Zielinski

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Rev. Msgr. Michael E. DelVecchio by Regina A. Del Vecchio  
12:10 pm Nicholas A. Vertalino by Family  
7:00 pm **Stations of the Cross**  
7:30 pm Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph

### SATURDAY, MARCH 15—Lenten Weekday

- 7:30 am Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph  
12:10 pm Suzanne Marie Gates by the Gates Family  
4:30 pm Raymond & Dorothy Reisdorf by Estate

### SUNDAY, MARCH 16—Second Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 am Intentions for the Novena in Honor of St. Joseph  
10:00 am Patricia M. Mlodzienski by Estate  
12:00 pm Concetta Silvestri and Carlo Silvestri by Eusebio Pacella  
4:30 pm Maureen Guiodotti (living) by Kathleen Palermo

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary for Peace on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Basilica.

Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.

**March 4, April 8,  
and April 29**

Join our "Victory for Christ" prayer group in the Basilica's chapel on the lower level to praise, thank, and give witness to God.

**Friday Afternoons**

Join us each week for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.

## BASILICA ELEVATOR CLOSED

In order to install a new elevator, our current elevator has been shut down. **As a reminder, we ask that the front semi-circle driveway in front of the Basilica be only used by those who are disabled and have a handicapped permit. All others are please asked to park behind the Basilica.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of ongoing restoration to care for our magnificent Basilica.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE

Weekends of March 8—9 and 15—16

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 31478 will be selling Girl Scout cookies after all Masses during the weekends of March 8/9 and 15/16 in the lower portion of the Basilica. Cookies are \$6 a box (cash, credit, and Venmo taken). Funds help the girls to learn new skills, camp, have fun, and complete service projects including their Silver Award Project. The girls' plan for their Award is to build a Buddy Bench (or 4) for playgrounds and create antibullying information to go with the bench(es). Thank you for your generous support.

### LENTEN PROGRAM— WORD BEYOND SUNDAYS

Mondays • 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.  
March 10, March 17, March 31,  
April 7, and April 14

Take some time this Lent to reflect on God's Word Beyond Sundays by joining us to take a deeper look at each weekend's readings. Sessions will meet each Monday until Easter, with the exception of during the Parish Mission on March 24. All sessions take place in the Marian Room on the lower level of the Basilica. Sessions will be offered at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Feel free to come to any or all sessions.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.  
March 11, April 8, May 13, or June 10

If you are a new parent looking to have your baby baptized, plan to attend one of our upcoming Baptism Preparation classes.



Choose the date that best fits your schedule! Sessions are held in the Marian Room on the Basilica's lower level. To register, scan the QR code. For questions, please contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org).

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday, March 16 • 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for our next Children's Liturgy! Practice will take place on Saturday, March 15 in the Community Room (singers 9—9:45 a.m. and all others 9:45—10:30 a.m.). Everyone must attend practice unless excused by Tina. The ministers are:

- **Readers:** Jeanette Wnuk, Henri Burton
- **Collectors:** Josephine Burton, Evan Walter, Sam Kujawinski, Mateo Hines
- **Gifts:** Rider & Riker Darling, Lilyana Harris
- **Greeters:** Riley and Regan Darling
- **Singers:** Hannah Sweeney, Lyla Oehler, Aubrey Harris

We need more greeters and singers! Please call Tina (716-826-5075) to have your child volunteer or with questions. We also invite the parish community to join us for our refreshments in the Marian Room after Mass. We look forward to seeing you!

### HEALING MASS

Tuesday, March 18 • 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Richard DiGiulio, Director of Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Buffalo, will celebrate a Healing Mass here in the Basilica. All are welcome.

### SOUP AND SPEAKERS

Fridays • 6:00—6:50 p.m.  
March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11

On select Fridays, the Service Club will provide "Soup and Speakers" in the Basilica's Community Room before the Stations of the Cross. Join us for fellowship, a variety of tasty, homemade vegetarian soups, and enlightening speakers:

- **March 21**—Fr. Ron Sajdak: *Reaching Out to Africa*
- **March 28**—Sarah Lindstrom: *Right to Life*
- **April 4**—Fr. Sean Paul Fleming: *Jubilee Year 2025*
- **April 11**—Riley Emer: *Catholic Parenting Initiative*



### SOUP DONATIONS NEEDED:

Calling on any soup-makers for your crockpot full of your favorite vegetarian soup! Please call Bridget at 716-536-3887 if you are interested in donating your soup for one of our evenings.

### VICTORIOUS HEARTS

Saturday, March 22 • 5:30 p.m.

All married and engaged couples are invited to attend a special Victorious Hearts event in the Brvenik Community Room with the visiting Dominican priests who will be leading OLV's Parish Mission. They will be presenting to the group on Eucharistic Matrimony, highlighting how the Eucharist, as the source and summit of our faith, can strengthen couples.

### VICTORIOUS MEN

Sunday, March 23 • 3:00 p.m.

Victorious Men, OLV's newly formed men's spirituality group, invites men of the parish to attend the first in a series of presentations on different types of spirituality within the Catholic tradition. The first event will be a special audience with the visiting Dominican priests who will be sharing on Dominican spirituality. All men are welcome to attend the presentation in the Brvenik Community Room on the lower level of the Basilica.

### "THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE" A Lenten Parish Mission for Eucharistic Revival

March 24-26 • 12:45 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

The Eucharist, being the source and summit of our faith, has the power to change our lives. Join Fr. Charles Rooney and Fr. Luke VanBerkum, of the Dominican Friars, as they lead us on a parish mission to better understand how the Eucharist transforms us, renews us, and fills us with hope. The mission will begin with talks on Monday, March 24, and Tuesday, March 25, and will culminate with a

solemn Eucharistic Healing Service on Wednesday, March 26. Each day's event will be offered following 12:10 p.m. daily Mass and then again at 6:30 p.m. in the evening. Feel free to attend whichever time works best for you. The mission will include plentiful opportunities for Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and praying the Rosary. We look forward to seeing you there!

### OLV ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

Saturday, March 29 • 5:30 p.m.  
OLV Elementary School

Get your ticket for the OLV 2025 Sweepstakes, hosted by OLV School! Each \$50 ticket admits two (21+) for a chance to win one of 30 prizes, including a \$10,000 Grand Prize! Tickets available after weekend Masses, at the Gift Shop, Rectory, or OLV Elementary, or scan this QR code. For questions, please call the School Office at 716-828-9435 or Rick Diamond at 716-253-4679.



### TEENAGERS – YOU'RE INVITED . . .

Young people in grades 8–12 are invited to *No Matter WHAT: A Day for Catholic Teens* on Sunday, March 30 from 12:00 Noon — 5:30 p.m. at Hilbert College in Hamburg!

Gather with teenagers from across the Diocese of Buffalo for an interactive day with national speaker Paul J. Kim! The day concludes with Mass with Bishop Michael Fisher.

The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. For more info or to register, scan the QR code. *This will be an experience you won't want to miss!*



### OLV ELEMENTARY

Did you know that OLV Elementary School has bus service from Buffalo, Lackawanna, West Seneca, Orchard Park, Frontier and Hamburg? So if you are looking for a great school for your children or grandchildren, look no further than OLV Elementary. Call 716-828-7592 and take a tour today! OLV Elementary School... our first 100 years were awesome, the next 100 will be even better! *The Legacy Lives On*, join us!

### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (former RCIA)

Please keep the following OCIA members in your prayers as they prepare to become full members of the Catholic Church: **Eric Umphreyville, Alex Metros, Andrew Sannes, Adam Garbacz, Ryan Davern, Courtney Wendling, Jack Bracci, Shannon Smith, Daniel Benimoff, Sam Perpetus, Ryan Halligan, Alyssa Penfield, Lisa Carter, Estefany Valladares, Stacey Smith, Mariana Smith, David Piscitello, David Buckley, Doug Darling, Regan Darling, Riley Darling, Rider Darling, Riker Darling, Nicholas Gatti, Peyton Maeder, and Rick Osman.**

### OLV SERVICE CLUB

All ages are welcome to join us and participate in performing the corporal works of mercy! For questions, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

Donations for Easter Baskets are needed. Small plush toys, crayons, coloring books, playing cards, fidget toys, etc. can be dropped off at OLV Elementary School from Monday—Friday (9 a.m.—2 p.m.) until March 15.

Resurrection Life Food Pantry (located at 2145 Old Union Road)—Volunteers are needed **Thursday, March 20 from 5:30—6:30 p.m.**

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria. We will make Easter baskets for the children of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and collect baby supplies for the St. Gianna Molla ministry.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	TIME	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Sat. 3/15	4:30 pm	Glenn Reid	Jean Dulak, Mary Anne Jackson, John Leszak	Josephine Burton
Sun. 3/16	8:00 am	Chris Heyden	Eugene Allman, Sheila Allman, Catherine Bergen	
	10 am	Children's Liturgy	Timothy Wing, Terrence McCann	
	Noon	Arthur Smith	Molly McClenathan, Robert McDonough, Kathleen Roche	A.J. Ball, Samantha Ball
	4:30 pm	Stefan Gelle	Donna Gelle, Richard Grasso, Marsha Lipke	



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- 1 Go to [www.olvbasilica.org](http://www.olvbasilica.org) and click *Donate*.
- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!

**OR scan a QR code to go directly to a specific donation page:**



**Offertory Collection—**  
Donate to the general offertory collection to support OLV National Shrine & Basilica.

**Vigil Candle—**Pay the requested offering to light a candle in the Basilica. (Requested offering is \$5 per candle.)



**Save the Dome—Adopt an Angel—**  
This public phase of our Centennial Campaign allows donors to assist with the cost of replacing the Basilica's deteriorating copper dome. More details to the right.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

In order to maintain our beautiful Basilica and support the mission and ministries of our parish, we depend on weekly donations.

Offertory envelopes can either be mailed or dropped off at the Rectory Office at **767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218**. For online giving, go to <https://www.olvbasilica.org> and click *Donate* at the top of the page.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

### OFFERTORY—Sunday, February 9, 2025

#### PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekly	\$17,999.14
Monthly	\$1,031.50
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$5.00
Holy Day: Christmas (12/25)	\$5.00
Fuel	\$1,340.00
Sr. Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund	\$125.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$2,113.00

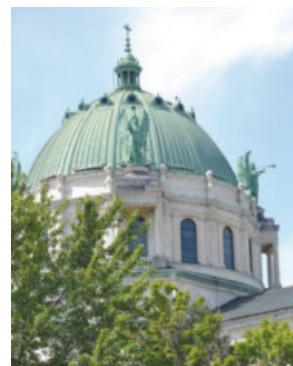
#### ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

Catholic Relief Services	\$20.00
Central & Eastern Europe and Poland	\$38.00
Disaster Relief (California Wildfires)	\$20.00

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,696.64</b>
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## SAVE THE DOME— ADOPT AN ANGEL



As you know, Buffalo's harsh climate has taken its toll on the Basilica's dome over the past 100 years and water infiltration has significantly damaged the plaster and interior paintings. OLV is in the process of raising \$3 million to replace the copper of the Basilica's dome. It is incumbent

upon us to do our very best to care for this magnificent shrine for years to come. One way to get involved is through our "Adopt an Angel" initiative where individuals can adopt one of the more than 2,000 angels featured in the Basilica. Or simply make a donation of any amount. Every single gift, great or small, makes a difference. For more information or to donate, please scan the QR code to the left. To discuss your personal gift, contact Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.

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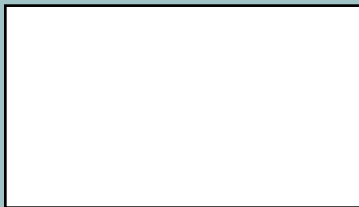
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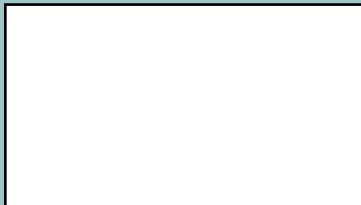
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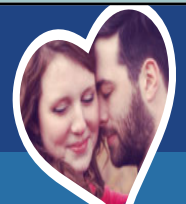


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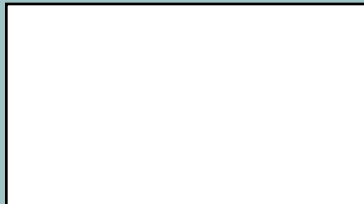
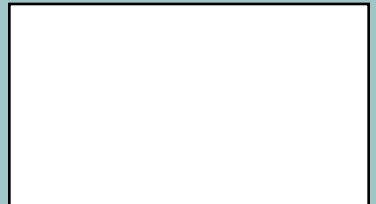
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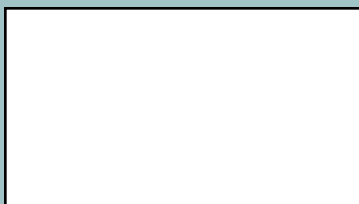
  
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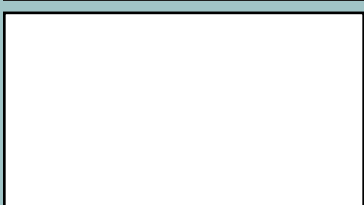
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