

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 | 201.444.2000 | www.olmcridgewood.com

COME WORSHIP WITH US

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,
12:30pm, 3:00pm (Spanish) and 6:30pm

WEEKDAYS

6:30am, 8:30am and 12:00 noon

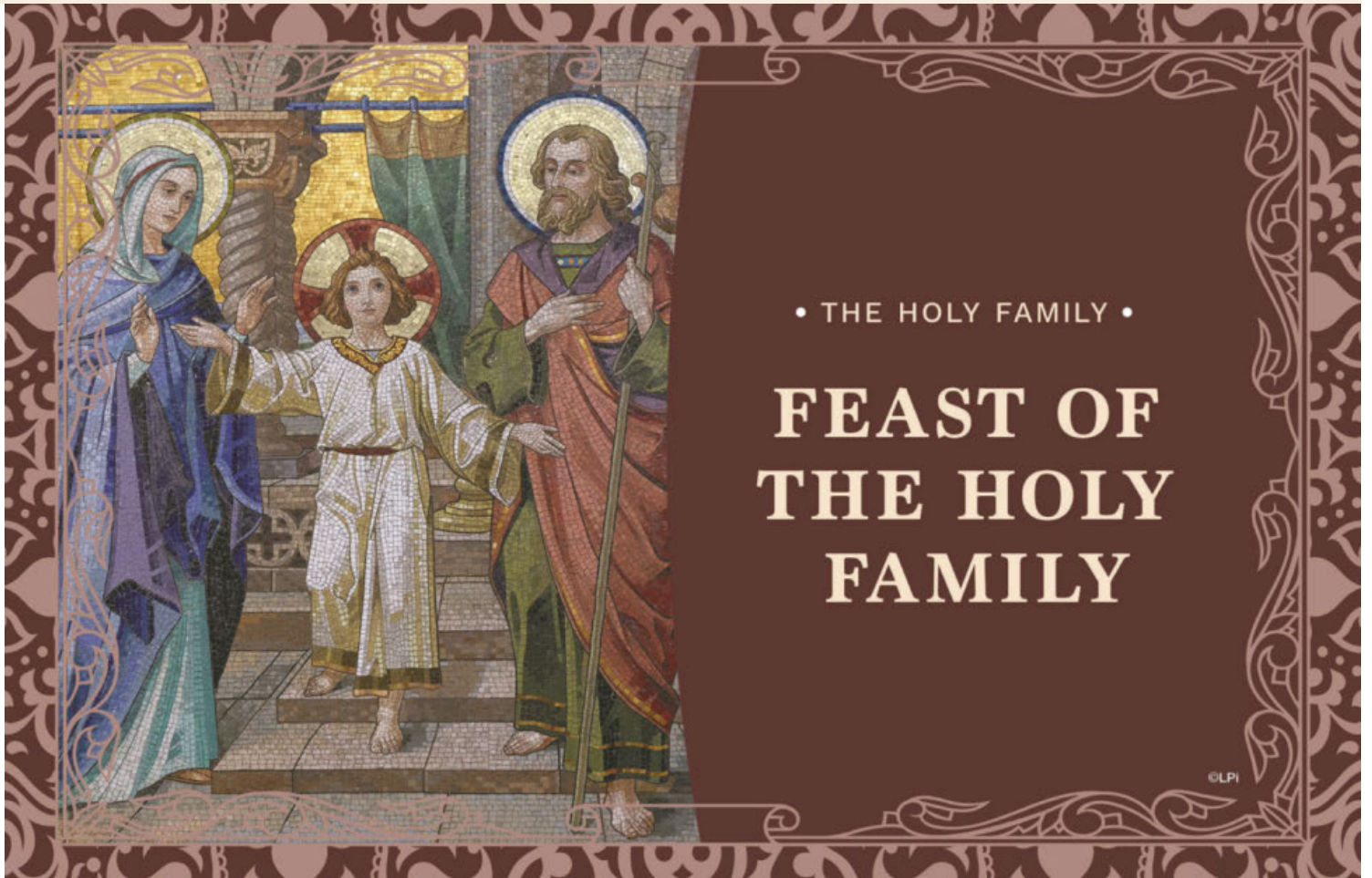
Saturdays: 8:30am

HOLY DAYS

Eve: 7:30pm (anticipated)

6:30am, 8:30am, and 12:00 noon

December 29, 2024



PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309
Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Dear Friends,

Last week, I mentioned in my column that “the wonder I feel when I see, feel and experience the true heart of this community” is one of the reasons I have continued as pastor, rather than retiring. Another reason happened this week. I received pictures of a newborn, by herself, with her parents and with each set of grandparents, all of whom, with the exception of the baby herself, were or are, parishioners, part of this parish family. Maybe one day the couple, whose wedding I officiated at, will move back to the Ridgewood area and call themselves, once again, parishioners of Mount Carmel Church. And they would not be the first set of parents to do so. Others whom I have known as teenagers, and have married, have already done so. I feel a special connection to this parish family when I get to experience these awesome moments in the lives of families that make up this parish family.

Today is Holy Family Sunday. I had resolved to write or research some new reflection on family life, but I just didn't get the time. This is the fourth week in a row that the bulletin has had to be in early to the publisher. It's Monday, 12/23, two days before Christmas and I have simply run out of time. So I'm taking the easy way out, reprinting an old column, including the prayer for the family by the poet, Robert Lewis Stevenson and I hope you'll forgive the repetition. It appears below.

Today is Holy Family Sunday, the day on which the Church celebrates family life and asks us to reflect on the family as the basic unit of society. It is the family in which we are nurtured and nourished and which, throughout our lives, offers the support that allows us to continue to grow and, at the same time, to be secure in the knowledge that there is a place where we are loved. It is in the family that we experience the ties that bind, bringing us together into the most intimate of all human relationships. Given all that we know and believe about family life, and the critical role it plays in our development, one of the saddest things to see in life are families where members are at odds with one another, whatever the cause. Even in “traditional” families, conflicts that disrupt those relationships can become so devastating to what should be “the ties that bind.” In addition, we all know that families continue under a great deal of stress right now, not only because so many households now have to have two “breadwinners,” but also because of the number of marriage relationships that have failed and the stress of “blended families,” and the new reality of families within the context of same-sex relationships and whatever changes may be on the horizon, such as polygamous relationships. Today's Gospel is a reminder that the Holy Family, to which we look for inspiration, was very much a flesh and blood family, not immune to the realities of conflict that “flesh and blood” create. And so we can turn to them in prayer, especially in moments of conflict, to ask them to show us the way to more loving relationships.

I have looked through page after page on the Internet for prayers for the family but have not found anything I really liked. Most seem more suited for the inside of a greeting card. So I repeat, once again, as our reflection, this prayer, composed by the poet Robert Louis Stevenson, for all our families and for the **parish family** of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It captures so many of the deepest wishes we hope for our families and it is my hope, prayer and wish for all of you.

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell; For the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we wait for tomorrow; for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Let peace abound in our small community. Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and persevere. Give us the grace to accept and forgive offenses. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others.

Give us courage and gaiety and a quiet mind. Spare us to our friends, soften us to our enemies. Bless us in all our endeavors. Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath and in all changes in fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving, one to another.

As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, as children to their father, we ask of you this help and mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

God bless all our families and this parish family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and a very large and warm thank you for all of **you** who make this parish a **real family**.

Be well and be safe.

All peace and joy in the New Year,
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

In one of the choices for the 1st Reading, Hannah, who had been childless, is blessed by God to bear a son, Samuel. In her thankfulness to God, she presents him for service to the Lord and he becomes the great prophet who announces God's choice of David as king. **Thankfulness** is the response of the grateful **Steward**. Likewise, the Christian Steward offers his/her gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** in thankfulness for God's many gifts. What do you offer?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure for the weekend of 12/15 was \$13,678 and for last week was \$16,745. God bless your generosity in thankfulness for God's gifts to you. Suggested New Year's Resolution—I will use online giving, **WeShare**, to provide my parish with a consistent resource to announce the *Good News*.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024—NEW YEAR'S EVE

VIGIL—5:30PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025—NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30AM 10:00AM 12:00NN

3:00PM (SPANISH MASS)

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 31ST & JANUARY 1ST

The Mass schedule for these two days can be found on Page 6 of this bulletin.

A priest is always available for emergencies.

*Come Celebrate
the Birth of Christ*

NATIVITY PLAY TODAY

in English & Spanish

DECEMBER 29, 2024—4:15PM

Parish Center

EVERONE IS WELCOME

Refreshments to follow



MT. CARMEL'S THREE KINGS CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025 | 6:30PM | MAIN CHURCH

ALL CHILDREN WELCOME WITH THEIR PARENTS

BRING A LETTER TO JESUS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW IN THE MEETING ROOM



venmo

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Look for the **WeShare** link on our website homepage, Scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Jesus and Me Storytime Saturday—January 11, 2025 Parish Center Meeting Room

Bring your child, grandchild or Godchild to a fun, faith filled, story time for young children ages 2 1/2 to 5.

To register contact **Adriana DeCandia**
thedomesticchurch61@gmail.com
\$10 suggested donation per family

OLMC LADIES SOCIAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH | 7PM | PARISH CENTER

Reserve your spot now for a parish-wide social for women! Award winning business owner, art teacher, and Mt. Carmel parishioner, Jackie Carter, will lead attendees in creating personalized lists of happiness boosting activities. (Based on the popular “dopamine menu” concept.) Come for the fun and leave with a doable approach to prioritize your well-being in 2025! \$40 includes all materials. Light appetizers and snacks will be provided! Scan the QR code here to register now.



Academy of Our Lady
(180 Rodney Street, Glen Rock)

Open House
Sunday, January 26th
11:00AM-1:00PM



All parishioners are invited to visit our parish school, offering preschool through grade 8! Meet faculty members, see the classrooms, and hear from current students about their experience. Little ones are welcome.



Ministry of Motherhood (MOMs)
WEDNESDAY—JANUARY 8TH
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER PATRICK MANNING, PhD.
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC STUDIES, SETON HALL

All mothers are invited to a talk by one of Seton Hall's top professors! Dr. Manning will present “Spiritual Remedies for Stress, Busyness, and Tech Overload.” Get the insights of a college class... tuition-free! Coffee and breakfast will be served. Children are welcome! No RSVP required! Just come!!

For more information, go to www.olmcmoms.com or email Katherine Clark at OLMcmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com

MOMS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
COMPLIMENTARY BABYSITTING!

Christmas Message of Gratitude & Blessings from OneHopeChildren Foundation



Dear Msgr. Ron, the priests, staff,
and parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel:

This Christmas, as we reflect on the boundless love of Christ and the joy His birth brings to the world, we at OneHopeChildren Foundation are overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering love and support.

Your generosity and dedication has been a beacon of hope, helping us provide the gift of education to children who, without your kindness, might never have seen the inside of a classroom. You have not only opened doors of opportunity for these young ones but also demonstrated the true spirit of Christ's love in action.

As you celebrate this holy season, may the joy of the Christ Child fill your hearts and homes. May the New Year bring you abundant blessings, good health, and countless reasons to celebrate God's faithfulness in your lives.

Thank you for being a vital part of this mission of hope. Together, we are changing lives and making the world a better place, one child at a time.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,
Fr. Felix



Hello, friends!

If you're reading this bulletin in church, you've probably already seen my ugly mug and heard my grating voice through our monitors, foaming at the mouth about **ChristLife: Discovering Christ**—only because I believe in it. Since my involvement with *ChristLife* in 2012, I've seen **hundreds** of lives changed, renovated, enhanced—*add anything good*—by this experience.

I want to, again, personally invite you to consider it if you haven't already. The **QR code** above takes you to a page where you'll get to watch the video again and also read, in more depth, what those evenings will “taste” like.

Discovering Christ is for **anyone** 18+. It's real. It's not an info session, a gripe session, or a place where guilt will be heaped upon you. It's engaging and unlike any other “church” thing I've—and hundreds of others—ever witnessed.

If you've *already* experienced it, here's my invitation for you: invite someone to think about registering through the QR code. Plant a seed—and we'll do the rest, starting on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 7PM.**

Fr. Frank

Join fellow parishioners to pray the rosary
each week in the Daily Mass Chapel.

Spanish—Sundays—2:00PM
English—Thursdays—7:30PM



**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)
CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Wishing you all a blessed New Year 2025!

As we close the year 2024 we give special thanks to God for all the graces we have received such as the grace to pass through our trials and tribulations, peace in the midst of all turmoil external and internal, and most of all for all our blessings big and small. Jesus is truly the God of love, mercy and divine providence.

Everyone is invited to participate in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and to be an Adorer of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Stop by the chapel any time. Better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 1-2PM; Wednesdays: 7-8AM;
Fridays: 2-3AM, 8-9AM, 7-8PM;
Saturdays: 3-4PM, 5-6PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com

**ANNUAL MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT
FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 24-25, 2025
PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE!
REGISTER NOW!**

If your spiritual batteries are in need of a recharge, then this Cornerstone retreat may be God's answer. Registration is now open for our Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat held in the Parish Center. Use the QR Code here to register now.



Expect to find camaraderie, fellowship and opportunity for renewal in a relaxed environment. This year's event is fast approaching, scheduled two weeks before Super Bowl LIX. Consider it a gift to yourself.

Questions/More Information

Contact Dan O'Keefe, danokeefe@icloud.com

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
&
MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

**Thursday Evenings—8PM-9PM
January 30—April 3**

Retreat Saturday, April 5

Lower Level of the School Building



- ◆ Do you see a need for a more Christ-centered marriage?
- ◆ Are you interested in living out the sacrament of marriage more deeply?
- ◆ Are you preparing to enter marriage? If so, this course fulfills the marriage preparation requirement.

This course is open to all couples—both those who are already married and those who are preparing for marriage.

**For more information or to register,
contact Fr. Jakov**

jvidov@olmcridgewood.com or 201.444.2000 x202

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Dec. 29	1:30PM OCIA (MR) 2:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:15PM Nativity Play (PC)
Mon. Dec. 30	5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Tues. Dec. 31	RECTORY CLOSED 5:30pm CYO Basketball 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Jan. 1	RECTORY CLOSED
Thur. Jan. 2	3:30PM Jr. High Youth Group (Gym) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:30PM NCW 3 rd Community (YCB)
Fri. Jan. 3	10:30AM WCST Bible Study (Library) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:30PM Three Kings Celebration (Church) 7:30PM Inspire: Young Adult Ministry (NCW)
Sat. Dec. 28	9:00AM WCST Epiphany Retreat (PC) 9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 11:00AM First Penance (Church) 2:00PM First Penance (Church) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (PC)

**First Saturday Devotion
Saturday—January 4th**

**DAILY MASS CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8:30AM MASS**

Everyone's invited to First Saturday Devotion for the intention of consoling and making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please come to pray the rosary with us and meditate on the mysteries as Our Lady requested at Fatima.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Alsa, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Cambell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Mary Kathleen Ramge, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Christina Volpe, Rochelle West, Rosemary Wright, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Timothy Bombace, Aedan Cannon, Edgar Delgado,
Nick Haddad, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano,
James Nardelli, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Monday, Dec. 30

- + 6:30AM **Sondra Varoli**
req Joanne Stolfo
- + 8:30AM **Celedonia Bautista**
req Connie Hambos & Family
- +12:00NN **Marion Mullarkey**
req Jeanne & Michael Bessel

Tuesday, Dec. 31 *Saint Sylvester I, Pope*

- + 6:30AM **Daniel Patrick McHugh**
req Peter & Barbara McHugh
- + 8:30AM **T. J. Cosgrove**
req His Family
- +12:00NN **Moya McEnroe**
req Monica & Ed McCabe
- + 7:30PM **John Wells**
req Peggy Frazza

Wednesday, Jan. 1 *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

- + 8:30AM **Lucia Velez Engel**
req Richard & Patricia Engel
- +10:00AM **John Dunworth**
req His Family
- +12:00NN **Carmel Fonseca**
req Her Family
- + 3:00PM **Henry Posada**
req The Engel Family

Thursday, Jan. 2 *Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

NO 6:30AM MORNING MASS TODAY

- + 8:30AM **Josephine Mielcarz**
req John & Paula Martinez
- +12:00NN **John & Eileen Wells**
req Their Family

Friday, Jan. 3 *Holy Name of Jesus*

- + 6:30AM **Howard Doppel**
req The Mulvey Family
- + 8:30AM **Deceased Members of the Hakim & Nativo Families**
req Their Family
- +12:00NN **Claire Fallon**
req The Callanan Family

Saturday, Jan. 4 *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

- + 8:30AM **Julia Francesco**
req Michael Francesco
- + 5:30PM **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, Jan. 5 *Epiphany of the Lord*

- + 8:00AM **Mario Claudio**
req Marie Claudio
- + 9:30AM **John "Duce" Tarabocchia**
req Al & Mary Tarabocchia
- +11:00AM **James Skau**
req Anne & George Skau
- +12:30PM **Deceased Members of the Santos & Sanabria Families**
req Terry Sanabria & Ron reedy
- 3:00PM **Special Intention of Esteba Diaz & the Diaz Family**
req Ariana Diaz
- + 6:30PM **Jane Frey**
req Elaine St. Denis

TODAY'S READINGS

1. 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Samuel was the prophet who presided over the transition of Israel from a loose confederation to a monarchy with Saul first and later David, as king. This excerpted text, however, refers to his birth as the son of the childless Hannah and Elkanah. Hannah is God's gift to an oppressed woman; his life, in turn, becomes her gift for God. This action is seen as a prelude to today's Gospel story of Mary and Jesus.

Or

1. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Two centuries before Christ, Sirach offers his insights and reflections on true wisdom, the Law of Moses, as contained in the *Torah*, serving as their foundation. The close bond between parents and God, as explained in the Book of Genesis, should be reflected in the esteem children extend to parents, an esteem which does not diminish with time. Honor for parents will bring harmony and comfort to a family and blessings from God.

2. 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

The love that God has for us, enfleshed in Jesus Christ, enables us to be called children of God, members of His holy family, sharing in His life. Even greater transformation awaits us in the fullness of the Kingdom. Meanwhile, because we surrender our lives to Jesus, we can also grow in love for one another.

Or

2. Colossians 3:12-21

Because we are God's chosen ones, and aware of this extraordinary grace, commitment to live holy lives needs to be our number one priority. Prominent among the ways to live this holy life is love, a love which Paul explains in very practical terms. "Putting on" all these virtues will transform the reader into the image of Jesus, Himself.

3. Luke 2:41-52

The story of the boy Jesus in the Temple is unique to Luke and serves two purposes, (1) to reaffirm the divine mission of Jesus, which not even family ties can interrupt, and (2) to emphasize Jesus' real human nature from the perspective of His parents, concerned about a boy lost (to their eyes) in the city. Though divine, Jesus' humanity is at the heart of the Incarnation.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. How has my family background nurtured and shaped my faith? If I am a parent, how am I nurturing the faith of my children?
2. Which relationships in my family are most difficult? Why? What can I do about them?
3. Whom do I exclude from my notion of family? Does a narrow sense of the human family limit my growth in faith?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 1/4/25	5:30PM	Fr. Frank
Sun. 1/5/25	8:00AM	Fr. Frank
	9:30AM	Fr. Ron
	11:00AM	Fr. Ron
	12:30PM	Fr. Jakov
	3:00PM	Fr. Jakov
	6:30PM	Fr. Frank

Late changes appear on the website after 12NN on the Saturday of that weekend.



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