

SAINT CHRISTOPHER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2660 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda, New York 14150

April 11, 2021



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This is the one who came through
water and blood, Jesus Christ,
not by water alone,
but by water and blood.

1 John 5:6

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Upon request, every Sunday at 12:30 PM, and at Mass. Parents must attend a Pre-Baptismal Class held on the First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Call the office for reservations two months in advance.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION is the way the Church prepares an unbaptized person for their sacraments. Persons already baptized in other denominations are also welcomed through this process. Contact the office for information.

PRAYER NETWORK/PRAYER TREE: To be added to the list, call the parish office or MaryAnn Kern (716) 692-2033 or Laurie Wysocki (716) 691-4378.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: High School students having completed tenth grade in either a Catholic school or our Religious Education program should contact the Religious Education office at (716) 694-4310.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: The first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Arrangements are to be made at least six months before the desired wedding date. A marriage preparation program is required.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: To receive a letter of recommendation to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you must be a registered member of the parish for at least 6 months; who regularly attends Mass and receives the Sacraments. Regular use of envelopes (even if empty) indicates attendance at Mass. Sponsors are to be Baptized, Confirmed, have their children in Catholic School or Religious Education (Gr. 1–10) and, if married, have done so in conformity with the laws of the Church. Adult children (18 and over) should be registered on their own. Call (716) 692-2660.

MASS TIMES

Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Monday, Wednesday
& Friday 6:45 AM
Tuesday & Thursday 8 AM

CONFESSION

Every First & Third
Wednesday 7-8 PM
or by appointment

ADORATION

Tuesday 8:45 AM - 7 PM
Novena at 7 PM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM
(Closed 12:30 - 1 PM)
www.saintchris.org
(716) 692-2660

"We, the people of St. Christopher Parish, journey to the heavenly kingdom of God our Father by following the example and service of Jesus Christ his Son, inspired daily by the Holy Spirit to lead faith-filled Christian lives."

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 11:

7:30 AM Barbara Abate by The "B" Counting Team
 9:00 AM Lynn Diegelman by Family
 11:00 AM Christine & Joseph Lewandowski
 by JoAnn Lewandowski

Monday, April 12:

6:45 AM For the People of St. Chris

Tuesday, April 13:

8:00 AM Carol Leberer by husband, James

Wednesday, April 14:

6:45 AM Angela McDermott by Family

Thursday, April 15:

8:00 AM Dick Thuman by Joanne Spiker

Friday, April 16:

6:45 AM John Maglio I by son, John Maglio II

Saturday, April 17:

4:30 PM Joan Spencer by Larry & Barbara Smith

Sunday, April 18:

7:30 AM Richard Dominski by John Maglio II
 9:00 AM Dennis M. Mangiapane
 by The Bryniarski Family
 11:00 AM Alex & Elsie Ver by Cathy Ver

BAPTISMS

Josephine Gloria Pahl
 Thomas Christopher Westfall

IN SYMPATHY

Maryann Martin (sister of Lori Wysocki)
 Marcia Lord (sister of Roger Adamek)

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sacred Heart Candle will burn this week
 for *David, Marc, & Dean* by *Family*

The St. Christopher Candle will burn this week for
God keeping us all safe from harm
 by *Mike & Pam Giangreco*

The St. Mary Candle will burn this week for
Frachell Suess families by *Marlyn Franchell*

VOCATIONS CORNER

God's mercy is shown most clearly through the Sacrament of Confession, which Jesus gave to the Apostles in today's Gospel. But who will minister this Sacrament to those in need of God's mercy? If you feel called to take up this powerful task as a priest, contact our Pastor, Fr. Steve, or Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

Scripture for the week of April 11, 2021

11 SUN Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31
 12 Mon Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
 13 Tue Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
 14 Wed Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
 15 Thu Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
 16 Fri Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
 17 Sat Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
 18 SUN Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

KEY CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICES

Phone (716) 692-2660
 FAX (716) 693-5639
rectory@saintchris.org
www.saintchris.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Steven Jekielek
sjekielek@saintchris.org
Parochial Vicar:
 Rev. Donald Watkins Jr.
dwatkins@saintchris.org

Deacons:

Francis A. Zwack
 Thomas Healey
 David McDermott

Director of Music: Sean Polen
spolen@saintchris.org

Business Manager: Marie Schwab
mschwab@saintchris.org

Bulletin Editor: Sheri Ingraham
bulletin@saintchris.org

Parish Trustee:
 Shirley Joy

PARISH SCHOOL

Phone: (716) 693-5604
 Fax: (716) 693-5127
school@saintchris.org
Principal: Dr. Camille Pontrello
cpontrello@saintchris.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

reled@saintchris.org
 Telephone: (716) 694-4310
Director: Marie Sajsa
msajsa@saintchris.org

**OUTREACH &
 St. Vincent de Paul**
 (716) 564-9023

Mission Coordinator:
 Cindy Vanderbrook
cvanderbrook@saintchris.org
 (716) 564-9023

Pastoral Council

Andrea Robinson, President
pastoralcouncil@saintchris.org

FAREWELL FR. STEVE

We would love to host a beautiful reception for Fr. Steve as he moves on to his new assignment starting on April 14, 2021. However, in order to keep everyone safe and comply with COVID 19 protocols, the Parish staff in consultation with Fr. Steve, have agreed that we will not be able to host a reception. Fr. Steve will be available after each Mass on April 10th and 11th for parishioners to stop by and wish him well. He will either be in the Narthex or outside depending on the weather. Please take a moment after Mass to visit with Fr. Steve as he embarks on God's new path for him. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a message, please send a card to the Parish Office at 2660 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY, 14150 or email Fr. Steve directly at sjekielek@saintchris.org.



Dear Family,

He is Risen! Alleluia!!!! We continue to celebrate the feast of our redemption and the promise of salvation fulfilled! Today we celebrate the Octave Day of Easter, known to us as Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina was given the privilege of speaking with Jesus and He inspired her to proclaim the mercy of God to all people and to create the image of Divine Mercy, on which we find the words "Jesus, I Trust in You!" Pope St. John Paul II ensured that the world heard the message given to St. Faustina and proclaimed the Second Sunday of Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the world, fulfilling the desire of Jesus as relayed to St. Faustina. Many have read her diary and are encouraged by the message of mercy. As Christian people, that is what we are called to believe. That God is all merciful. He will forgive any sin if asked. As we continue our Easter journey, let us proclaim loudly to the world that Jesus is Risen!

This is my last message to you as your pastor. It has been the privilege of my life to serve you first as a newly ordained priest and now as your pastor for the last six years. I cannot thank you enough for the prayers and assistance of so many of you during my time here. You have given me great joy! I hope that in return I have served you well. I trusted in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring you the Good News of Jesus. While in my human frailty I have failed at times, I trust that God has filled in for my failings. I assure you that I gave you my all! This transition takes place during the Easter season and how fitting! A new day dawned with the Resurrection of Jesus and a new day dawns in our lives! Please be assured of my continued daily prayers for you. I will pray that a new holy pastor be assigned to St. Christopher soon! 'Jesus, I Trust in You!' How appropriate for this day!!!

He is Risen!!! Alleluia!!! HAPPY EASTER!

Praised Be Jesus Christ...Now and Forever!!!! Alleluia!!

Father Steve



REKINDLE THE FIRE WITHIN

On Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7 PM, St. Christopher Parish will be celebrating another Praise and Worship evening. Please join us for a night of inspirational music and worship. The evening will be

spent in Adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, with moment of prayer and reflection interspersed throughout. It is sure to be a Spirit-filled evening Please give yourself a gift and attend! You won't want to miss out on this uplifting and moving experience.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

	4/3-4/2021	4/4-5/2020	Difference
Sunday	\$ 11,615.51	\$ 10,718.00	\$ 897.51
Monthly	\$ 110.00	\$ 1,285.00	\$ 1,175.00
ACH	\$ 4,604.50	\$ 4,597.00	\$ 7.50
Easter	\$ 3,500.50	\$ 2,692.00	\$ 808.50
Holy Land	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,324.00	\$ 424.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,730.51	\$ 20,616.00	\$ 114.51

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

In reading John's gospel account we have evidence of God's mercy and forgiveness. We also see the institution of sacrament of Reconciliation. We live in a world that views perfection as the goal and it is hard for some to express their weaknesses. We are also a people who want proof. In this gospel for the rest of the Easter season; which by the way lasts until Pentecost; we hear accounts of Jesus' love for his disciples and us and his mercy. In preparing the children to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time; we cover what is a sin, mistake and accident and the difference between each. We remind the children that Jesus wants to be close to us and will always try and find us. Sometimes this is a hard lesson to teach.

Reminder

We resume classes this week for Distance and there is the last of the Friday night classes this week.

Thank you to all who attended the First Reconciliation mini retreat on 4/10. Please keep the 2nd graders in your prayers as we finish our preparation to receive the sacrament.

Gospel Connection form Loyola Press-Gospel Reading

[John 20:19-31](#) Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families.

As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that might be tried in the future. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the [Peace Prayer of Saint Francis](#).

Happy Easter

Blessings;

Marie Sajsa, DRE

Help wanted 10th grade program

We are starting preparation for Confirmation and 10th grade Faith Formation. We have about 50 students from public schools we will begin preparation now. For the Catholic school students we have the group leaders and they will begin the preparation in the summer.

If you are interested in working with the 10th grade group we do have a plan in place please contact Marie Sajsa at 694-4310.



THANK YOU FR. STEVE!



As Fr. Steve mentioned during the Masses on March 14, 2021, he will be following his promised obedience that he made at his ordination to Bishop Kmiec and his successors almost ten years ago as he becomes the Pastor of Our Lady of Charity Parish in South Buffalo. As Fr. Steve will be leaving our beloved St. Christopher Parish this weekend, we want to say thank you for his spiritual leadership and faithful guidance and are sending our prayers as he begins his new assignment.

Fr. Steve joined St. Christopher on June 18, 2011, as Parochial Vicar through June 30, 2014, when he was assigned to St. Gregory the Great Parish. As we know, that did not last long. Fr. Steve was asked to return to St. Christopher and he became our Pastor on June 22, 2015. As our Pastor Fr. Steve has led us through the Diocese of Buffalo's changes and renewal and is leading us through a pandemic. Fr. Steve's weekly homilies led us to grow stronger in our faith and to see our role as laity in the Church. His use of film references have inspired many of us to look at many of these films in a new light. He has also inspired the children with his wonderful homilies at the school Masses Tuesday mornings.

With Fr. Steve's professional and business skills he has helped streamline our parish, school, financial, and office operations. Since Fr. Steve became Pastor, there have been many physical changes to our campus. He brought back votive candles, updated the church with a fresh coat of paint, new flooring, LED lighting, hand rails, live streaming, added mosaic and icons, and refurbished and hung the St. Edmund stained glass windows. Under his direction and with the help from your Upon This Rock donations, we were able to replace an aging and dangerously cracking school parking lot, update the church and St. Edmund parking lots, install a new boiler program at St. Edmund, install a new parish office roof, and update the parish office. Even though we have our St. Christopher sign by the entrance of the church, Fr. Steve realized that St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church was not on the building. He worked with our maintenance staff to order and install the lettering on the church. Outside of the church, Fr. Steve has encouraged the Boy Scouts to help in various endeavors around the grounds and provide a campus where we can sit and reflect. Fr. Steve has always been a strong advocate for faith formation, which has allowed the school and our religious education department to grow and help the children and families of not only our parish but surrounding parishes.

Fr. Steve was also active in helping with Summerfest, started the Christmas Cash Raffle and made sure our Lenten fish fry was up and running. These fundraisers are meaningful to Fr. Steve as the fellowship among his parishioners is very important to him. To expand our fellowship, Fr. Steve was instrumental in establishing our monthly parish pot luck dinners, the annual St. Chris picnic, and the Neighbors in Need dinners for our community. Fr. Steve enjoyed watching the camaraderie and growth between the parishioners, the community, family and friends.

Fr. Steve has encouraged parishioners, volunteers, and employees to achieve their best in allowing them to take leadership positions. In turn, these individuals have grown and used these skills to better serve and share their talents. Fr. Steve has been involved with planning and helping with many things through his tenure from helping with the bulletin, assisting a staff member or volunteer, helping our maintenance staff, being there for a sick visit or bereavement meeting to celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and marriage. Many of us have gotten to know Fr. Steve and we know he is an avid Buffalo sports fan, family is everything to him and his faithfulness is never ending which is reflected in every aspect of him and in being our Pastor. With Fr. Steve's faithfulness, caring, understanding and showing us the importance of prayer as a staff, he has changed our parish staff into a parish family.

Just as every Pastor has, Fr. Steve has made his mark on our parish. We thank him for his devotion, loyalty, foresight, and especially his calm and stable leadership during this pandemic. We wish him well, many blessings, and we ask everyone to keep him in their prayers. This is not farewell but Godspeed. Thank you for blessing us with your talents!! We look forward to seeing you around the Diocese.



CHOWDER SALE

Back again this year is the delicious tradition of the Riester Family and Friends' Chowder! (Traditionally sold at Summerfest)

The beef and chicken chowder sale will be held on Saturday, April 17th between 11AM-1PM. Prices are \$8 for a quart and \$32 for a gallon. Quart containers will be available. Pre-Sale tickets will be on sale in the rectory office during regular office hours starting Monday, March 29th and after Masses on April 10th and 11th.

CHOWDER SALE VOLUNTEERS!

Yes, back again this year is the delicious tradition of the Riester's Family and Friends Chowder!

We will gather to cut and chop the vegetables on Friday, April 16th at 9 am, so sharpen your paring knives, dust off the food processor and pull out the cutting boards! Working together we can whip those veggies into shape by noon, at the latest! Leave a phone message or text Ann at 628-0773 to let her know you're coming. See you there and we'll be done in a flash!! Thanks for all your help!!

Easter Flowers In Memory Of A Loved One



Easter flowers have been donated in memory of the following:

Continued...

Bob Huber, Luke Huber, deceased members of the Wopperer and Huber families; Mary I. Strauss, Charles W. Strauss; Henry & Genevieve Drew; Steven & Dolores Hudack, Kenneth & Carol Mau and family; Joseph and Stefana LoTempio, Sebastian and Rosalie Castro, Joseph LoTempio Jr., Anthony Marino, Anthony LoTempio, Charles Neri Jr.; Francesco Fulfaro; the Kennedy and Meli families; Edward Skorka, Mary Schmiegel

Any remaining Easter flowers will be listed in next week's bulletin...



QUILTING HEARTS QUILTING MINISTRY

The Quilting Hearts quilting ministry, will be holding their next meeting on Monday, April 12 from 10 AM–1 PM in the St. Edmund's campus cafeteria. Bring your machines. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to join our ministry or have any questions, please call Annette at 472-1879 or email her am04mitch@gmail.com



WALKING WITH GRIEF

Walking with Grief is a monthly lecture series and support group provided to assist people 18 years of age or older in their journey of grief. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12** at 6:30 PM in the St. Edmund campus cafeteria. All parishioners, friends and neighbors are welcome.

Please keep in mind that we will still have to follow COVID safety precautions such as 6 feet distance and mask wearing. Hope to see you there!

SVDP & PARISH OUTREACH EASTER BASKET THANK YOU

The St. Vincent de Paul Society & Parish Outreach program would like to thank all the parishioners who donated the 120 beautiful Easter baskets full of candy, toys, & other treats! The baskets have been distributed to our Outreach Food Pantry families and the children at Holy Cross Head Start in Sheridan Parkside. Our Food Pantry families were so thankful for the baskets and appreciated all the love that went into putting them together!

We'd also like to thank our Outreach Angels who put together Easter Baskets for our Senior Citizens & several of our homebound parishioners and prepared small Easter gift packages for developmentally disabled children!

Due to the efforts of so many people, we were able to share the love of Christ and some Easter joy with many children and our homebound!



ST. CHRIS HSA COUGAR CASH RAFFLE

The St. Christopher Catholic School HSA is pleased to announce the upcoming **Cougar Cash Raffle, presented by SANY New York.**

Grand Prize- \$2,500

2nd Prize- \$1,000

3rd Prize- \$500

Only 500 tickets will be sold! Tickets will be \$50

The drawing will be held on **Saturday, April 17, 2021** at St. Christopher Catholic School at 12pm, You do not need to be present to win.

Parish Outreach Update

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have been so generous donating food, hygiene items, and making monetary donations for Parish Outreach. Our Food Pantry provided for our families in March with extra food items along with paper products and hygiene items as part of their Easter food!

We are also very grateful to the Sheridan Dr. Lions Club who donated Tops gift cards that were distributed to each of our families in March. They are one of the organizations that collaborate with Parish Outreach to assist families in need!

As an FYI, our offices continue to follow Covid-19 protocols as our Staff and volunteers are in the process of getting vaccinated. We continue to reach out to our Senior Citizens and families to see how we can assist them. We ask everyone who is visiting our offices to please wear a mask and continue to respect the others in our offices by maintaining socially distancing. We are looking forward to the day when we don't have to follow these protocols but for now, we are working to keep our Staff, Volunteers, and families healthy.

We also have many individuals who ask what they can donate for the Food Pantry. We are always in need of hygiene items – bar soap, adult and children's shampoo, toothpaste, and paper products. Any of these items can be put in the Outreach Barrel in the Narthex of the church or brought to the Outreach Office Barrel on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 9:00-1:00pm.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to serve the families in our community! If you have any questions regarding Parish Outreach, please contact our office at 716-564-9023. May God bless you and your family as we enter the season of Easter!

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

12:30 PM Baptism Church

MONDAY, APRIL 12

10:00 AM Quilting Hearts St. Edmund SPC
7:00 PM RCIA Hospitality Room
7:30 PM Celebration Bells Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

9 AM - 7 PM Adoration/Novena Church
5:00 PM Cub Scouts St. Edmund SPC
7:00 PM Liturgy Committee Rectory Room-L

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

6:00 PM School Open House School
6:30 PM Walking w/Grief St. Edmund SPC

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

9:00 AM Baptism Church
6:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 30204 St. Edmund SPC
7:00 PM Praise & Worship Church

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 AM HSA Reverse Basket Raffle Cafeteria
11:00 AM Chowder Sale School Parking Lot

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

12:30 PM Baptism Church

THANK YOU FROM FATHER JUSTUS E. NDYAMUKAMAM

We are proud to tell you that although we have been through one of the worst financial crisis's in United States history, your parish has come through for the Mission Co-Op appeal with great generosity. Aware that we do not stand alone in our efforts to bring the Good News to all nations, we work toward the achievement of common goals together with local churches, other missionary institutes, and all people of good will. We join the struggles for justice of the poor, indigenous peoples and against economic, social, and cultural oppression seeking to be the Church in service to God's reign. Each year during summer months, it is our pleasure to invite mission priests, women and men, religious, lay missionaries and mission organizations to Buffalo in order to share their incredible and powerful ministry stories as well as give each of our parish communities an opportunity of supporting their efforts. This is known as Mission Cooperative. Also, our office takes care other humanitarian collections in supporting our brothers and sisters throughout the world. The chart below shows how St. Christopher, has been generous in the past year 2020.

Mission Cooperative Plan	\$3,874.00
World Mission Sunday	\$1,011.00

The Office of Propagation of the Faith, on behalf of those who benefitted from your generosity we say 'thanks'. It is also with sincere gratitude for you for the Mass intentions, legacies, personal and designated donations as they help our office fulfill faithful its mission.

PARISH VIDEOS

Due to the overwhelming response from our parishioners, we would like to let everyone know that we have videos available to watch on our website. These videos have information, reflections and stories by Bishop Mike, Father Jay, Marie Sajsa and Jody Tosto! Videos are located on our website at saintchris.org. under the video tab on the home page. If you are on a mobile device you may have to hit the menu button at the top of the home page and go down to videos. The weekend Mass video is located on the home page of the website. Hope everyone enjoys! If you have any questions on how to find things on the website please feel free to call the parish office at 716-692-2660 during normal business hours.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick gives us the courage and grace to hold to our faith in the face of sickness and suffering. It helps us see that when we think we are alone, we are not. Christ is present. It helps us see that when we think we are powerless, we can be a spiritual warrior. It helps us see that when our body is weak, our soul can be strong. Jesus joins us in our suffering and turns a moment of desperation into a moment of conversion. When someone is seriously ill, he or she needs this sacrament when they can hear the words of the prayers and make those prayers their own.

Anointing of the Sick is meant to be a sacrament of spiritual healing, strength and peace and is available to everyone. If you are facing surgery or some other serious condition, please see any clergy before (or right after) Mass and we will set the process up to have one of the priests administer the sacrament.



SCHOOL REGISTRATION!

St. Christopher Catholic School is currently registering students for the 2021-2022 school year in Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten-Grade 8. Please contact the school office at 716-693-5604 to schedule an appointment for a personal tour during our Open House **Wednesday, April 14th from 6-7:30 PM and Thursday, April 22nd from 3:30 -5 PM**. All tours are by appointment only due to COVID restrictions. Thank you for considering St. Christopher Catholic School!



Mrs. Nancy Kindred
Assistant Principal
St. Christopher School
660 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 693-5604 ext. 319
nkindred@saintchris.org
<http://saintchris.org/school>



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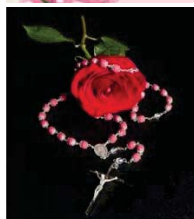
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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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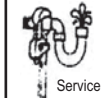
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