**ADVENT**

The beginning of the Church’s new year is birthed in darkness. The light of day grows short. In the lengthening night we cry out, prisoners of the past, comfortable in what is known.

It is not easy leaving aside the old. Endings and the end things are always frightening. In the darkness and shadows we face our deepest fears. Wondering, watching, waiting, we hold on in hope.

This old year must give way to the new, the unknown. This year, this time, will the dawn slip across the horizon?

For, in the rising sun, the light is born, shattering the dark. In the morning, light our hearts, stretch to grasp the new.

Then the full light of the Son will reveal this is not the end — only another beginning.

~ Carol A. Gura

During these four weeks of Advent, reflect and pray upon your leaving behind the past to make space to birth a new way of life.
Mass Intentions for This Week

MONDAY - December 2
Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
11:00 am Walter Dwyer - Patrick A. Dwyer & Family
5:15 pm Ray Mahar - Tom & Kathy Eagle

TUESDAY - December 3
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
6:45 am Sally Tapley
Mary Ellen Fraser & Family
11:00 am Marie Mahar - Son, Dick

WEDNESDAY - December 4
Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
11:00 am Grace Umana & Daughter, Grace - Son & Brother
11:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center
5:15 pm Genevieve Vincent - Cecilia DeJoy

THURSDAY - December 5
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
6:45 am Don Pass - Fred Martin
11:00 am Cindy Tichacek - Jeanne Corbit

FIRST FRIDAY - December 6
Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
10:30 am Mass at the Highlands
11:00 am Cindy Tichacek - Dorothy Shone
5:15 pm Ray Mahar - Cobey Lou Bastone

SATURDAY - December 7
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
9:00 am Ray Mahar - Sue & John Stich
4:30 pm Deceased Member of the Foley Family - Family

SUNDAY - December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
7:30 am Marilyn Case Fabian - Dick
9:00 am David Offen - John & Lisa Creary
11:00 am Patrick Henderson - Kate & Ben Clark
5:00 pm Ann Maloy - Joseph & Christina Crimi

SPECIAL INTENTIONS
We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week. To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

Two lamps will burn
In memory of Gladys Stein by the St. Louis School Community
One lamp will burn
In memory of Paul (Bucky) Barvinchak by Marise & Ralph Lippa

Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8  Thank you, faithful servants!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>J. Denzak, S. Denzak</td>
<td>S. Payne, D. Infantino, B. Chiacchierini, D. Infantino, M. Daniele, S. Denzak, G. Gebbie, S. Carpentier, D. Knittle, B. Knittle</td>
<td>Denzak Family</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>G. Rooney, D. Rooney</td>
<td>G. Burke, J. Roxstrom, K. Murphy, K. Darby, S. Rooney, C. Kress, M. Murphy, T. Kress</td>
<td>M. Lessard</td>
<td>K. Olfano</td>
<td>E.K. Mancini J. Miller</td>
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Sunday Communion Service - December 8
The Highlands: Jim Haefner  Heather Heights: Dick Lenio
Our Offering to the Lord

Our Gift to the Lord

Our presence, our offering

November 24
Attendance and Collection figures will be in the December 8 Bulletin.

Returning to the Lord with increase from the many gifts we have been given can take many forms. Each Sunday, grateful that the Lord has given us another week of life and health, we come together at Mass to give thanks. Knowing the Lord has given material well being, we contribute to our parish. Aware of strengths for ministry God has given, we find ways to offer our time and talents in service. For choosing St. Louis as the place you believe, belong, and return to the Lord with increase from God’s goodness to you, THANK YOU!

There is a second collection this weekend, December 1 & 2, for the support of Catholic University and other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions.

This Week’s Tithing Will Support Holy Childhood

Next Week’s Tithing Will Support St. Damien Pediatric Hospital

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) (formerly Our Little Brothers and Sisters)

Imagine yourself carrying your sick child all day to get to Golisano Children’s Hospital in Rochester. When you arrive your child (now even sicker) is denied treatment because you have no money. One of Fr./Dr. Rick Frechette’s many effective programs, St. Damien is Haiti’s only free children’s hospital, serving 80,000 annually. Please pray for all those who serve and who are served at St. Damien and its many community outreaches. To learn more about the Our Little Brothers and Sisters Orphanages, St. Damien Pediatric Hospital with its community outreaches in the area around Port-au-Prince and the many ways our friend Fr. Rick prepares Haitians for self sufficiency, please visit: www.nphusa.org/haiti and our parish website: http://stlouischurch.org/32nd-annual-ornament-sale-gifts-love Or simply google: St. Damien Pediatric Hospital – Haiti.

NB: 1) “Friends of the Orphans” has re branded to “NPH (Spanish and French initials for Our Little Brothers and Sisters) to better reflect the varied population served.

2) Our tithing contribution will be doubled by a generous donor who knows that 40% of Haiti’s population is under the age of 14, over ½ of the families live on less than $1/day; and that malnourished children are most susceptible to disease.

Shop ’Til You Drop Fund Raiser for Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN)
Pittsford Plaza, Tuesday, December 3, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Proceeds will benefit R.A.I.H.N. Helping Homeless Families Achieve Sustainable Independence

Benucci’s Italian Ristorante, Wine Bar and Pizzeria

Benucci’s is passionate about Italian food, bursting with flavors from all regions of Italy. Enjoy a meal at the Italian Wine Bar or relax in the warm and inviting dining room. Mention that you are dining for RAIHN when you arrive and Benucci’s will donate 20% of your check (excluding tip and tax). Reservations suggested. 264-1300.

One World Goods

One World Goods is a fair trade gift store that sells quality handcrafted items, apparel, jewelry and coffee from around the world. Your purchase provides vital income for our global neighbors as well as a donation to RAIHN.

Hobby House Toys

A unique toy store for kids of all ages. Family owned, specializing in educational toys, games puzzles, sports, trains, vehicles, science, puppets and much more.

Stefan Otter Fine Art Jewelers

Creators of award-winning designs, the Stefan Otter Jewelers craft truly unique, one of a kind handmade jewelry. Demonstrations will be held each hour on the hour. RAIHN shoppers will be offered an additional 10% discount on purchases that evening.

Read our current newsletter online at www.raihn.org
Togethe with Scripture

First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1 – 5
Let us walk in the light of the Lord

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11 – 14
Put on the armor of light

Gospel: Matthew 24:37 – 44
At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come

Practice of Hope

Today’s readings tell the urgency of this moment. Isaiah saw peace on the horizon, Paul said that the day of salvation was near, and Jesus taught that the day of the Son of Man would come suddenly and unexpectedly. The readings call us to stay awake and to discern God’s irruption in our history.

Although Christians know that Christ has already brought salvation, Advent reminds us that he continues to come daily, offering salvation, healing, and wholeness, and will one day return in glory, bringing God’s work to completion. Today’s readings call us to watch for God’s many ways of coming into our lives, and above all to respond.

Isaiah’s prophecy, from about seven centuries before Christ, is a hope-filled cry for God’s salvation envisioned as a future reality. The prophet arouses his people’s hope by using a common Old Testament phrase for the time of God’s final act of re-creation: “In days to come.” Isaiah longs for the day when not only Israel but “all nations” will hear God’s teaching and respond fully. “To walk in [God’s] paths” we must follow divine instruction in all aspects of life and so create the world God envisions, an everlasting kingdom of peace.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul also urges daily response to God’s act of salvation in Jesus. Writing about thirty years after Jesus’s Resurrection, Paul knows that what Isaiah longed for has already begun in Christ. But like most Christians of the time, Paul expected Christ’s imminent return in full glory. Such expectation surely requires conduct befitting those who, through Baptism, have “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Gospel continues to focus on the Christ who has already come but will return to complete God’s work of salvation and new creation. Matthew points out that the fullness of God’s work remains always in God’s hands, to be accomplished in God’s unknown “hour.” Christ’s followers play their part in God’s work by daily watching, waiting, and preparing for his final coming.

At Home with the Word 2014, Scripture Insights, page 17

Looking Ahead: Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1 – 10
His Dwelling shall be glorious

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4 – 9
Welcome one another

Gospel: Matthew 3:1 – 12
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire

Little Blue Books

This weekend, we are distributing Little Blue Books, that contain brief Advent scripture passages, reflections, and historical tidbits. If daily prayer is not a habit, these are a great prayer starter!

Helping One Another

While Christmas can be a time of joy for many, for the unemployed Christmas increases the stress that already is overwhelming. In an effort to assist those looking for employment, we will again be listing resumes of those looking for work. If you are unemployed and would like to add your resume to the list, please email (cwensel@dor.org), fax (387-9888) or send your resume to the Ministry Office, 64 South Main Street, Pittsford 14534, Attention: Cris Wensel. That information will then be given a number in place of your name, and information about your education history and employment interests will be listed periodically in upcoming bulletins. If you have been on the previous lists, you must resubmit your resume to be included in these listings. If you or someone you know is looking to hire someone who matches one of these resumes, please contact Birdie at the Parish Ministry Center and we will supply you with the resume and contact information.

At Home with the Word

Try using At Home with the Word weekly. First, be sure to read the articles at the beginning about the lectionary, this year’s Gospel, etc. Then, each week watch how much more you get out of Mass when you read the Bible readings before coming to church. Then, for prayer during the week, go back to the readings, and continue reflecting on them.

Join us for our next Day of Prayer

Advent Reflections
Presented by Sr Carole Proia, SSJ.

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Notre Dame Retreat House
5151 Foster Rd., Canandaigua, NY 13324

This one day retreat begins at 9:00am and concludes at 3:00pm (conference, lunch, sacrament of reconciliation and mass). Please call 585-394-5700 to make a reservation for this day. The $25.00 fee includes conference and lunch.
Christmas Season Events

Powers Farm Market
Live Nativity Display

Witness the nativity story as you’ve never seen it before, featuring a special performance by the St. Louis Choir.
Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm
All are welcome!

RSVP to Elizabeth by December 6
efinn@dor.org or 586-5675.

St. Louis Parish presents
Christmas Café

Sunday, December 15
10AM & 12PM

Join together as a parish family to celebrate the coming of the Christ child!
Featuring:
Coffee & donuts, cookie exchange, nativity pageant, strolling carolers, Christmas crafts, and the company of your parish friends!

ST. LOUIS CHURCH: THE NATIVITY STORY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 7:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM

As an alternative for those who are unable to see the Live Nativity at Powers Farm Market, we will be hosting a video presentation of The Nativity Story. Come watch the video. Hot Cider will be served. All are welcome. Please RSVP to efinn@dor.org by Thursday, December 12.

TAKE SOME TIME AND SHARE CHRISTMAS JOY!

Every Christmas St. Louis delivers poinsettia plants to our shut-ins and to families who have lost a loved one in the last year. In the past the pastoral care committee delivered the plants. This year in an effort to build community and provide opportunities for all parishioners to share their faith and the joy of Christmas we are inviting you to help!

On the weekend of December 7th and 8th individuals and families are invited to donate $10 for a poinsettia and then to deliver it to one of our shut-ins or bereaved families. Each plant will be labeled with the name and address of the recipient. Plants can be picked up after each mass in the Parish Meeting Hall.

Help us spread the joy of Christmas and the love of St. Louis Church to those who cannot be with us and those for whom Christmas will be difficult this year.

PREPARING FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

The first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. A tradition at St. Louis is to make available addresses of those individuals from our parish that are homebound or in area nursing facilities. Baskets containing these addresses will be at each entrance throughout Advent. You are invited to take one or several addresses and send an Advent/Christmas greeting to the individual.

Each year we receive many, many notes of appreciation from the recipients who are delighted to have been remembered by so many people. It is truly a highlight of their Christmas holiday. Thank you for helping us to continue this joy-filled tradition.
Searching for that perfect gift for the person that has everything?

You know they don’t need another sweater, tie or gadget. Why have something sit in their closet or take up shelf space until they decide to “recycle” it? Give a gift that always fits - an angel tree gift in their honor! Let us know what you are purchasing and for whom it is being purchased. We will send that person an acknowledgement card. We will need the name and address of the person you are buying the item in honor of. You can call us with the information or attach a note with the gift.

The true spirit of Christmas is giving and sharing. Saint’s Place gives some new items to each arriving family – household items, clothing, food cards, and much more throughout the year. Over 1,200 gifts were donated last year through our Angel Tree. These items, generously donated by you; bring such happiness to the recipients. They are so appreciative. Your generosity makes this possible. Last year our supply of new items lasted until August, an awesome feat! This year we are hoping to increase the number of gifts, so that even families who arrive next year in the fall, will receive a new item or two. By the end of this December, Saint’s Place expects to assist close to 760 newly arrived refugees since January 2013.

Please send an acknowledgement for the attached Christmas gift of:

TO: _______________________________________________________
Name _______________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City_________________________State_______________Zip Code_________
_____________________________________________________

FROM: _______________________________________________________
Name _______________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City_________________________State_______________Zip Code_________
_____________________________________________________

Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534. Colleen Knauf, Executive Director.

Saint’s Place Ministry Hours: 46 S. Main St.: Mon. through Thurs.: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed Fridays.
St. John of Rochester: Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 9:15 am until 12 noon; Wed.: 9:15 am to 2:30 pm.; Closed Fridays.
Phone: 585-385-6860. Fax: 585-385-3963 or saintlady@saintsplace.org, or www.saintsplace.org
**Connections**

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REGISTRATION**

If you haven’t already done so, and you feel your child is ready to receive First Communion or Confirmation in 2014, please register your child/children **NOW** for these preparation programs. We need to prepare for the classes so your registration, **now**, is vital.

We offer these guidelines for the readiness of your children for these programs:
- First Communion: Second Grade or higher
- Confirmation: Eighth Grade or higher
- Families need to be registered members of St. Louis Parish.

The Confirmation program will begin at the end of January, details and information about the program will be available in December and First Communion will begin in March with details and information available in early February.

Please check the bulletin for the calendars of both programs so you can mark your home calendars before the program begins.

Both of these programs require your child’s **Baptismal Certificate** before their registration is complete (even if they were baptized at St. Louis Parish). You can register for these programs with a hard copy registration form found on the counter of the Narthex in church or at the Ministry Center. Hard copy registrations can include the baptismal certificate and payment. Or, if you register on-line, please send the baptismal certificate and payment as soon as possible to Sue Payne’s attention.

**Deadline for Confirmation registration is Friday January 4th at 5:00 p.m.**

**Deadline for First Communion Registration is Friday February 1st at 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Sue Payne at 586-5675 or email spayne@dor.org.

**TRI-PARISH LITTLE ROCK INFANCY NARRATIVE SCRIPTURE STUDY: GIVE YOURSELF A PRESENT THIS ADVENT!**

Deepen your longing for the Messiah’s coming and once again ask God to be Emmanuel, “God with us.”

St. Louis, Transfiguration and St. Catherine of Siena parishes invite all to attend a three-session Little Rock Infancy Narrative Scripture Study. Anyone wishing to join the study can pick up their books at one of the times listed below. The cost of materials is $15. If you miss a session at your home parish, feel free to come to that session at another church. You are welcome at all three parishes.

**Infancy Narrative Scripture Study Course Overview**

This Advent scripture study explores the Infancy Narratives of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Participants will be encouraged to open their hearts and minds to listen to what God is saying through prayer and daily scripture readings. Each reading is accompanied by questions for personal reflection that will be used to guide our weekly discussions. Please join us in the Advent season as we contemplate and rejoice in the coming of our Savior.

**ST. LOUIS**

Sundays: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
December 8 & 15 in Parish Meeting Hall
Facilitator: Kathryn McAlarney Phone: 585-490-2745

**ST. CATHERINE’S OF SIENA**

Mondays: 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
December 2, 9 & 16 in Room 2
Facilitator: Gee Gee Micoli Phone: 585-624-2153(H) or 585-506-2290(C)

**Church of the Transfiguration**

Thursdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Dec. 5, 12 & 19 in Parish Life Center – Double Room
Facilitator: Melissa Moral, M.Div. Phone: 340-9633

**MASS FOR VOCATIONS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:00 P.M., ST. THOMAS MOORE CHURCH**

The Lord takes delight in our continuous asking! For several years the Knights of Columbus of the Saint Damien of Molokai Council have been sponsoring Rosaries and Masses usually four each year, for an increase in Priestly Vocations in the Diocese of Rochester. The next Mass (not including the praying of the Rosary) will be Friday evening December 6, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Avenue, Rochester. The Rosaries and Masses have been celebrated with beautiful music and inspiring homilies. Has the Lord rewarded our prayers? Have you noticed the wonderful increase in vocations in our diocese over the last few years? Light refreshments will follow the Mass. Call Bernie at 334-5338 for more information.
HOLIDAY MUSIC

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 8, 2013
3:00 PM (Brass Prelude at 2:40PM)
Rev. Thomas Mull, Presider
Terrance Keach, Director
Linehan Chapel at Nazareth College
4245 East Avenue, Rochester

Free Admission
Free Parking (Lots R & Q)
Handicapped Accessible

The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, a service celebrating the birth of Jesus, will be presented by Chorus Novus under the direction of Terrance Keach, this year in honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings by community members and local dignitaries, including former Mayor William Johnson and WXXI’s Jeanne Fisher. They are interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and congregational hymns, accompanied by the Monroe Brass and Derek Remes at the organ.

Advent Music Events at Sacred Heart Cathedral
The Cathedral Community annual Crèche Festival Weekend, Dec. 6-8, features three distinct musical events to set the tone for the season of Advent. For Christians, Advent is the season of hope, longing and anticipation that leads up to the celebration of the birth of Christ. More than 100 Nativity sets (crèches) will be on display in the cathedral narthex, Nov. 30-Dec. 29

Friday Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
La Fiesta de la Posada (“Festival of the Inn,”) by Dave Brubeck. This choral concert, based on Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging, reminds us of the basics of life that God wants us to have. Performed by Rochester Lyric Opera, Kevin Nitsch, director.

Saturday Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Candlelight Lessons and Carols, performed by the Third Presbyterian Church Junior Choir, Christina Lenti, director; Antioch Baptist Church Choir, Brandon Hughes, director; Cathedral Choir, Ginny Miller, director. In this ecumenical prayer we express our common faith and hope for the future.

Sunday Dec. 8, 2 p.m.
The Dady Brothers and Friends in Concert, John and Joe Dady with Roxanne Ziegler, harp; Susan Kieren, oboe; Lynda Dimitroff, cello. With this performance of Celtic music and friendship, the hope of the season stirs our hearts.

All performances are at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park; free and open to the public; free will offerings will benefit the House of Mercy, Santa Lucia School, San Salvador, and Catholic Relief Services work on behalf of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

NEXT WEEKEND
Our Annual Ornament Sale
After all Masses at St. Louis Church exits

Ceramic boy, girl angels and friends' hearts

List of participating merchants and samples are on our parish website and in church narthex

Handcrafted and gift-packaged by Holy Childhood
Donation: $6. each to benefit St. Damien Pediatric Hospital
Haiti's only free children's hospital

If you can help sell after your Mass for about 15 minutes, please call: Marcia Mendola 381-6872

St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
December 1, 2013
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY</th>
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| **PARISH OFFICES** - Ministry Center  
64 S. Main Street, 14534  
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<tr>
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| James Schnell, Chair,  
Finance Council, 267-7295 |
| Suzy Ward, Chair  
Stewardship Council 746-5676 |

| Stephen Ministry,  
Confidential Hotline, 586-5675, ext. 324 |
| Elizabeth Ministry, 586-5675, ext. 345 |
| Colleen Knauf, Director, Saint’s Place  
46 S. Main St.  
Phone: 385-6860, Fax: 385-3963  
saintlady@saintsplace.org |

| In Residence at the Rectory:  
Fr. Ray Booth  
Fr. Al Delmonte  
Msgr. Gerard Krieg |

| Fran Barr, Principal,  
St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place  
Phone: 586-5200 fbarr@dor.org  
http://slspittsford.org/ |

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