Maria Gemma Umberta Galgani (1878-1903) is known as the "Flower of Lucca," the "Gem of Christ," and, because of her intense imitation of the Passion of Christ, the "Daughter of Passion." Gemma was the fifth of eight children; her father, Enrico, was a prosperous pharmacist. Soon after Gemma's birth, the family moved to Lucca, where her mother, Aurelia, contracted tuberculosis. Gemma was placed in a private nursery school when she was two-and-a-half years old. Several members of her family died during this period. Their firstborn, Carlo, and Gemma's sister Giulia.

In 1885, Aurelia died from tuberculosis, and Gemma's beloved brother Gino died from this disease while studying for the priesthood. Gemma was then sent to a Catholic half-boarding school run by the Sisters of St. Zita. She excelled in French, arithmetic, and music. At a very young age, Gemma experienced visions and ecstasies. These were often misunderstood and ridiculed by others. She offered this persecution in reparation of sins, because Our Lord Himself had suffered in the same way. Gemma received First Communion when she was 9 years old. She asked a fellow First Communicant: "I feel I am burning. I feel there is a fire in my heart; do you feel the same?"

Gemma developed spinal meningitis at age 16, and attributed her miraculous cure to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of the St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, and St. Marguerite Marie Alacoque. At age 18, Gemma was orphaned and became responsible for the upbringing of her younger siblings. By age 19, she had declined two marriage proposals because she wanted silence, retirement, and time to pray and speak only to God. Her poor health did not allow her to realize her dream of becoming a nun.

On June 8, 1899, Gemma felt pain and blood coming from her hands, feet and heart, the marks of the stigmata. Each Thursday evening, Gemma would fall into rapture. The marks would appear and remain until Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. When the bleeding stopped, the wounds closed, and only white marks would remain in place of the deep gashes. Gemma's stigmata continued to appear until her confessor, Reverend Germanus Ruoppolo, advised her to pray for their disappearance because of her declining health. The stigmata ceased, but the white marks remained on her skin until her death.

When her siblings were grown, Gemma went to live with the Galgani family, where she was allowed more freedom for her spiritual life than she was at home. She was frequently found in a state of ecstasy. Her words spoken during her ecstasies, were recorded by her confessor and her friend, Eufemia Giannini. Eufemia, who is now called "venerable" by the Church, left detailed records of Gemma's life: "Gemma was always very docile and obedient...she never behaved with prim manners or formalities and we never noticed the least hint of falsehood in her. She did not seem to care whether she was believed or not; she replied with a "yes" or a "no" and did not normally seek to go into explanations. She was always good and kind to everybody...She talked very little but she was not cold or withdrawn...She always sought the worst jobs and the lowest position in the family. She took care of sewing, setting the table and keeping everybody's stockings in order." Eufemia goes on with her testimony: "In the morning, before going to Church, Gemma rarely talked. After coming back from Mass, she had breakfast, then helped in tiding up the bedrooms and the kitchen. Afterwards she normally sat in the work-room and knitted. It was often at this time that...she would then fall into the deep inner concentra-tion that came before her ecstasies. Then, since she knew what was about to happen, she would retire to her bedroom, as she thought that nobody would look at her there."

Gemma's longing for Jesus was so intense that she was impatient for the night to pass so that the time for Holy Communion might come quickly. The night was used as a preparation for Communion. She wrote to her Confessor: "It is night and I long for the morning when Jesus will possess me and I shall possess Jesus. Have I deserved this favor...Oh my God, You deign once again on this day to cast a glance upon the least worthy of all Your children. It is too much, Oh my God, too much. My God, I adore You. I am dying of love for You, I have Your sweet Name ever in my mind, in my heart and on my lips. Jesus, Jesus, now and ever! Jesus, light of my heart and my soul. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!"

Miss Ethel Rose, a devout convert, relates that once when she went to the Church of St. Michele for confession, she had to wait outside the Confessional of Mgr. Volpi owing to the throng of penitents who were present. "During this time," she says, "I saw a priest giving Holy Communion and amongst those receiving I noticed a young girl...I watched her for nearly an hour, seeing how she received Jesus, and how having received Him her face was inflamed with a most ardent love...with hands joined and head slightly inclined, she remained absorbed in prayer, she seemed like a statue." In one of her ecstasies, recorded by Eufemia, Gemma said: "Jesus, listen to what my confessor asks me, "What do you do, Gemma, while you are before Jesus?" 'What do I do? When I am with Jesus Crucified I suffer, and when I am with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I love.'" After her death, Gemma's Confessor, Venerable Fr. Germanus, CP, affirmed that: "Holy Communion was the culminating point of Gemma's devotion." Gemma herself wrote: "Let me speak of Holy Communion- I cannot contain myself. Is it possible that there are souls who do not understand what the Blessed Eucharist is? Who are insensitive to the Divine Presence...to the mysterious and fervent effusions of the Sacred Heart of my Jesus? O Heart of Jesus! Heart of love!" Gemma also once called the Eucharist "a school of paradise where one learns how to love." Explaining this thought, she said "The school is the Supper room, Jesus is the Master and the doctrines are His Flesh and Blood." She asked her Confessor: "What would become of me if I did not dedicate all my affections to the Sacred Host? Oh yes, I know it Lord; that in order to make me deserve paradise in heaven, You give me Communion here on earth!" In his book "St Gemma Galgani," Bishop Leo Proserpio SJ writes "The Eucharist was her principal devotion; the center of her life." At Mass, witnesses said that "she always knelt with her eyes fixed the whole time on the tabernacle, insensitive to all other things. At times people, moved by her devotion, came near to ask her for prayers. She did not seem to see or hear them."

At the age of 25, on Holy Thursday, April 11, Gemma died of tuberculosis, but, despite great suffering, the parish priest said, "She died with a smile which remained upon her lips, so that I could not convince myself that she was really dead." She was beatified in 1933 by Pope Pius XI. Before her death, Gemma had predicted that the Passionists would establish a monastery at Lucca. Two years after her death, her prophecy was fulfilled. Let us remember the words of Saint Gemma each time we prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist: It is a question of taking part in the Table of the Lord. There cannot be, then, enough preparation for it."
Office Hours—Contact Information

Collaborative Office Hours Tues-Fri 10:00-2:00
55 Commercial Street Weymouth, MA 02188
Phone: 781-337-6333  www.shstm.org

Our offices are open, with restrictions. Only the lobby is open at this time. Simply come to the front door to enter for safe, no contact, distanced visits and business.
You may drop off food pantry items, obtain Mass cards, etc. Our pastoral team may also be contacted by phone or email.

Sacraments & Devotions

SHSTM Collaborative YouTube Channel live stream
Masses: Saturday 4pm Vigil—Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am
YouTube site: click the “subscribe button” to be alerted when we post. You can also go to the site anytime to watch posted live stream. You will see videos and uploads.
We already have 325 families registered.
Many families enjoy watching at their familiar Mass times.

Pandemic Restrictions
Reconciliation: please call the office for an Appointment.
Baptism: private and by appointment. Please call the office and ask for Maureen to register.
Marriage: Contact the office at least six months in advance and prior to scheduling your reception.
Sacrament of the Sick: Please see a priest at Mass or contact the office to make arrangements for the Sacrament prior to surgery.

A Partnership of Catholic Education

Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More

Pre-K thru 4th Grade 75 Commercial Street 02188 781-337-6333
sacredheartschoolweymouth.org  sfxschoolweymouth.org

5th thru 8th Grade 234 Pleasant Street 02190 781-335-6868

Faith Formation News

Confirmation preparation is a two-year program (usually Grades 9 & 10). The sacrament must be received in the parish setting. Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is not offered in Catholic high schools. That is, those parishioners who are attending a Catholic high school must register for the parish preparation program if they wish to receive the sacrament in Grade 10.

January Monthly Newsletters for all grades 1 through Discipleship II (with lessons, suggestions for activities and/or videos) have been emailed.
(NOTE: if you did register, but not are receiving, check your SPAM mailbox. It seems that when a large number of emails are sent at any one time, Google interprets them as SPAM. Call the office if you need one sent to you. These newsletters are also posted on our website.)

First Reconciliation: For parents of those children wishing to receive the Sacrament, a free course on the Sacrament with videos, songs and lessons is available—please check the January newsletter for details.

First Communion: Those who had planned to receive the Sacrament last spring, but were prevented from doing so by the current pandemic, should schedule to receive the sacrament soon, because:

1) It is unlikely that we will be able to have any normative gatherings, as in previous years.
2) We are beginning to look ahead for this year’s second graders scheduling for the spring.

All parishioners in our collaborative are invited to view the video presentations available on our close-circuited TV channel MoreHeart.TV, which can be accessed at the top of our collaborative website home page.
+Pre-Registration is Required For All Events: Masses (Daily, Weekend) Funerals, Weddings, Holy Hours, at 25% capacity, etc.

+Ambassadors will check in attendees and have to check your temperature at the entrance to the Church and those not registered will need to wait to see if space is available for them to be seated. This is necessary by safety directives and guidelines.

TO REGISTER FOR MASSES & EVENTS
1. Download the App (Eventbrite) on your smart phone.
2. Login from the home page of our website. www.shstm.org.
3. Call the office and we will manually register you.

+Using the App, search for “SHSMT” or “Sacred Heart Weymouth” and our Masses and should pop up on the search. After you have used the Application once, it should will pop up in your search bar or save to you favorites.

+Using our website, Click on “Mass Times,” scroll down to the middle of the page and see the Mass times listed. Click on the Mass or event of your choice, select a date, select the number of tickets you require and enter your contact information.
+For those without access to a computer, you are asked to simply call the office before Friday at 2:00pm to register. We will need your name, phone and number of guests.

We will we follow government Archdiocesan protocols.
If a Mass or event reaches capacity, you may not be able to attend.
It would be wise to register early to assure seating.
You can register for several weeks at a time.

Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More—January 10th, 2021—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

MoreHeartTV
or
SHSTM
YouTube Channel
Bringing Christ into your home: Sacred Heart & St. Thomas More Braintree—Weymouth
+Join us live and for Mass, multi-media, video and Family Faith
+We look forward to receiving your ideas for ways and means this station could be helpful to you. www.shstm.org
+Must View: The Divine Presence is a DVD series that offers much history and meaning of the Eucharist. You can watch it for free anytime on www.formed.org.

YouTube Subscribe to SHSTM Collaborative and live-stream events.

November Video:
“Three Important Events for Our Family And Faith Community”

December Power Point Catechesis and December Christmas Celebration Family Video
Go to More Heart.TV

May St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, accompany us this year and always.

The newly declared Year of St. Joseph is a great blessing for the Church. It provides a beacon of hope during a dark time, and an opportunity for people of faith to focus on a just and righteous man who has much to teach us.

In his surprise announcement on Dec. 8 — the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron saint of the universal Church — Pope Francis said it was the coronavirus pandemic that encouraged him to write and reflect on St. Joseph, that strong presence in salvation history who accomplished so much so quietly.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” Pope Francis wrote in his apostolic letter Patris Corde (“With a father’s heart”). “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

This Year of St. Joseph, which began this Dec. 8 and ends Dec. 8, 2021, offers Catholics the chance to grow in their relationship with the foster father of Jesus, learning from him and striving to be more like him.

In his letter, Pope Francis gets us started. Defining Joseph as a father, the pontiff describes him in part as beloved, tender, loving, obedient, accepting and creatively courageous. While reflecting on St. Joseph, Francis also shows how we can emulate him. For example, describing how Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally, trusting in the angel’s words that her son had been conceived through the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis counsels: “Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow” (No. 4).

Visit Our Sunday’s Visitor to read the entire article and much more https://www.osvnews.com/2020/12/14/editorial-this-year-meet-your-spiritual-father-st-joseph/
Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which marks the end of the Christmas season. Our own Baptism began our life in Christ. It is fitting, then, that the new season of Ordinary Time, the time when the readings of the Mass are meant to instruct us, Christ’s disciples, how to be “holy as God is holy,” immediately follows the Baptism of the Lord. How important is our Christian Baptism? It is so critical to our Life in Christ that Jesus, who was sinless, allowed Himself to be baptized by His cousin, John. Before Jesus was baptized, John was baptizing those seeking God’s mercy. John’s was “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4).

But, just as Jesus is greater than John, so too our Christian baptism is greater than John’s baptism. (See Matt. 3:14, John 3:30). Our Christian baptism is a baptism into the Holy Spirit. In Christian baptism, not only are our sins washed away, but we also receive God’s own Spirit. In Baptism, we become God’s children and members of His family, the Church. We receive the life and power of the Holy Spirit. Now, “we are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit...And if...Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father...Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8: 9-17)

Before Jesus came to be baptized, John’s baptism was “adequate.” For example, as Luke tells us in the Book of Acts: “a Jew named Apollos...was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately” (18:24-26).

What made the Christian baptism “more adequate?” In ancient times, water represented both life and death. Pope Benedict XVI, tells us that: “On the one hand, immersion into the waters is a symbol of death, which recalls the death symbolism of the annihilating, destructive power of the ocean flood. The ancient mind perceived the ocean as a permanent threat to the cosmos, to the earth; it was the primeval flood that might submerge all life. But the flowing waters of the river are above all a symbol of life” (Ratzinger, Joseph, Jesus of Nazareth, 15-16). So, in Baptism, water washes away the old human nature (death) and we rise to “put on Christ” (life). Before Jesus’ baptism, sins were washed away, but, like Apollos, one had to strive on his/her own power to keep sinless and to do God’s will. This baptism lacked the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives, once and for all. Even more, when questioned by Nicodemus, Jesus Himself, said, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (Jn 3: 5-8) Mary and the Apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit, the wind, at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the gifts and fruits needed to fulfill their great commission - to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. It fulfilled Christ’s promise (Lk 24:46-49) that the Apostles would be “clothed with power” before they would be sent out to spread the Gospel.

We receive this power at Baptism and, in Confirmation, the Spirit’s gifts are strengthened and we are empowered, like the first Apostles, to be Christ’s witnesses, to preach and teach and call others closer to Christ. We are now temples of the Holy Spirit and, with Saint Paul, we proclaim, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20) It was on the Cross that Jesus offered the ultimate sacrifice for all sins, for all people, for all time. Through Baptism, we accept His sacrifice and believe that we will receive the eternal life He has promised to those who believe in Him.

“What shall we say then?... if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 6: 1-12)

Now, each day- every day- we are called to “present (our) bodies as a living sacrifice...” (Rom 12:1), in order to “work out our own salvation” (Phil 2:12). Today, and every day, is the time for us, who have been baptized into Christ, to demonstrate in our own lives, the Way, the Truth and the Life of Jesus Christ at work in the world. Now is the time to use the gifts we have received at Baptism to live our lives in the Spirit, listening and heeding His voice within us as we work and pray to build up God’s kingdom on earth.

In this season of Ordinary Time, let us pay closer attention to the readings offered to us in the liturgy. Through these readings, Jesus instructs us in the ways and means we have to fulfill our Baptismal promises. Let us offer our bodies as living sacrifices to our loving and merciful Father so that this year’s Ordinary Time will be an extraordinary time to “be holy as God is holy!”
**Mass Intentions Scheduled**

**The Baptism of the Lord**  
**Saturday January 9th 4pm Vigil**  
**Carl & Carmela Howell, Maryellen Barnard (25th), Thomas Bolton (B’day Rem.)**  
9:30AM– Pro Populo  
11:30AM– Pro Populo  

**Monday January 11th—9AM**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**  
**Albert Labelle**  

**Tuesday, January 12th—9AM**  
**Weekday**  
**Anne Rogers, Birthday Remembrance**  

**Wednesday January 13th**  
**Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**  
**Joseph Leone**  

**Thursday January 14th—9AM**  
**Weekday**  
**Robert Pollard & Kathleen Ambrose (B’day Rem.)**  

**Friday January 15th**  
**Weekday**  
**Mary Anne Kelley**  

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jan. 17th**  
**Saturday January 16th 4pm Vigil**  
**Barbara McCluskey, Maria & Camillo D’Angelo, Giuseppe D’Angelo**  
9:30AM– Sarah McDonough  
11:30AM– William Pugsley (26th), Georgea Griffin (13th), Kimberly Brunet (1st)  

**Ambassadors are here for you!**  
To help keep everyone safe and well, please let our team of ambassadors (ushers, greeters & guides) help you navigate the “new normal” of entering and exiting the Church, and receiving the Eucharist. Bulletins and *The Pilot* are available when you exit today. Once our ambassadors seat you, please remain in your pews until you are directed to do otherwise. Please wear your mask at all times!  

**The gifts of bread and wine, candles and sanctuary lamp this week are offered In Memory of Sister Leticia**

In your kindness,  
Please pray for:  

- Peter Aitken  
- Joan Anderson  
- Linda Antoniou  
- Marianne Bagley  
- Paul Boback  
- Joyce Brancaccio  
- Ruth Campbell  
- Bob Clifford  
- Betty Clifford  
- Pat Coleman  
- Pat Creighton  
- Denise Cremins  
- Tracey Cronin  
- Raenanna Cronin  
- Marianne Crooks  
- Noreen Curtis  
- Gregory DiBella  
- Paul Donohoe  
- Lee Doyle  
- Bridget Dunn  
- Bill Earle  
- Colman Feeney  
- Francis Finnegan  
- Mary Fleming  
- Jackie Fuller  
- Mary Gallegos  
- Joseph Gavin  
- John Gifford  
- Leo Gibbons  
- Herbert Gillis  
- Lauren Gray  
- Irene Griffin  
- Cara Holbrook  
- Rosemary Haley  
- Robert Harrington  
- John Hastie  
- Roseanne Hood  
- Paul Hughes  
- Tom Itri  
- Dan Jansen  
- Amber Johnson  
- Mary Anne K.  
- Esther Keeley  
- John & Mary Keeley  
- Anita King  
- James Larson  
- Patricia Lee  
- Katie Lee  
- Doreen Lehanee  
- Patricia Licchiato  
- Theresa MacMillian  
- James Macezk  
- Carole Mahoney  
- Maura Marino  
- Christine Marshall  
- John Mastrangelo  
- Elizabeth Mastropole  
- Michelle Matrone  
- Richard F. Maurano  
- Bill McCaffrey  
- Chris McCarthy  
- Robert McDermott  
- The McIntyre Family  
- Theresa McIsaac  
- Paul McNamara  
- Elizabeth Meola  
- Margaret Michele  
- William Morales  
- Daniel Morin  
- Meaghan Morneau  
- Michelle M. Mullen  
- Francis Murphy  
- Jack Murphy  
- Marjorie Murphy  
- Bob Murray  
- Ellie Nyland  
- Dan O’Brien  
- Jean O’Loughlin  
- Bob O’Loughlin  
- Marie O’Neil  
- Laura O’Neill  
- Joseph O’Reilly  
- Donna O’Reilly  
- Robindra Panalal  
- Gina Pappas  
- Richard Pattison  
- Joanne Plahn  
- Barbara Pugliese  
- Claire Rice  
- Kenneth Rice Jr.  
- James Roche  
- Dorothy Rocks  
- Bill Romanoff  
- Carole Ross  
- Carolyn Ryan  
- Ginny Salvaggio  
- Antoinette Sheehan  
- Janet Shiel  
- Robert Shiel  
- Pat Smith  
- Karen Stachelek  
- Sean Sullivan  
- Donna Tocchio  
- William Twohig  
- Carmella Varraso  
- Leone Walls  
- William Walsh  
- Genevieve Ward  
- Julie Williams  
- Our young people: Amelia Driscoll  
- Carly Silva  
- Maeva Wilson  
- Isabella & Arianna  
- Gill Dolan  
- Dylan McClorey  

- Our little ones: Mark Mondello  
- Ethan Mondello  
- Wil Rooney  
- Quinn Walters  
- Caleb Delgado  
- Baby Emma  
- Baby Jacob  
- Baby Lincoln  
- Baby Lucas,  
- Baby Owen  
- Baby Roland  
- Baby William  
- Baby Liam  
- Baby Thomas  
- Baby Kinsley  

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, solemnly declared Him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, born of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen  

*(Collect for the Solemn Mass of the Baptism of the Lord)*
“Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me.” (Mt 25)

Food Pantry needs:
Gift Cards (low), laundry soap, bleach, paper Products, towels, tissues and toilet tissue. Mixed canned vegetables, Spam, Vienna sausage, pancake mix, syrup, fruit juice, canned fruit, and cooking oil, boxed or canned milk, macaroni & cheese, yellow rice, pasta, sauce, black goya beans, CVS gift cards $10 amounts.
Though Christmas has ended and the New Year begun, we still need your help, more than ever.

Please help us to feed those most in need and fulfill the great commandment.

My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) has committed a minimum of $10,000 to help local families with heating assistance. We want to reduce that number to zero but we need your help.
https://mybrotherskeeper.org/heating-assistance-program/

Food Assistance 508-238-4416, Mon–Fri 10a - 12p

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences
if you live in:
STM: 339-987-9624 ———- SH: 339-205-8029

Interfaith Social Services in Quincy
617-773-6203

http://41399.thankyou4caring.org/chrt/2020-christmas-collection

Christmas Collection: for direct on-line giving

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Christmas Collection: for direct on-line giving

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<td>$ 767.00</td>
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$ 8,072.00 in Total
$ 3,101.50 in Total
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