



Church of the

SACRED HEART

A Faith Community in the Roman Catholic Tradition Since 1905

PARISH CENTER & MAILING ADDRESS

200 RANDOLPH AVENUE, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

PHONE: 908-756-0633 FAX: 908-757-5655

ONLINE: <http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net>

The Parish Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8AM - 4PM, Friday from 8AM - 2PM. Please schedule other times by appointment.

SACRED HEART CHURCH IS LOCATED AT 149 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVENUE

PARISH STAFF

908-756-0633

PASTOR x125

REV. JOHN P. ALVARADO

IN RESIDENCE x126

REV. JAMES E. DE FILLIPPS

DEACONS

D. GREGORY CARUSO x145

D. WAYNE OTLOWSKI x141

D. FRANK YUHAS x194

DIRECTOR SACRED MUSIC x139

DANIEL MAHONEY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION x143

LOUISE TIMKO

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR x140

PAUL A. LORANCE

PARISH FINANCES x114

JIM BUFIS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR x110

LISA THOMPSON

PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR x142

RALPH A. QUAGLIA

STAFF ASSISTANT x118

SR. NADINE BOYLE, RSM

SACRISTAN

MARIE DOLINSKI

HOLY REDEEMER CEMETERY

LYNDA YELENOVSKY

908-822-5892

We welcome all to join us for worship and invite you to become an active member of our parish family.

Sacred Heart Church is open every day as a quiet refuge for prayer and reflection from 6:00AM until 4:30PM.

■ MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: 5:00PM – Saturday Vigil; Sunday – 9:00AM, 11:30AM

Daily: 9:00AM – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
7:00PM – Monday

Holy Day: 6:30AM, 9:00AM, 7:00PM

■ EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday: 6:00-7:00 PM

■ MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Monday: 6:45PM with Benediction and **Saturday:** following 9:00AM Mass

■ BAPTISM

The sacrament is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of every month at 1:00PM with the exception of the Season of Lent.

■ RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 - 11:30AM and at other times by appointment.

■ MARRIAGE

In conjunction with the policy of Marriage Preparation set forth by the bishops of New Jersey, couples should begin the process one year in advance of the planned date of marriage. Arrangements should be made with the Church before any other plans are set. All details and information will be gladly provided upon calling the Parish Office.

■ MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, NJ was established in 1905. We are a diverse community striving to foster spiritual growth and Catholic identity through liturgy, sacraments, service, education and our shared faith in God. We are committed to being an instrument of love, healing and hope by ministering to the needs of our parishioners & the larger community, while celebrating the Christ present in each of us.



MASSES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

4:45 PM *Christmas Choral Prelude*
5:00 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:45PM *Christmas Choral Prelude*
12:00AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11:30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 ST. STEPHEN, The First Martyr

6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary
6:45 PM Miraculous Medal Novena, Benediction
7:00 PM FRANCES GULA, Req. by Karen Valvatne, EVELINA INIGO, Req. by the Inigo Family, LORRAINE PETROZIELLO, Req. by Ann Marie & Bob Kasper, MARY PFEIFER, Req. by Wayne, Joanne & Jenn, 30TH ANNIV. HUGH STILLMAN, Req. by Nancy Stillman-Pender

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 ST. JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist

9:00 AM NAN BALEWICZ, Req. by Lou & Sandra Muchi

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs

9:00 AM ELLEN BURKE, Req. by Dan Hogan

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 ST. THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr

9:00 AM BOBBIE RAE TIMMERMAN, Req. by Lou & Sandra Muchi

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9:00 AM JOHN & ANN SLAVOSKI, Req. by Bill & Teddy Slavoski

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 ST. SYLVESTER I, Pope

9:00 AM MARY BRARENS
5:00 PM PAUL JOHN PANZARELLA SR., Req. by Wife & Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM GEORGE NEWCOTT, Req. by Wife & Family
11:30 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

December 25 - January 1

12/25 - Is 9: 1-6/Ti 2: 11-14/Lk 2: 1-14/Is 52: 7-10/
Heb 1: 1-6/Jn 1: 1-18

12/26 - Acts 6: 8-10: 7: 54-59/Mt 10: 17-22

12/27 - 1 Jn 1: 1-4/Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

12/28 - 1 Jn 1: 5-2: 2/Mt 2: 13-18

12/29 - 1 Jn 2: 3-11/Lk 2: 22-35

12/30 - Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14/Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

12/31 - 1 Jn 2: 18-21/Jn 1: 1-18

1/1 - Nm 6: 22-27/Gal 4: 4-7/Lk 2: 16-21



► The daily Scripture references are printed here. If you find it helpful and have internet access, you can find the complete **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS** at <http://www.usccb.org/nab/>.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYER

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially: Pauline Gillick, Dot Rotola, Michael Durning, Danielle Pepin, Prudence Capparelli, Anne Nagy, Eileen Walker, Daniel Hedden, Robert Larsen Jr., Brody Kasnowski, Georgie Martinkovic, Joan Sacko, Kevin Jones, Raul Rodriguez, Dot Cooney, Alyssa Ricciardi, Margaret Nichuck, Tina Bernauer, Kathleen Poliquin, Thomas Buttery, Cathy Gary, Cheryl O'Brien, Hank Loeffler, Thomas Heim, Peter Romano, Patricia Lacasale, Margaret Smith, William Blair, Albertina Aguilar, Ed Curtin, Maryann Santoro, Arthur Tinana, Ann Marie Lauten, Elizabeth Vargo, Edward Owsik, Kathy Keenan, Barbara Calderoney, Roland Parker.

FOR THOSE IN HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES, especially: Bert Gartland, Lorraine Kick, Anna Marie Gladysz, Chuck Pender, Wilma Zielinski, Bill Keenan, Mary Partika.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, especially: Helen Gandocs, Richard Lauderback and the Faithful Departed of Sacred Heart Parish and their families who mourn their loss.

VIRGIN MARY CANDLE

burns in memory of

KEVIN STANISLAO

Requested by Aunt

SACRED HEART CANDLE

burns in memory of

ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

Requested by Jack O'Brien

SANCTUARY CANDLE

burns in memory of

FRANK CORNELL

Requested by Wife Marie



ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE: DEC 31 - JAN 1

5:00 PM - J. Makoski, H. Brignol, M. Brignol

9:00 AM - L. Flannery, F. Flannery, S. Sequeira

11:30 AM - A. Walker, Z. Policarpio, J. Chavez



We welcome everyone, especially those who are visiting and may be new to Sacred Heart Parish.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

We are a tithing parish & give thanks for God's gifts.

TITHING OR DONATION: CHURCH SUPPORT

Whether you are tithing or donating, however you choose to monetarily support the Church, we need your contributions. Thank you for your financial assistance.

Week Ending December 18, 2016

	2016	2015
Envelopes:	\$ 8,998.00	\$ 10,852.00
Loose:	\$ 1,099.00	\$ 1,553.00
On-line Giving:	\$ 2,175.00	\$ 2,089.00
Totals:	\$ 12,272.00	\$ 14,494.00

Major Repairs & Renovations to Date – \$102,528*

*N.B. Last weekend's total was printed incorrectly

PASTOR'S COMMENT: "The greatest gift that we can give to another is the very gift that God has given us ... Himself. Merry Christmas!" — *Fr. John*

SCRIPTURE: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, and see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you, and pour down upon you blessing without measure!" — *Malachi 3,10*

PARISHIONER COMMENT: "I have been tithing since I joined St. Catherine's. Although I am on a fixed income, my donation always comes first and God provides for the rest." — *A parishioner, Cathedral Church of St. Catherine of Siena, Allentown, PA*

**What will you give back to God
from the blessings you have received?**

How much of your personal finances do you already do online? **SACRED HEART CHURCH OFFERS ONLINE GIVING**

for parishioners who prefer to donate through automatic draft. Online Giving is a secure and personalized way to give to the parish.

In the convenience of your home you choose how much to give, how often to give, and what form of payment you wish to use.



Online Giving can stand on its own as a means of donation or can be used in conjunction with your offering envelopes. Sign up for Online Giving at our parish website: <http://www.churchofthesacredheart.net>

Have your weekly offering automatically debited from your checking account or credit card.

If you have reward credit you can be earning points or cash back.



VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE!

See <http://www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net>

VISIT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE AT

www.diometuchen.org

► And don't forget to "like" us on **FACEBOOK**
The Church of the Sacred Heart, and to "follow" us
on **TWITTER**
& **INSTAGRAM**



PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Any new family who has moved into the parish area and adult children 18 years of age and older, **are invited to register as a parishioner.** The definition of an active parishioner is: *One registered, attending Mass weekly and contributing to the support to the church.* **There is a (3) month minimum registration requirement before registering for a baptism or requesting letters of eligibility/sponsorship certificates.**

ARCHIVE FINDING AID: The parish archives can be accessed via the parish website. Instructions for using the Finding Aid are included.

PARISH UPDATES: If you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number or address, please call Lisa at 908-756-0633 x110, so we can update your records. We would also like to update our parish data base with e-mail addresses. Email us at admin@churchofthesacredheart.net to have your email address included or to update an email address. Thank you!

► If you are moving, please notify Lisa at the parish office so we can keep our parishioner records current. *Thank you!*

We thank our bulletin advertisers who make this weekly publication possible. Let them know that you saw their ad here and thank them as well.

AED IN CHURCH - An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. We have purchased & installed an AED in church to assist in emergency medical situations. The AED is door-mounted next to the St. Joseph statue at the front of the church.



► **Have you included your parish in your estate planning and in your Will?**

Remember the Church of the Sacred Heart in life & in death. Please call and speak with Jim Bufis at the Parish Office (908-756-0633 x114) about your legacy gift to your parish.



**TO ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT
BON VENTURE SERVICES, 1-800-883-4343.**

WE PRAY FOR ALL SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Especially for our parishioners



Army Captain Cheryl Hoh, Pharm D
Spc. Erik Sienkiewicz - US Army / Iraq
Psc. Amanda Marie Morales - US Navy
Marine Corp. Troy A. Benson/ Japan
Pvt. Alterreek Booker - US Army/ KY
Sgt. Zackeriah Romasz - US Marine Corp.
Spc. Bryan Gutschall - US Army/ Afghanistan
Spc. Nick Okoszko/ US Army/ No. Carolina
LCdr. Edward Quaranta/ US Reserves
Lt. Col. Dirk H. Smith/ US Army, Washington, DC
LCpl. Quinn Cochrane/ US Marines, No. Carolina
Pvt. Edward C. Forsthoffer/ US Army



May we work for Justice as we pray for Peace.

Visit our diocesan website at diometuchen.org,
click [Offices & Ministries](#),

then click [Military and Veteran Families](#) and see

THE APOSTOLATE FOR MILITARY & VETERAN FAMILIES



As our God holds us in love,
THE WORD was made flesh that
we might know God's name. JESUS was born
so that we could hold our God,
Who seeks to be born again in each of us.

*A blessed peace & joy filled Christmas Season to all
from Fr. John and the Sacred Heart Staff*



Respect for Life

The Christmas storytellers, Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' conception. When Matthew sets out to tell us about the Nativity, he first talks of events taking place during the pregnancy. Luke gives us even more details of the pregnancy. The message? Jesus was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. He was God from the moment of conception. — *Life Date, the National Newsletter of Lutherans for Life.*

2 NEW WEBSITES - ONE LIFE SAVING MISSION

Life Choices Resource Center launches two new websites:

www.ChoicesOptionsforWomen.com &
www.LifeChoicesRC.com

SACRED HEART SOCIAL CONCERNS

A Christmas Thanksgiving

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Social Concerns Ministry, we thank all those whose generosity has enabled us to serve the less fortunate of our community. We wish you heartfelt blessings and best wishes this Christmas season.

*Teach me, Lord Jesus,
to be generous:*

*to serve You as You deserve;
to give, not counting the cost;
to fight, not heeding the wounds;
to toil, not asking for rest;
to labor, not seeking any reward,
save that of knowing that we do Your will.
Amen.*



**The Parish Center Office will be closed on
Monday, December 26, Friday, December 30, and
Monday, January 2.**

EPIPHANY PROCESSION OF STARS

Sunday, January 8

Our children are invited to join the Three Kings in the Entrance Procession of Stars, at the 9:00AM Sunday Mass, January 8, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Parents are invited to work with your children and fashion a star that will be no larger than a 12 inch square. Attach it to a dowel or similar stick, decorate it as simply or ornate as you wish. Meet in the church foyer at 8:45AM, ready to celebrate the Epiphany!



WANTED: 3 KINGS NEEDED - The weekend of January 7-8, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. We are looking for 3 people for each weekend Mass, Saturday, 5:00PM and Sunday, 9:00AM & 11:30AM, to represent the 3 Magi in the Entrance and Offertory Processions. This is open to men, women and teens. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Sr. Nadine at ext. 118.



SAVE THE DATE - Mark your calendars and get ready for a great afternoon of music. The Sacred Heart Music Ministry presents: **"A Little of This and A Little of That"** choral concert on Sunday, January 29, at 3:00PM, here in the church.



**The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society
invites you to pray the Rosary with them
on the first Sunday of each month
one half hour before all Masses.**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Louise Timko, Director
908-756-0633 x143

For more information please visit our web page
www.churchofthesacredheart.net
or send us an email:

religiouseducation@churchofthesacredheart.net

Everyone hears the Sunday Scripture readings proclaimed, but do we take time to think about their meaning in our lives?

► **QUESTION OF THE WEEK – December 25**

How can you increase your awareness and willingness to have Christ in your life?

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Would you or someone you know like to complete your Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, or Confirmation? We attend 9:00AM Sunday Mass and meet for a session afterward. Please contact Louise Timko 908-756-0633 ext. 143 or via email: ltimko@churchofthesacredheart.net.

► **Sessions begin on Sunday, January 22.**



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MRS. CAROL WOODBURN, PRINCIPAL

FREE CONCERT - Saturday, January 7, 2017 at



6:30PM. **Catholic, Contemporary Christian band, "150CENTRAL"** will be live in concert at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall, 34 Yorktown Road, Hillsborough. Please join 150Central for this uplifting night of praise and worship! This is a free concert. Doors open at 5:30PM. A free will offering will be taken up to benefit the Parish of St. Joseph's Youth Ministry.

IN GOD'S IMAGE: CATHOLIC FAITH SHARING FOR LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES

In God's Image, the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). **Our next gathering will be on January 11.** For information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at 908-756-0633 x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the IGI icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.

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◆ **CEMETERY HOURS** ◆

8:00AM - 4:30PM (SEPT 16 - APRIL 14)

8:00AM - 7:00PM (APRIL 15 - SEPT 15)

CONSIDER A CANDLE OR FLORAL MEMORIAL - The 2017 Mass book may be closed, but candles in front of the Blessed Mother, Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sanctuary Lamp, as well as flowers for the altar (basket or vase) are still available to remember a loved one, living or deceased. Please contact Lisa in the Parish Center 908-756-0633 x110 about the options. Have your loved one's name printed in the bulletin and remembered in the prayer.



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART WELCOMES ALL NEWCOMERS

to the parish. Please contact our parish secretary, Lisa at the Parish Office at 908-756-0633 x110 for registration information.

► If you are moving, please notify Lisa at the Parish Office so we can keep our parishioner records current. *Thank you*

BAPTISM/SPONSORSHIP CLASS - Parents and godparents are required to attend one session before the child's baptism date can be confirmed. Sessions are held on **the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00PM** in the Parish Center - 3rd floor. (Adults only - please, no infants or children.) Registration is required. Contact Sr. Nadine 908-756-0633 x118 to register for the class or with any questions.

SPONSOR LETTERS - Canon (Church) Law mandates that a Godparent for Baptism and a Sponsor for Confirmation be an active, Confirmed Catholic. An active Catholic is a parishioner who is registered, attends Mass weekly, contributes to the support of the Church, is in a valid Catholic marriage (an individual married civilly by a judge, mayor, or divorced and remarried without an annulment is not eligible to act as a sponsor) and publicly leads a life compatible with Church teaching. Please note that we can only write *Letters of Eligibility* for parishioners who meet these criteria.

THIS IS OUR FAITH

Christmas and the power of "Yes"

Christmas highlights the Power of "Yes" in our Faith. It highlights the power of Mary's "Yes", when God announces she is to be the mother of the Savior, and Mary says "be it done unto me according to your word." It demonstrates the power of the unspoken "Yes" of Saint Joseph, who upon listening to the angel in a dream, takes Mary into his home, and does not divorce her, or have her stoned to death, because she was with child before they were married. And it manifests God's love for us by Jesus' "Yes" to become man, to become one of us

Today, we celebrate God becoming man. Jesus is *Emmanuel* - God with us. So how do we celebrate this gift of GOD with us? Do we really believe God is WITH US? How can we respond, how should we respond to so great a gift, as God living with us? The only way is to give our "Yes"!

Like St. Joseph, we can, we MUST live our "Yes"! We can be messengers, - evangelists - by putting a crèche in front of our house. The crèche tells our neighbors that we believe that God is with us. It tells our neighbors that Jesus came into this world, suffered for our sins, died and rose so that we may have life forever.

- ❖ We can tell the world that God is with us, by our donations to those in need, now at Christmas and throughout the year.
- ❖ God is proclaimed when our Eucharistic ministers bring His most precious body to those who are sick.
- ❖ God's presence is proclaimed when we defend life at all stages and in all conditions.
- ❖ God's presence is proclaimed when each of us perform the Corporal Works of Mercy. When we: feed the hungry; clothe the naked; welcome the homeless and the immigrant; visit the sick; ransom the captive; and bury the dead. And when we perform the Spiritual works of Mercy: instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; admonish sinners; bear wrongs patiently; forgive offences willingly; comfort the afflicted; and pray for the living and the dead.

Most of the gifts we give this Christmas, will disappear over time. Let us each day of our lives decide to live the Christian life, as shown above, and thereby give the gift of eternity with God, to ourselves and others. *(Based on a homily of Deacon J.P. Saggese, Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, NJ)*



*It is Christmas every time
you let God love others through you.*

*... yes it is Christmas every time
you smile at your brother and
offer him your hand. -- Mother Teresa*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - is seeking volunteer mentors to participate in one-to-one activities and be a role model to young people. Do you have a minimum of 3 hours per week to offer a child? Like having fun? Reside in or near Middlesex County or Franklin Township? Want to make a difference in a child's life? Call 732-738-1323 or jcullen@ccdom.org for information.

END OF YEAR GIVING: Please consider these charities in your tithe *and* end-of-year giving. (5% to the Church + 5% Charities = 10% TITHE).

❖ **The Bishop's**

Annual Appeal reaches out and across our diocese to feed, clothe, shelter, educate and the serve the temporal and spiritual necessities of those in need. It supports the ministries and mission of the Church of Metuchen. Diocese of Metuchen, P.O. Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000

❖ **The Holy Savior Academy Student Assistance**

Fund aids families who have experienced a catastrophic change in their lives (i.e. death of spouse, fire or natural disaster, etc.) that they may maintain stability in their child's Catholic education.

❖ **Sacred Heart Social Concerns** is a parish social outreach ministry that feeds the hungry and provides clothing and shelter to those in need. Non-perishable food items, financial offerings, and volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

❖ **The Sacred Heart Tree of Life** is a permanent memorial to honor your loved ones, living and deceased. *The Tree of Life* sculpture is prominently placed in our church's main foyer. The brass leaves are available to be inscribed with your personal memorial.

❖ **Other Specific Memorial Gifts**

Please call the Parish Center for further information or specific requests: 908-756-0633x 114.

Please remember Sacred Heart Parish in your Will, Estate Planning, Investment Annuities & Stocks.

► **Put your money to work and double your gift with Employer Matching Grants.** Your gift to the Church enables us to reach out in service to others increasing your generosity many times over.

OTHER CHARITABLE OPTIONS

❖ **CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOLIDARITY TEAM of the Diocese of Metuchen** <https://ccsolidarity.org>
56 Throop Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

❖ **FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.** 800-427-9104
www.foodforthe poor.org
6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073

❖ **CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH** 800-914-2420
www.crosscatholic.org
P.O. Box 273908, Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908

❖ **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES** 877-435-7277 www.crs.org
P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

❖ **UNBOUND** 800-875-6564 www.unbound.org
P.O. Box 219114, Kansas City, MO 64121-9114

HISTORY OF OUR DIOCESE'S BEGINNINGS

On November 19, the Diocese of Metuchen celebrated the 35th Anniversary of its founding by Pope St. John Paul II. Msgr. John Szymanski, who served then-Bishop McCarrick as chancellor and, later, as vicar general in the early years of the Diocese, has written a history of how the Diocese came to be established and a chronicle of its first five years. Entitled, *The Lighting of the Watch Fires*, it is available for purchase for \$25. Send your check to: Rev. Msgr. John B. Szymanski, The Maria Regina Residence, 5 Dellwood Lane, Somerset 08873.



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