

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



“SO TOO, YOU ALSO MUST BE PREPARED, FOR AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT, THE SON OF MAN WILL COME.”

MATTHEW 24:44



SATURDAY LITURGY

Vigil: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY LITURGY

7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Livestream 9:30 AM mass

DAILY LITURGY

Weekdays 7:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

HOLY DAY LITURGY

See page 9 of the bulletin

CHAPEL HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Wednesdays

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays

1:00-4:00 PM in the Chapel

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Sacrament of Penance...Saturday

3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Baptisms...First time parents at St. Michael must attend a Baptism Prep session before the baptism date can be scheduled. Please call Janice at ext. 8241 to schedule the prep session and/or baptism date.

Marriage....The bride, groom or their parents/grandparents must be active registered members of the parish for at least one year prior to reserving a date for the wedding. The diocese requires that arrangements must be made at least six months in advance of the wedding date in order for the proper personal, spiritual and liturgical preparations of the couple to be completed.

Sacrament of the Sick...Please call the office until 4:00 PM. After 4:00 PM, please call 322-6623 Monday-Friday and anytime on the weekend.

Names of the sick are placed in the bulletin for a period of four weeks after which time they are either removed or placed in the Book of Intentions in the Chapel.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday prior to the Sunday printing

9:00 AM. Holidays have exceptions.

Please submit potential bulletin articles by email to

bulletin@stmichaelparish.life or in print form to the office or by fax to 322-4508.

MINISTRIES

If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, please visit the website for Ministry Coordinator information.

Spirituality & Worship Commission

Altar Servers

Art & Environment

Cross Bearers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Hospitality

Lectors

Liturgy Committee

Music Ministry

Centering Prayer Ministry

OCIA

Sacristan

Ministers of Care

Education & Formation Commission

Adult Catholic Education

Baptismal Preparation

Catholic Bible Study

Faith Formation

Marriage Ministry

Marriage Preparation

Radiate

School Administrator

Stewardship & Parish Administration

AV Ministry

Cemetery Committee

Parish Gardeners

Stewardship

Parish Life

Boy Scouts of America/Girl Scouts

Comforting Chefs

Festival Committee

Holy Name Society

Knights of Columbus

Labors of Love

Ministry of Hope & Consolation

Young Adult Ministry

Parish Nurse

Senior GEMS

Welcoming Ministry

Peace & Social Justice Commission

Good Samaritans

Rebuilding Hope Mission Team

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry

Respect Life Group

Pastoral Care

CONVENT

Congregation of Mother of Carmel

43 W. Wilhelm St., Schererville

219-322-4011

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Deacon Gary Wolfe.....Permanent Deacon

November 30, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Provide for the Spirit. The holiday cycle began long before Thanksgiving. Christmas music began to blare from the radio right after Halloween. The cycle of advertising and buying, to which we all succumb to one extent or another, finds its culmination in one day. On that day, my father used to jokingly greet us with a hearty: "Happy Commerce Day!" We all laughed, but it was to a large degree very true.

As we begin Advent, a season that seems to get lost in the hustle and bustle, we are given a stark reminder that we really are "not to make provision for the desires of the flesh." St. Paul is not talking about sexual matters. Paul's use of the Greek word we translate as flesh encompasses everything that has to do with our bodies. Our preoccupation with decorating our bodies in jewelry or tattoos. Our indulgence, worrying too much about our "image;" an overdoing it with food and drink; giving of gifts many times beyond our financial means. All of these can easily distract us from the real reason for the season.

That reason is to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Not simply to remember his first coming in the manger, but to remember it in order to be ready for his second coming in glory when, as we profess in the Creed, "He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Does this mean we have to be like a scrooge when it comes to the customs that surround Christmas? Do we need to not shop, decorate or be happy about the promise of this time of the year? No, it does mean that you and I need to do all of these things with some degree of balance. If accomplishing all of these concerns of the flesh, as it were, distract us from readying our hearts and minds, if they keep us from more intense prayer, or from going to confession to prepare our hearts, or if they delay us or make us too tired to go to Sunday Mass, then they have nothing to do with Christmas as Christ intends it to be celebrated.

First comes our interior decorating, the getting ready of our hearts and minds to welcome Christ as if he is going to show up on Christmas day, not as a baby (that's done) but as our Lord. We want him to be pleased with our acts of charity and sacrifice that lead us to share more with others.

On the Thursdays of Advent you are invited to slow down and reflect on what we are preparing for with all our activity. At 7:00 PM on December 4, 11 and 18 please come for a few minutes of prayer and reflection and some fellowship. Praying the Evening Prayer of the Church together can help us appreciate a deeper meaning of what we celebrate on December 25th. This special prayer time will help to keep you alert to what really matters during a season that is far to commercialized. On Monday December 8 we celebrate our National Feast Day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Friday, December 12 we will have a special celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Mass and a fiesta to follow. Most important, on Wednesday, December 17 we have our Advent Penance Service at 7:00 PM.

All the noise of Christmas celebrated without Advent makes us numb to God's presence. The result is that we fall asleep and miss the special insight that Jesus is already in our midst. So let us be glad, but be aware that this season is not the end of things, but the beginning of great things yet to be seen.

Marriage Preparation. It is at this time of the year and in the month ahead that many young people get engaged. If you or someone (another Catholic) is getting engaged please remember that you need to contact the parish office no less than six months in advance.

A Catholic looking to get married must be married in a Catholic church witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon. Any dispensation from the "form" must be approved by the Bishop. If one chooses not to follow this expectation the marriage is not sacramentally valid, and thus the couple involved cannot go to communion. As Catholics we believe that marriage is a sacramental state, not just a civil one.

Fr. Robert, Deacons Ron and Gary and I are charged with the responsibility to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Thus, it is best to contact the office sooner rather than later. The preparation period is at least six months, so it is best to contact us nine months from the wedding date. This preparation is bolstered by other married couples in the parish and it takes time. Time that cannot be made up. The whole of six months is needed. We want to help you have a successful and happy marriage, not just a nice wedding day.

Spirituality and Worship

Eucharistic Adoration

"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that adoration." - St Teresa of Calcutta



Come and Spend Time with the Lord—Wednesdays,
1:00 - 4:00 PM in the Chapel



Advent Books
will be available
this weekend after
all Masses in the
Gathering Space.
\$1.50 Donation

All are
Welcome!

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day



Danza Azteca - Chicago



LIVE Reenactment



Mariachi Juvenil Zamora - Chicago

Friday, Dec 12

6pm Doors Open

6:30 pm Danza Azteca

7pm Mass with Fr. Robert Ross

Fellowship & Refreshments to follow in
St. Patrick Hall.



Scan here to make an online donation and support this wonderful festivity
honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Peace and Social Justice Commission

PRAY FOR THE SICK; LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Rose Ilgin, Ken Andersen, Jennifer Engle, Marisa Adams, Pat Matz, Rina Testolin, Leo Paratore, Geraldine Heintz, Bob Gabor, Michelle Lamb, Jo Brown, Dave Brown, Nicole Villanueva, Ruth Marie Sarros, Soledad Salinas, Donna Saber, Phyllis Leyba, Timothy Bunchek, Tim & Helen Hazard, Joan Hamnik, Emelia Williams, Gerry Scheub, George Ristich, and all those in need of the healing touch of God.

Please call 219-322-4505, ext. 8220 to place a loved one on the Prayer List. Please see page 2 for guidelines regarding Pray for the Sick List. *St. Michael's parishioners are in bold, italic print.*

For Those Who

Have Died...

Daniel Winchell

Life has changed,
not ended.

*"Help trim our tree, help trim our tree
How lovely are thy branches."*

*"May the Holy Family bless you in a deep abiding way, with special joy and gladness
of that first bright Christmas Day"*

*In that spirit, your cards help decorate our trees and
your donations will allow our ministry to continue
to do the work that is asked of us.*

*We wish you and those you love Christmas peace and God's blessings for good health.
The Good Samaritans thank you for your generous hearts.*



Respect Life Feast of the Holy Family Mass Cards and Breakfast with St. Nicholas and Baby Jesus

Respect Life Christmas cards are being sold in the GS after all Masses until Dec. 14, which is Coffee and Donuts Sunday and Breakfast with St. Nicholas and Baby Jesus. Cards will be sold for \$2 apiece or 10 for \$15. Buying a card gets the recipient entered into our Book of Intentions. These names will be prayed for at the Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 28 and all throughout the year. Forms will be available to enter the names of those you are sending cards to, and they can be dropped off in the GS during the month of Dec. Join us to have your child's picture taken with Baby Jesus and St. Nicholas. You can either take your own picture for a Good Will offering, or for \$5 we can take the picture for you, which will include a festive picture frame. Hope to see you there!

Education and Formation



ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL WARRIOR OF THE WEEK JOCELYN GRASHA

Hello, my name is Jocelyn Grasha. I have been attending Saint Michael's since kindergarten for 9 years. I am planning to attend Andrean High School, where I want to play softball, basketball, and volleyball like my sister, who is my role model. She will be a freshman in college, and I will be a freshman in high school. During my time at Saint Michael's, I have made lasting friendships and memories. I will definitely miss the school, the supportive teachers, and the close community.

I enjoyed playing sports and participating in cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, choir, and Bricks for Kids at Saint Michael's. I also did Girl Scouts from kindergarten to second grade. Outside of school, I play travel softball and basketball. Playing sports has taught me teamwork, encouraged personal growth, and helped me make close friends, like my best friend Hailey, with whom when we were little explored the woods behind our houses.

The small, tight-knit community is what makes Saint Michael's special. I love how our small classes help us bond, and I've always felt welcome here. The staff and students are kind, and teachers and classmates support each other. Some of my teachers are close friends, and I feel comfortable asking for help whenever I need it.

My advice to younger students is to have fun and enjoy every moment at Saint Michael's. Time flies by when you have fun. One minute I am a new student in Mrs. Barone's class, and in a blink of an eye, I am in 8th Grade. All the teachers that I have had are the best and make it so fun. Also, they always make learning fun and put all of their energy into school. I know school can be hard if you are also doing sports, but always put school first.

Saint Michael's has helped me become a better friend through all the teamwork that you do in class. Even in the younger grades, you always have group projects that everyone has to do. It has taught me to be patient and kind to others. Saint Michael's has taught me to be the best family member I can be. The staff prepared me for all the things that I am going to experience in my life. The teachers show you how to have the best manners you need. They have helped me be the best student I can be by teaching us the most important study habits. Everyone has a different style, and it helps everyone.

I have also grown closer to God during my time at Saint Michael's. It teaches us the values that God teaches us, and the teachers show them to us. They taught us to put God before everything else. He is the center of our world. I love how every week we go to church. I think the students also help me because they tell you if you do something wrong and help you fix it. I also believe that religion class helps me; it makes me think of a deeper understanding of what a disciple of Jesus is supposed to be.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6th grade students took a field trip to see a Chicago Wolves hockey game to participate in the "Get Schooled by Skates" event. The students got to sit in the 3rd row to see all the action! During the first period intermission, two students even got to ride a Zamboni!



Parish Life

150 YEARS

SEPT 2024

LAST CHANCE

Would you like a keepsake from our 150th Anniversary? A limited number of panoramic photos are available — perfect for framing or displaying in your home or office. Don't miss this piece of St. Michael Parish history! Email Elizabeth Munoz at emunoz@stmichaelparish.life if you're interested.

Radiate Attends NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is an amazing Catholic experience for our Radiate teens to attend. This three day, high-energy retreat in Indianapolis brings together over 16,000 teens from all over the United States. NCYC leaves a life-long impression among our high schoolers. This year, our teens experienced many wonderful moments: our “live” Zoom call with Pope Leo XIV, Father Robert walking by our side and experiencing NCYC with us, and Bishop McClory celebrating a special Mass with the Diocese of Gary. On the bus ride home, St. Michael teens spoke about their NCYC experience...

- “Coming in and seeing thousands of kids, people having the **same beliefs** and expressing themselves, was **very powerful**”
- “God is beautiful during **Eucharistic Adoration**—it was an amazing experience”
- “I felt God connecting to me through the **worship music**”
- “I have doubted my faith, but I was able to open up and now **feel closer** to God”
- “We were surrounded by so many Catholic people... the **unity** was amazing as everyone came together for Jesus and their faith”
- “It was an **escape from reality**”
- “I loved the people and the relationships I’ve made, speakers resonated in my heart”
- “**I felt peace** after my confession”
- “I have **more clarity** with my faith and more routines to implement”



Next Event for Radiate: Sunday, November 30, 6-8 PM in SPH. Celebrating Advent with Hot Cocoa Bar, Cookies and A Christmas Story Night! NOTE: Bring Your Own Favorite Coffee Mug! Don't miss out on faith-filled fun!

To join Radiate or ask questions, contact Mrs. Jeannine Quigley 219-775-5356.

ST. MICHAEL WHEELCHAIR RAMP MINISTRY



On Tuesday November 18, St. Michael's Wheelchair Ramp Ministry installed its 103rd ramp for Elizabeth Pence in Lake Station. Elizabeth needed a ramp as a prerequisite for discharge from her rehabilitation facility. This was a referral from Catholic Charities. Pictured is Jared Carroll, who is being mentored to assume administration responsibility for the Rebuilding Hope / Wheelchair Ramp Ministry. We had members from St. Michael the Archangel, St. John the Evangelist, and Holy Name of Jesus parishes helping. If you would like to participate in this ministry in any way please contact the St. Michael parish office at 219-322-4505. If you know of anyone who may benefit from our services please have them contact Catholic Charities at outreach@catholic-charities.org or call 219-886-3549 and ask for Daniela Ocanas.



HANDCRAFTED ITEMS
CHRISTMAS COOKIES
SANTA STATION
FOOD FOR PURCHASE

DEC 13th 2025

**9AM-2PM CDT
ST TIMOTHY CENTER
6357 CR 300 E.
LA PORTE, IN 46350**

The Dioceses of
Indiana present:



9:00 AM EST: YOUTH RALLY—Mother Olga, speaker
Praise & Worship with the Nico Cabrera Band

11:30 AM EST: MASS FOR LIFE—celebrated by the Bishops of IN

1:30 PM EST: RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH—through downtown Indy

OPTION #1

4:30 AM CST Departure
Youth Rally, Mass, March for Life
Students 8th—12th grade &
chaperones

OPTION #2

7 AM CST Departure
Mass and March for Life
Open to all ages

Cost: \$40 Adults, \$25 Students

Includes a box lunch for the trip home

Bus departs from Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs
8303 W Taft St, Merrillville, IN 46410



Bus trip sponsored by the Office of Prolife
Activities, Diocese of Gary
and Lake County Right to Life



Giving Tuesday • December 2
Your Gift Makes a World of Difference.

Did you know?

The Labors of Love Ministry became an official ministry of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in 2016. What began as a small group of crafters creating sleeping mats for the homeless has grown into a vibrant ministry of over 30 dedicated members. Over the years—including through the challenges of COVID—the members continued creating, encouraging one another, and finding ways to stay connected. Their perseverance allowed the ministry not only to survive but to flourish. Today, their outreach extends across Northwest Indiana, delivering handcrafted gifts of compassion wherever they are needed.

Members of the ministry create a wide variety of items: baby blankets, hats, shawls, scarves, slippers, lapghans, rosaries, baptismal gifts, and more. This past year, they introduced a special Baptismal Package for every baby baptized in the parish, a meaningful gift for families to celebrate this important milestone. Every item crafted by the Labors of Love is made with prayer, purpose, and compassion. Each piece is a masterpiece, and every recipient is a reminder of why this ministry serves.

To continue sharing God's love in such a tangible, heartfelt way, the ministry relies on community support. This Giving Tuesday, your generosity helps the Labors of Love Ministry continue spreading warmth, hope, and compassion throughout the community. Thank You!



QRCode is now active for online donations. Cash or check donations can be sent to the parish office.

Scan to
Donate



Christmas Flower envelopes should be submitted in the collection towers by Dec 8 at 9 AM if you would like your intentions printed in the Christmas Bulletin.

SENIOR GEMS

Please join us for the last meeting of the year on Dec. 9 at 10 AM in the SE room. We will be discussing:

Christmas Party with Senior Promise

12/10 from 1-3 PM at Teibels

Christmas Party with Labors of Love

12/16 at 11:30 AM at Carabarra

Frank Sinatra concert

12/14 at 3 PM at Visual Arts in Munster
Come join the fun.



Tree of Life Imports will bring handmade gifts from artisans in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

They are committed to fair trade and economic justice. They pay a fair price to family workshops in rural areas to raise their standard of living above poverty level. These practices help achieve more social justice for poor and marginalized populations. Sales will take place in the GS after all weekend masses.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Looking for a young adult community with Catholic values? Text or call AnnMarie Hemmerling to join the Young Adult GroupMe! 219-798-3248



From the last meeting on Nov. 21: Young Adults met for a Bible study focusing on the Gospel for the weekend.

Stewardship in Action

Light the 1st advent candle at home as you pray for a Holy Advent and do something kind today.

-submitted by Conchita Bryner

Stewardship is...



"Faithful Giving, Blessings Abound – Thank you for Your Support." To make online giving easier, please scan the QR code to donate.

There are towers available on either side of the main aisle in church to place your Sunday donations. We no longer pass baskets for regular collections.



November 23, 2025

Adult Collection - \$13,877.33

Children's Collection - \$84.00

Loose Collection - \$576.00

EFT's - \$9,963.25

**Total Weekly Offering
\$24,500.58**

Thank you for your generosity!

Weekly Schedule

GS-Gathering Space

SPH-St. Patrick Hall

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30

Respect Life Card Sales, After All Masses, GS
Tree of Life Sales, After All Masses, GS
OCIA, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM, SE and SW Rooms
Radiate, 6:00 PM, SPH

The Rosary is said after 7:00 AM weekday Mass except Tuesday-after OLPH Devotions

MONDAY DECEMBER 1

Centering Prayer, 6:00 PM, SW Room

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2

Labors of Love, 10:00 AM, SPH
Faith Formation, 6:00 PM, SMS and Gym
CYO Meeting, 7:00 PM, SW Room
Catholic Bible Study, 7:00 PM, SPH

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3

Good Samaritans Meeting, 12:00 PM, SE Room
Eucharistic Adoration, 1:00-4:00 PM, Chapel
Children's Choir Practice, 3:15 PM, Library
Faith Formation, 6:00 PM, SMS and Gym

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

Advent Evening Prayer, 7:00 PM, Church
Music Ministry Practice, 7:00 PM, Church

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

Chair Yoga, 8:00 AM, St. Amand Room
Bell Choir Practice, 6:00 PM, Church
St. Nick's Night, 6:00 PM, SMS and Gym
K of C Christmas Party, 4:00 PM, SPH

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

Confessions, 3:30-4:30 PM, Chapel
Respect Life Card Sales, After 5:00 PM Mass, GS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

Respect Life Card Sales, After 5:00 PM Mass, GS
OCIA, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM, SE and SW Rooms
Vietnamese Confessions, 5:00 PM, Church
Radiate, 6:00 PM, St. Amand Room
Vietnamese Mass, 6:00 PM, Church
Vietnamese Reception, After Mass, SPH



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY		NOVEMBER 29	THURSDAY		DECEMBER 4
5:00 PM		+ James "Nacho" Mendoza, 9 th Anniversary	7:00 AM		Dorothy Jendraszkiewcz
SUNDAY		NOVEMBER 30 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	FRIDAY		DECEMBER 5
7:30 AM		St. Michael Parish	7:00 AM		+ Elizabeth Oberman
MONDAY		DECEMBER 1	SATURDAY		DECEMBER 6
7:00 AM		+ Deacon Ed Gatons, 7 th Anniversary	8:00 AM		+ Henry Lyza + Meredith Macki Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY		DECEMBER 2	5:00 PM		+ Kyle Arnold
7:00 AM		+ Kay Parker	SUNDAY		DECEMBER 7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WEDNESDAY		DECEMBER 3	7:30 AM		+ Ed and Sue Stanish + Monica Drzewiecki
7:00 AM		+ Departed Souls in Congregation of Mother of Carmel	9:30 AM		St. Michael Parish
8:55 AM.		+ Norma Dobrzynski	11:30 AM		For an End to Abortion on Demand and for a Conversion of Heart for Those Who Provide Abortions

+ indicates deceased

The Word (Readings for December 7, 2025, 2nd Sunday in Advent)

I. Isaiah 11:1–10.

Isaiah foretells a savior from the line of Jesse who will be filled with the Spirit and bring perfect justice and peace. In this renewed world, even enemies will live in harmony and God's presence will fill the earth.

II. Romans 15:4–9

St. Paul encourages believers to stay united in Christ, to welcome one another, and to find hope in the Scriptures. Christ came to fulfill God's promises and to extend God's mercy to all people.

III. Matthew 3:1–12

John the Baptist calls the people to repentance and prepares the way for Jesus. He warns that true repentance must bear good fruit and proclaims that the one coming after him, Christ, will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

OUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS

Our weekly parish bulletin is created and managed right here in our parish office. The advertising proceeds directly support our parish. When you're in need of services for your home, please consider supporting the businesses that make our bulletin possible—and don't forget to mention that you saw their ad here!

To advertise in our bulletin, call Elizabeth Munoz, Communications Director at 219-334-8042.



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Sam '18



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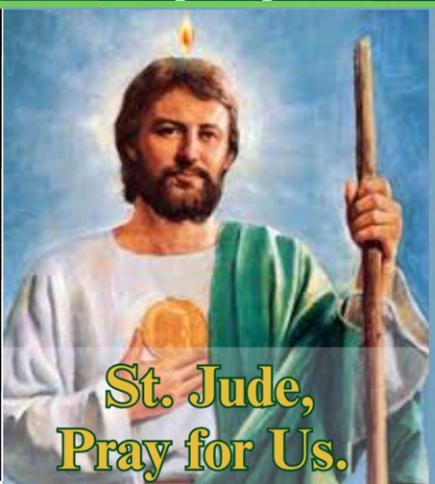
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 particularly (state request) and that I may praise
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 I promise, O blessed St Jude,
 to be ever mindful of this great favour,
 to always honour you as my special & powerful
 patron & to gratefully encourage devotion to you.
 Amen

Most holy Apostle, St Jude,
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 the Church honors and invokes you
 universally,
 as the patron of hopeless causes,
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