

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7/8, 2019



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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NEW PARISHIONERS & VISITORS, WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By: **Msgr. John Mbinda**

This Sunday, the readings focus our attention on two key Advent themes: 1) the call to prepare ourselves through conversion in the Gospel, and 2) the call to wait in hope for a kingdom of peace in the first reading. In the Gospel, John the Baptist announces a message of repentance "for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand". John is the prophet Isaiah spoke of saying, "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." This is the real meaning of Advent, preparing ourselves spiritually for the Saviour who comes to bring the gift of peace for the world. The Liturgy of the Word, therefore, invites us to prepare ourselves spiritually, by being reconciled with God and with one another. That inner conversion should be so real that we open our eyes to see the plight of the poor around us and do something about it.

The lesson we learn from the encounter between John the Baptist and some Jewish religious leaders is important. John underlines the importance of authentic spiritual reform - conversion. Genuine spiritual reform is always accompanied by action as evidence that we have truly been transformed by the Lord. That is why John the Baptist tells the Pharisee and the Sadducees to "Produce good fruit as evidence" of repentance. In other words, the sign of our inner transformation shows itself in the life we live in. It is not enough to be baptized. For John the Baptist, conversion literally meant turning around from the direction one is going.

The second theme, waiting in hope for a kingdom of peace is found in both the first and second readings. Isaiah prophesies that out of the line of David would come a king who would be a different kind of king. "Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips." That king would establish a kingdom of justice and peace.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Mon - Sat): 8:00 AM

Sunday: (Sat. Vigil) 5 PM,

(Sun) 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, 6 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

(or by appointment)

MISSION / VISION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic Christian Community, called to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. Such a relationship is fostered through active participation in: *Word, Sacrament, Renewal Programs, Ministry/Service,* and other ***Spirit-led*** activities. We dedicate our time, talent and treasure to install, in our parish community, the basic building blocks of Christian living, ***to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to all through our words, deeds, and lives.***

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www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/JohnHI

 St. John Apostle & Evangelist Mililani

 saintjohnmililani

We look forward to connecting with you!

Pastor’s Corner

Parish Rectory Hours Monday: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM Tues. - Fri.: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday/Sunday: Closed
Outreach Office Hours Tuesday: 9 AM to 12 PM Friday: 9 AM to 11 AM FOOD PANTRY Hours Tues.- Fri.: 9 AM to 11 AM
Religious Ed Office Hours Monday/ Saturday: Closed Tues., Thurs & Fri. 12 PM - 6:30pm Wednesday: 2 pm - 8:30 pm Sunday: 7 am - 2 pm
PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

Pastor (ext. 111)
Msgr. John Mbinda
jmbinda@rcchawaii.org
Parochial Vicar (x 104)
Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa
jayinpuusa@rcchawaii.org
Deacon Modesto Cordero
mcordero@rcchawaii.org
Deacon Romeo Ganibe
rganibe@rcchawaii.org
Parish Office Administrator (x 103)
Jolly Guerrero-Tano
jollygt@rcchawaii.org
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RCIA Coordinators
Dcn. Modesto Cordero
Dcn. Romeo Ganibe
Religious Ed. Director (x 206)
Julie Quiroz-Zamora
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Acting Preschool Director
Amytes Quiason (744-9538)
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Advent Wreath Tradition



DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The Advent candles readily show the sharp contrast between darkness and light. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the “Light of the World” contrasted with the darkness of sin. As his First Advent, or “coming,” draws nearer another candle on the wreath is lit. Each candle symbolizes the dispelling of the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, who comes to redeem the human race. The Advent Wreath is displayed until before the Christmas Vigil Mass.

SHAPE, NUMBER, AND COLOR

SHAPE: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

NUMBER: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. There is no tradition for a fifth Christmas Candle. Each of the four candles represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

COLOR: Violet is the liturgical color that traditionally signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Historically, Advent sprung from Lenten practices. Both seasons use the violet liturgical color. On the third Sunday of Advent, a desert rose color candle is used to symbolize joy as we are halfway towards Christmas. The vestments are also the desert rose color for that reason.

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

“Be generous and you will be prosperous; help others and you will be helped.” (Good News Translation) - Prov 11:25

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

The prophecy of Isaiah in this reading speaks in beautiful poetic images of the restoration of God’s people after their return from exile. This renewal of life and nationhood is described in terms of God coming to save his people. Emphasis is placed on God’s compassion for the less fortunate. There is a certain echo of joy, because the blind, the deaf, the lame and the dumb are healed as a sign of God’s salvation of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Psalm 146, a prayer of praise, echoes the qualities of God’s compassion and power as prophesied by Isaiah in the first reading. The response: "Lord, come and save us” is an affirmation of hope that the Lord will indeed come.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

The Letter of James appeals for patience and perseverance. “Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand”. This patience is like the farmer who plants and waits through the autumn rains, the winter months and the spring. During all those months, the farmer is not passively waiting or idle, but rather works patiently. Similarly Christians are called to perseverance as they wait in hope for salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel reading from Matthew presents to us the peak of John the Baptist’s mission. John’s whole purpose in life was to prepare for and point to Jesus as Messiah. When John sends his disciples to ask Jesus whether He (Jesus) is the Messiah, Jesus responds: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” In other words, there are no other credentials except what you see and hear. This is exactly what Isaiah had prophesied and confirms that the Messiah is already here among you. This discovery in faith invites us to rejoice.

Follow Msgr. John’s Homilies! Blog
(text): www.sundayhomily.com
Podcast (audio):
<https://soundcloud.com/john-mbinda>

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 9, 2019

(8 am) Richard P. Tesoro
(Birthday Blessing)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

(8 am) †Robert Nakamura
†Paulina Wong

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

†Valentin Palomares
(Death Anniversary)
Vaughn Tokunaga (Healing)
Nicole Kawahara
(Birthday Blessing)

Thursday, December 12, 2019

(8 am) †Federico G. Badua
Chanee Shockley & Gail Estanque
(Birthday Blessings)
†Gladys Grace
(Birthday Memorial)

Friday, December 13, 2019

(8 am) †Harley L. Kingsley
(Death Anniversary)
†James & Mildred Mizoguchi
†Eric Umetsu

Saturday, December 14, 2019

(8 am) †Shirley Leong
†Brendan Cravalho
†Lucy Frangko
5 pm †Demetrio Perez & Rosario
Bautista

Sunday, December 15, 2019

7am †Recalte Navarro
9 am For the People
11 am †Leopoldo M. Lorenzo
6 pm †Betty Jane Mariano

† RIP

HEALING / BLESSINGS: baby Mairenuí Tauotaha-Amo, Ben & Helen Guerrero, Rosalie Tadda, Randy Arrojo-Manuwa & Family, Rachel Sullivan, Duane Gonzales, Keahi Paaluhi, Lillian Chalmers, John Durham, Maggie & Benjamin Bae Sr., Suzanna Foster, Shirley Pichon, Mary Anne Q. Llacuna, Caridad Ramiscal, RileyAnn Wills, Rebecca Wills, Laralyn Corthran, Dan Wills, Elaine Kahala, Sandra Gose, Ellen Cleghorn, Hildegard Borowitz, Linda Ward & all names in Prayer Intentions Book.

DECEASED: Federico G. Badua, Virgilio V. Benitez, Mary Ama, Shiloh John Aiu, Thelma Ruiz, Nestor "Jun" Tantamco, Lawrence Wilson, Anne Nishihara, Evelyn Bolosan, Ted Encarnado, Ted C. Abear, Kenneth Silva, Robert "Bob" Duncan Sr., Patricia J. Merideth, Shirley Leong, Leslie Fountain, Irene Moyles, Brian Ching, Marcelino Esdicul, Sr & Gloria Tolentino.

Please contact the parish office to set up an appointment & coordination for the following:

Anointing of the Sick

Baptisms (Dec 8 & 15, Jan 19 & 26, Feb 16 & 23)

Baptism Preparation Classes: Dec 1, Jan 5 & Feb 2

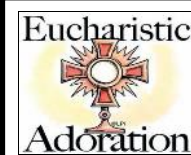
Blessings (home, auto, religious items, etc...)

Funerals

Homebound Communion

Marriages (at least 6 months before wedding date)

Online Giving – Stewardship is made easier than ever with our online giving system, WeShare. Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account in 3 easy steps. 1) Visit our church website, www.stjohnmililani.org, and click on **Online Giving**. 2) Set up your account. 3) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.



The next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, January 3rd, immediately after the 8 am Mass to 7:30 am on Saturday, January 4th.

Let us serve one another in love!

The One Community Center (OCC) will help in many practical ways to welcome and to serve those who come to our church to encounter Christ. Please remember to contribute toward the completion of your pledge. Mahalo.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE	NOV. 30 - DEC. 1
Sunday Collection	\$ 13,631.72
Online Donation (WeShare)	\$ 786.60
Building, Equipment, & Maintenance (BEM)	\$ 1,228.56
OCC Capital Campaign (Non Assessed)	\$ 15,221.81
Donation- Baptism	\$ 20.00
Donation- Children's Collection	\$ 2.00
Donation- Social Ministry	\$ 5.00
Donation - Charity	\$ 472.00
Donation- Angel Tree	\$ 200.00
Donation- Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 65.00
Donation- Flowers	\$ 1,465.00
Candle Sales	\$ 690.25
Mass Intentions	\$ 40.00
Weekend Total:	\$ 33, 827. 94
"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with fruits of all your produce." - Proverbs 3:9	

† FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS †

Lucy Frangko (RIP)

Saturday, December 28, 2019 - Visitation: 9:30 am

Prayer Service: 11:45 am ~ Mililani Memorial Park-
Makai Chapel ~ Burial: 12:30 pm

Leopoldo Maltezo Lorenzo (RIP)

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 ~ Visitation: 9:00am

Prayer Service: 11:00 am ~ Mililani Memorial-
Mauka Chapel ~ Burial: 12:30 pm



Benefit Concert will be held on

Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the One Community Center. This event is sponsored by

Friends of St. John's Catholic Preschool.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Misa de Gallo – December 16-24 (5:00 am)

Dec. 16– Fr. Romple Emwalu

Dec. 17 - Fr. Joseph Ayinpuusa

Dec. 18 – Fr. Arnold Ortiz

Dec. 19– Fr. Edmund Barut

Dec. 20- Fr. Ernie Juarez

Dec. 21- TBA

Dec. 22- Fr. Greg Honorio

Dec. 23- Bishop Larry Silva

Dec. 24 Msgr. John Mbinda



St. John's Penance Service- Wednesday, Dec 11th - 7 pm.

To fulfill your Christmas obligations, please plan on attending one of the Masses.

Christmas Eve Masses - December 24- 6pm & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses- December 25- 7am, 9am, & 11am.
No 6:00 PM Mass.

Tuesday, December 21 - Dedication of the "One Community Center." 5 pm Mass, Presider: Bishop Larry Silva.

Central Vicariate Penance Services 2019

•Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 PM - St. Elizabeth, Aiea

•Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 PM -- St. John

A&E, Mililani

•Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Good

Counsel, Pearl City

•Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Sorrows,

Wahiawa

•Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 PM - St. Michael, Waialua



PARISH EVENTS & WEEKLY CALENDAR

Christmas Flowers Offering Envelopes. Remember a loved one by making a flower offering this Christmas. Envelopes are available in the back of the church , or you may also make a donation online by visiting our parish website, clicking “online giving.”

CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE will be on Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm in the church. ***Join us for a potluck dinner & gathering on the church lanai after the Mass!!*** For more information, please contact Milagros Quiñones at (321) 914-2357.

Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious- December 7th & 8th. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or you may also give online through our parish website, click “Online Giving”. Please be generous.

Our parish Advent Penance Service will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 7PM in the Church. There will be 6 priests available to hear confession.

The traditional Filipino novena leading up to Christmas, **Misa de Gallo**, will begin on Monday, December 16th thru Monday, December 24th, at 5 AM. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this prayerful celebration.

Dedication of the One Community Center: Please join us on **Saturday, Dec 21 at the 5 pm Mass**, Presided by Bishop Larry Silva. Dedication of the OCC will be held after the Mass, followed by reception and entertainment.

Food Pantry– If you or someone you know needs food assistance, we can help! Come and see us on **Friday, December 27, 2019 from 10am—12 noon** at St. John’s parking lot.

Health Tip from our Parish Health Ministry

What causes shingles: A reactivation of the chickenpox virus in the body, a painful rash.

General Information: More than 200,000 US cases per year.

Preventable by vaccine: Treatable by a medical professional.

Requires a medical diagnosis: Lab tests or imaging rarely required.

Shingles causes a painful rash that may appear as a stripe of blisters on the trunk of the body. Pain can persist even after the rash is gone (this is called post herpetic neuralgia). Treatments include pain relief and anti-viral medications. A chickenpox vaccine in childhood or a shingles vaccine as an adult can minimize the risk of developing shingles.

St. John’s Health Ministry provides FREE blood pressure checks the 2nd Sat/Sun after Mass. Blood pressure checks will resume January 11 & 12, 2020.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: At the death of a special friend or relative you might like to remember that person through a memorial gift to your church. This will show your appreciating for this treasured relationship and help others though the church. An acknowledgement card will be sent to the surviving family, letting them know of your gift, without disclosing the amount.

Please remember **St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church** in planning your will.

THIS WEEK: DEC 9 – DEC 15

Monday– 7:30 am—Rosary
8 am- *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 3)
7 pm– Family Prayer Group (Rm 4)
7 pm– Troop 144 (Rm 5)
7 pm– Charismatic (CH)
Tuesday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am– Women’s Bible Study (Rm 2)
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
3 pm– Cenacle Prayer (CH)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 4)
7 pm- 5 pm Choir Practice (CH)
7:30 pm - AA Meeting (Rm 6)
7 pm- K of C (Rm 3)
Wednesday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
6 pm- OLPH Prayer Group (Rm 2)
6:30 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (Rm 5)
7 pm- RCIA- Session #16: Kingdom of God (Rm 3)
7 pm: St. John’s Penance Service (CH)
7:30 pm—NA Meeting (Rm 6)
Thursday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group (CH)
9 am- Church Cleaning (Group 3)
6 pm- Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary & Mass (CH)
Friday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
9 am- Church Cleaning- Environment (CH)
10 am- SJ Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal (CH)
4 pm - Two Hearts (Rm 3)
6: pm- 11 am Choir Practice (CH)
Saturday– 7:30 am– Rosary
8 am– *Daily Mass*
8:45 am– Rosary Prayer Group
9 am- Catholic Women’s Bible Study (Rm 1)
12 pm- PHM Mtg & Christmas Party (Rms 2-3)
3:30 pm - Confession
4 pm- Women’s Guild Christmas Party (Rms 2-3)
5 pm- Mass (Saturday Vigil)
Sunday– Masses
7 am, 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Religious Education “B” Schedule
10 am- RCIA Dismissal (conf rm)
12:30 pm- Baptism Ceremony (CH)
4 pm - 6 pm Choir Practice (CH)

KEEPING WATCH

Meditations for Advent | Week 2

Awaiting Emmanuel

Bearing Fruit

Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12

Maybe you've heard the phrase, "It's not what you know; it's who you know." And maybe you even know of a situation when this was the case — when someone secured an opportunity because of a connection rather than on ability alone.

John the Baptist tells the Pharisees and Sadducees that claiming to be a descendant of Abraham will not be enough when the wheat is separated from the chaff. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance" (Mt 3:8).

There's no better time than Advent for us to begin bearing fruit for he who is coming, both at Christmas and the Second Coming. Fortunately, we have clear instructions on how to do that.

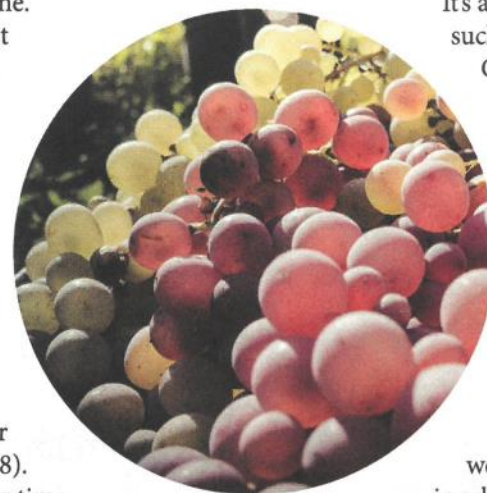
"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law," St. Paul

writes in Galatians 5:22–23.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* adds, "The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory" (1832).

It's a challenge to bear such fruit. But with God's grace and the help of the Holy Spirit, we can "prepare the way of the Lord, / make straight his paths" (Mt 3:3). As you light the second purple candle on your Advent wreath this week, consider ways in which you can bear fruit.

We learned last week that we can't know the hour at which Jesus will come again. But when he does, he will take into account what you know (the Faith); he'll consider who you know (the Father); and he'll consider what fruit you've borne. So may this Advent result in a lush and abundant harvest!



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Prepare the way of the Lord with a clear conscience. Most parishes offer times for confession or communal penance services during Advent. Feeling uncertain because it's been a while? That's okay — see the steps on the next page for a reassuring guide.

POINTS TO PONDER

- How can you keep the fruits of the Spirit in mind? Do you need a daily reminder on your phone? Can a book or journal help?
- What are some ways you can put action toward each of the fruits of the Spirit?
- Consider seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week and, as John the Baptist urged, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2).



Steps in the Rite of Reconciliation



You may confess face to face with the priest or privately behind a screen. Either way, relax. The priest is there to help you experience God's mercy.

The priest will welcome you and invite you to make the Sign of the Cross. It will be helpful for the priest to know a little about you if he doesn't already, and the time of your last confession. You may choose to begin with the traditional opening, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (weeks, months, years) since my last confession."

Confess your sins in your own words to the priest. An appropriate way to conclude is by saying, "I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life."

The priest will help you from there.

After you have confessed your sins, the priest will offer encouragement for your moral and spiritual growth. He then gives you a penance — which may include a brief prayer — and asks you to make an act of contrition. Then the priest absolves you from your sins. After this you may leave the confessional.

Complete the penance the priest gives you. Thank God for his mercy. Promise yourself and God that you will try to avoid these sins in the future. Talk to God and ask for his help especially in avoiding temptations — those near occasions of sin.

Awaiting Together

Make waiting for Jesus an active task with these ideas, or create your own list!

- Bring more *joy* to your days and those of others by consciously remembering to smile more, which can affect your mood and that of others.
- Increase your *generosity* with an offer of money, goods, or service to causes for the least of those in your community.
- Life presents endless moments that test our *patience* and *kindness*. Choose one aspect of your everyday experiences in which to be wildly patient or kind. Maybe it's toward other drivers when on the road. Maybe it's with your coworkers. Maybe it's those chaotic hours between the end of the school day through dinner and homework. Be extravagant, just as Jesus is with his love and grace.



An Advent Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, I ask you to fill me with your strength and guide my thoughts, words, and actions, so that I might bear great fruit worthy of your grace. Amen.

THE IMMACULATE Conception



There's endless confusion about the Immaculate Conception. Many people think it refers to the conception of Jesus *by* the Virgin Mary. Instead, we celebrate the conception *of* the Virgin Mary — the doctrine that states that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin.

This year we celebrate the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9. You could honor the Blessed Mother by praying the Rosary or the Hail Mary.

*Hail Mary,
full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*



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