

DECEMBER 10, 2023

#### CONTACT INFO

Phone: 908-874-3141  
Web: <https://sjmillstone.com>

**Fr. Hank:**  
fatherhank@sjmillstone.com

**Address:**  
34 Yorktown Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil** 4:45 PM  
**Sunday** 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM  
**Monday-Friday** 8:35 AM  
**Holyday Vigil** 7:00 PM  
**Holyday** 8:35 AM & 5:00 PM

*Our church has seven seating sections. Every Mass has two social distance sections. One of those sections requires masks.*

#### EUCCHARIST OUTDOORS

**Summer Sundays** 11:30 AM is out doors.

**Non-Summer Sunday** 11:30 AM Mass has an in-car option. Congregants park in the designated area, listen to Mass on the parish radio station, and receive Communion in the car.

**Wednesday** 10:00 AM 20 minutes  
Communion Service in the parking lot, sometimes led by lay minister.

#### CONFESSIONS:

**Saturday Mornings** Drive-up Confessions are offered every Saturday morning, typically between 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Always check the "This Week" email to learn if the time has been changed to accommodate funerals or baptisms.

**By Appointment** Email Father Hank for an appointment if you cannot come on Saturday.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

**After Mass - Individuals** - If you have surgery or a serious diagnosis, please request anointing after Mass.

**After Mass - Group** - There is a group anointing every month after one Mass. Call the office for information.

**In Emergency-** Please call 908-874-3141 and press 1 for a priest.

**Hospital** - Contact the hospital chaplain as soon as possible.

**Home or Nursing Home** - Call Fr Hank at 908-874-3141 and press 1.

**Emergency** - Call Fr Hank at 908-874-3141 and press 1.

#### BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

Please see information pamphlets in the Gathering Space

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

Please see information pamphlets in the Gathering Space

#### VARIA

**Suicide Prevention Hotline** - Call 1-800-273-TALK

**Teen Crisis Text Hotline** - Text 741741

## PARISH COMMUNITY OF

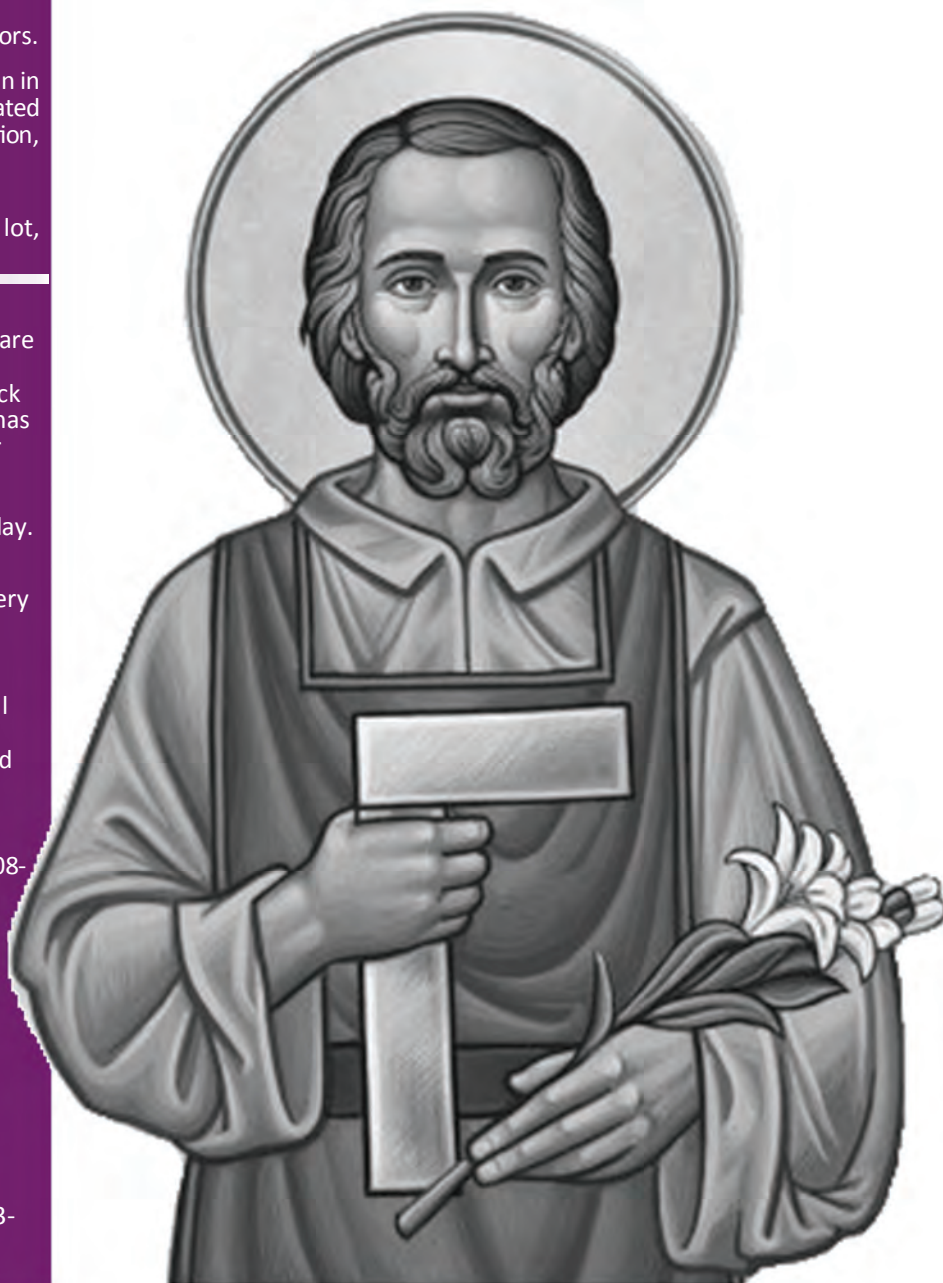
# Saint Joseph

## HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Priests

Prophets

Kings



# December 10, 2023

8:00AM *The rosary is prayed before Mass.*  
*Open to all. You are always welcome to join us.*

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon. 8:35AM John Politos  
R/B Carlene Thomson
- . 8:35AM Marjorie Layton  
R/B Carl & Connie Panzera
- . 8:35AM Helen DeCerce  
R/B Colts Neck Morning Club
- Tue. 8:35AM Vesta L Malebranche  
R/B Francois Family
- 8:35AM Robert Heiss  
R/B Marilyn Heiss
- 8:35AM Jim & Erma Koehr (Living)  
R/B John & Melissa Koehr
- Wed. 8:35AM Allison Rose Hammer  
R/B Cathy & Dennis Hammer
- .. 8:35AM Linda Cox  
R/B The Grateful Cornwall Visitors
- 8:35AM John Cleary  
R/B Senior Residence Eucharistic Ministry
- Thu, 8:35AM Deceased Members of Matisz &  
Perfinowicz Families  
R/B Paulette Matis
- Fri. 8:35AM Steve Tomko  
R/B Dottie & George Lukazik
- Sat. 4:45PM Elenmarie B Dunn  
R/B Siobhan Dunn
- 4:45PM Georg Komar  
R/B Donna Komar & Family
- 4:45PM James & Julia Glennon  
R/B Sean Glennon
- Sun. 8:00AM Theodora M Cacatian  
R/B Sarah & Lou Colucci
- 8:00AM People of the Parish
- 9:30AM Paul Mahajan  
R/B Nina & Savannah Hunter
- 9:30AM James Meszaros  
R/B Cridge Family
- 9:30AM Vincenza & Lorenzo Lanza  
R/B Cridge Family
- 11:30AM Kit Carlough  
R/B MaryEllen & Ross Mcllvaine
- 11:30AM Hian Goei  
R/B Evie Goei & Family

**WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR – after 8:35AM Mass**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**On the Main Altar of the Church.**

## READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

## Second Week of Advent



The Advent wreath is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Advent season. While historians do not agree about all the details of its origin, most do agree that Advent wreaths did not begin in church, but rather in the homes of ordinary people. One suggestion is that this custom began when wooden wagon wheels were brought into the home during winter to prevent them from deterioration and warping outside in the cold. Eventually, greens and candles were added to make them more pleasing inside the home.. Sometime during the 1600s this custom made its way into Lutheran churches in Germany when the candles came to represent the weeks until Christmas. The use of the Advent wreath spread slowly to other Christian churches and first appeared in America in the early 1900s.



## HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Please continue to check for any changes to this schedule which will be posted each week in Father's weekly letter on Friday and in the bulletin.. Thank You.

**Please note: The masses on Sunday morning, December 24, are for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. They are not Christmas masses.**

### Masses for Christmas are the following:

#### Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM - will also be livestreamed.

6:00 PM

9:00 PM

#### Christmas Day – Monday, December 25

8:00 AM

9:30 AM - will also be livestreamed.

11:30 AM will also accommodate people in cars and will be broadcast to these people on the parish FM station. Communion will be brought to these people. This option is intended primarily to serve those people whose health prevents them from being in crowds.

### Holiday Masses - Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31 – 7:00PM

Monday, January 1 – 8:35AM & 5:00PM

**Please note that the morning masses on Sunday, December 31, are for the Feast of the Holy Family and not the holyday on January 1**

# December 10, 2023

## O Holy Nights!



### Sunday evening, December 10:

Making Merry Music. In the redesigned scheme of O Holy Nights, this is the frolic. This is the rock-out night with upbeat Christmas music singalong and with line dancing led by Party Motivator Lea and DJ Count Graham.

It will include O Holy Line-dancing and O Holy Tailgating – with a hitch. The theme for the tailgating is “We Three Kings.” There will be lots of prizes that night and everyone will receive a crown..

### Sunday evening, December 17:

Live Nativity. Our New and Improved Shepherds’ Path. It’s prayerful, reflective and high tech! Contemplate salvation history while walking the woods with the magic of QR codes and your smartphone.



## HEALING PRAYER

**This Weekend - December 9-10**

Immediately after the 4:45 PM, 9:30 AM  
and 11:30 AM Masses.

**Next Dates: January 10-11, 2024**

For more Info, contact Ann Smith at 908-285-6481.  
All conversations and prayer requests are confidential



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES

Would you like to make a donation towards our Christmas Memorial Flower Program in remembrance of a deceased loved one or to honor someone? Your contributions will provide for next year’s flowers – just like last year’s contributions provide for this year’s. The envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space. You may drop them in the baskets on the way out of church... Names will be posted in the bulletins after Christmas. Thank you for helping to make our church beautiful for Christmas.



## SAGES ACTIVITIES

For more information or to register for events contact AnnaMaria at [arealbuto@sjmillstone.com](mailto:arealbuto@sjmillstone.com) or 908-864-0334.

**Christmas Party** – Join us WEDNESDAY, December 13 (notice new day) for Lunch, Poker, games and Christmas cheer. Please register with AnnaMaria

**Monday Fundays** – see you in the New Year! Mark your calendars for January 15 and January 22. Details to follow.

**Exercise** – Our exercise class will take a Christmas break and resume on January 4 with Salsa. Both chair and stand options are available. Join us Thursdays at 10:00am. No registration required.

**Homebound Gifts** – Please contact AnnaMaria at [arealbuto@sjmillstone.com](mailto:arealbuto@sjmillstone.com). If you know someone to whom the parish should reach out but is not yet doing so. We want every parishioner – especially those who cannot get themselves here – to know they are cherished members of this community. Help us find them.

## “This Week”

Are you receiving ‘This Week,’ the e-letter that Father Hank sends out every Friday? It is the best way to stay current on timely parish news, especially when it comes to late-breaking announcements or big news for the upcoming weekend. Simply sign up and it will appear in your email each Friday.

Go to our parish homepage at

[www.sjmillstone.com](http://www.sjmillstone.com)

and sign up and start receiving updates.

## IN MEMORIAM

**marian Dul**, father of parishioner, Barbara Dul, died on November 16.

**Rose “Rossi” Marie Alpaugh**, 80, mother of parishioner, Lynette Byrne, died on November 23.

**John D. Cleary**, 56, husband of Lisa Cleary and son of Diane Cleary, died on November 23.

**Gabe Albert**, 93, husband of Gloria Albert, died on November 27.

*Please pray for their eternal rest and for all who mourn their deaths.*

# December 10, 2023

## 2024 BOOK OF MASS INTENTIONS

The Parish Book of Mass Intentions is now open. In the Gathering Space you will find (a) the form to submit and (b) the schedule of office hours for arranging Mass intentions. And, if proper pronunciation of your loved ones' names is important to you, feel free to approach the lectors before the Mass at which you have a scheduled Intention, to let them know how to pronounce the name. They are a kind and helpful group.

## ADULT ENRICHMENT COURSE

### "The Theology of the Eucharist"

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering a free-of-charge Adult Enrichment Course entitled "The Theology of the Eucharist" on twelve consecutive Thursdays starting January 4 through March 21, 2024 from 10 am to 11:30 am. The course will be offered at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. The classes will be presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. and will include a lecture and Q & A.

There is a \$15. fee to attend which covers all 12 sessions. You may register online at [www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation](http://www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation) (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.



## Rosary for Life - with Bishop Checchio Friday, January 19, 2024

In solidarity with those  
at the March for Life in Washington, DC

Meet at St. James Parish parking lot at 1 pm  
369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge  
(following the 12:10 pm Mass)

## Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass & Pro-Vita Awards

Bishop Checchio will celebrate the Annual Respect Life Mass on Sunday, **January 21, 2024 at 12 noon at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen.** All are welcome!

## Save-the-Date

### Choices Matter

## Critical Life Issues Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9 am to 3:30 pm

St. John Neumann Conference Center  
Piscataway, NJ

# Choices Matter

A CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE

**Saturday,  
March 16**

at the  
St. John Neumann  
Pastoral Center  
Piscataway, NJ

- Opening Mass with Bishop Checchio at 9:00 a.m.
- Conference 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**SPEAKERS, EXHIBITS,  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Learn more at [www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter](http://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter)

## LITURGICAL MUSIC NEWS

The Diocesan Festival Choir is seeking new members in all sections (SATB) to join those who already give generously of their time to serve the Church as Liturgical Musicians. The choir prayerfully renders music from all periods, with a focus on Renaissance polyphony and Gregorian chant. Rehearsals are on the three preceding Tuesdays for any particular Diocesan liturgical event; rehearsals are typically held at the Cathedral of Saint Francis in Metuchen. Interested persons may set up an interview/audition by contacting Christopher Deibert, Director of Diocesan Liturgical Music, at [cdeibert@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdeibert@diometuchen.org).

# December 10, 2023

## Stress In Your Marriage?

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- Does talking about it only make it worse?

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **February 2 – 4, 2024**. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email [3024@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3024@helpourmarriage.org).

Raritan Valley Choral Society  
presents



## Let Heaven and Nature Sing...

Offering glorious sounds of the season  
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Sunday, December 10, 3 PM  
Church of St. Charles Borromeo  
47 Skillman Road, Skillman

All tickets \$10

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please send info for the bulletin no later than Friday, 8 days prior to the weekend you want the article to appear, directly to [stjbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:stjbulletin@yahoo.com) Thank You

### \*\*\*EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES\*\*\*

For **12/24** bulletin, submit material by  
**Wednesday, December 13**

For **12/31** bulletin, submit material by  
Wednesday, **December 20**



PRESENTS

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH



Come join the Metuchen/Edison/Middlesex County community for the Saint Francis Chamber Orchestra and Chorus's annual presentation of George Frederik Handel's timeless oratorio. Under the direction of Maestro Christopher M.C. Deibert, conductor, the Advent/Christmas portion of this work will be performed in its entirety, along with excerpts from the second and third parts. Don't miss this delightful candlelit concert, set in beautiful Gothic-revival architectural surroundings.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 • 7:30 PM

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Christopher M.C. Deibert, Executive Director

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ

VISIT US ONLINE AT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.STFRANCISCATHEDRAL.ORG](https://www.stfranciscathedral.org)

### Looking to Volunteer this Holiday season?

To meet the increased needs of the community, Catholic Charities Food Pantry and Thrift Store, located in Phillipsburg, needs volunteers for the following:

#### Food Pantry, Open M-F, 10am-3:30pm

- Unpack donated and purchased food
- Soft & stack food on our pantry shelves
- Prepare grocery bags for our clients
- Break down empty boxes & carry to trash bins
- Provide basic case management services and have an awareness of local resources or be willing to learn

#### Thrift Store, Open M-F, 11am-4pm

- Sort & put donated items on the shelves
- Price items donated to the store
- Help customers with any questions about items purchased.

**Contact:** If interested, please call Maria Hunter at 732-738-1315 or email [mhunter@ccdom.org](mailto:mhunter@ccdom.org)

More Volunteer opportunities are available at [ccdom.org/volunteer](http://ccdom.org/volunteer).

## Sunday, Dec 10, 2023

### A voice cries out

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). *"In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"*

## Monday, Dec 11, 2023

### Backstory on the Bible

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

#### MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). *"We have seen incredible things today."*

## Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023

### Mysterious mother of the Americas

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

#### FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."*

## Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023

### Keep your eye on the divine

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should remind us, especially in hard times, to look beyond our own vision

—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

#### MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."*

## Thursday, Dec 14, 2023

### He wasn't afraid of the dark

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for *Dark Night of the Soul*, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

#### MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

## Friday, Dec 15, 2023

### The secret to our success

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"Wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

## Saturday, Dec 16, 2023

### Modernism gets its say

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book *Catholicism and Independence* got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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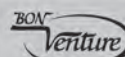
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