



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

February 26, 2023

Pray & Worship

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:15 AM*;
Saturday at 8:15 AM*

Weekend: Saturday at 5:00 PM; Sunday at 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM* & 6:00 PM

*These Masses will be live-streamed on our Facebook
page ([https://www.facebook.com/
StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha)) and our website
(stephen.org/live-stream)

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open
from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday-Friday and from 10:00
AM to 6 PM on Saturday-Sunday. The Adoration
Chapel is open 24/7; door access code: 9675*

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space
First Friday Adoration 9 AM-2:30 PM

Contact Us

Parish Office:

Phone: (402) 896-9675
Emergency: (402) 896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at l.schulte@stephen.org.



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

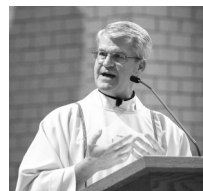
Then the devil took Jesus up
to a very high mountain, and
showed him all the kingdoms
of the world in their
magnificence, and he said to
him, "All these I shall give to
you, if you will prostrate
yourself and worship me."
- Mt 4:8-9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread...'"



Tradition says that Jesus was tempted with every temptation known to humanity. This was to show that He was totally human and that He would understand our own human condition. But temptations are not sins. No matter how strong the temptations are they don't become sinful until we succumb to their power.

The temptations that confronted Jesus in the desert are the same basic temptations that we deal with. We try to convince ourselves that we should be strong and independent. We should be able to take care of ourselves. Since hunger is the most basic need in all of us, the devil starts with the temptation for food. He moves, then, to a temptation of self-sufficiency and power.

I believe that God allows temptation to be a part of our lives because it helps us to know how strong we are—and more importantly, how strong God is! God helps us to go into our own deserts to confront the temptations of life and to know that we aren't alone in our battle with evil. Just as the Spirit led Jesus into the desert, we are led into the desert of Lent, where we come face-to-face with the temptations and sin in our lives. We pray that we will rely on God's strength and grace to turn our backs on the many temptations that come to us every day.

"The line separating good and evil passes not through states, not between classes, not between political parties, either—but through every human heart. Even in the best of hearts, there remains a small corner of evil."

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn

God Bless you,
Father Dave



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Robert Lawrence Gudenrath
son of John and Alexandra

Florence Jean Kulik
daughter of Joseph and Kirby



16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/sacraments.

Matrimony

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Deacon Denny at (402) 861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 2/14-2/20/2023:

Actual:	\$38,208
Budget:	\$55,240
FYTD Actual:	\$1,604,875
FYTD Budget:	\$1,704,536

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 30

Thank you for your generous giving!

Your financial support is vital to the well-being of our church and school. To make a gift simply scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/give.

Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



School News

United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

- ⇒ **Stations of the Cross:** Join us every Friday this Lent for the Stations of the Cross at 2:30 PM in the Worship Space.
- ⇒ **Lenten Activities for Families:** Our Home & School Association has put together a list of Family Lenten Activities. View the list at school.stephen.org/family-lenten-activities and help your whole family grow closer to Christ this Lent through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- ⇒ **Enrollment for 2023/2024 School Year:** We are accepting new student applications for the 23/24 school year. Acceptance letters and enrollment packets for new families will be sent out once your child's application has been approved.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Get Ready For a Cosmic Time at Totally Catholic Stellar VBS!** Adult Station Leaders (19 & up) are the core of our Stellar VBS. Leaders must be enthusiastic about working with children, excited about serving, patient, kind and Safe Environment Trained. Adult volunteers may waive the tuition of ONE child participating in VBS. There will be a meeting for all station leaders on June 5, at 6 PM in the school library. Use the QR code to sign up. Registration and Youth Volunteer sign up opens later in March. For more information, contact Eileen at e.smith@stephen.org or the Religious Education Office at 402-896-5683.
- ⇒ **Retreat for 8th Graders:** On March 5th from 1-5:30 PM, join our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Evan Collins, at St. Stephen for a "Day of Prayer" focusing on what we can learn from Jesus' Passion and how that affects our lives as ambassadors of Christ. Watch for a sign up in the Confirmation news. Contact Evan at e.collins@stephen.org for more information or to volunteer.

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Lenten Bible Study for parish high schoolers:** Feb 26, March 5, 12, & 26: Join us Sunday evenings after 6 PM Mass in the Parish Center to discuss and pray with the Gospel readings this Lent. We will be doing a Lenten Bible Study together! This is a great opportunity to meet Evan Collins, our new Director of Youth Ministry. This opportunity was created to come together in prayer to encounter the Father's love and to grow in community with each other. For more info, contact Evan at e.collins@stephen.org.

Upcoming Safe Environment Training:

Monday, February 27th

6 - 8:30 PM in the Dining Room

Will you be volunteering with the youth of our parish in some way? Whether you are a sacristan, EMHC, staff member, coach, or catechist our Diocese requires that you be Safe Environment Certified.

Learn and be empowered to be an ambassador of our Church and an advocate for our families and youth. Training is free of charge, but registration is required. Visit omaha.cmgconnect.org to register.

Questions? Contact Melissa Kane at m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.

Now Accepting Applications

Now Hiring



Director of Religious Education

View details online at: stephen.org/careers

The Director of Religious Education (DRE) is a parish minister who has acquired specialized training in religious studies, theology, and related areas. He/She provides leadership in the design and implementation of programs for adults, youth, and children to assist in building a solid foundation for adult spirituality, Christian living, and ministry. The DRE will empower parishioners to respond more fully to their baptismal

call to word, worship, and service, mainly through reflection upon life experiences in the light of Jesus' Gospel and message. Learn more at stephen.org/careers.

**HOLD
TIGHTLY
THE
WORD
OF GOD**

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"

- Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things, and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

#stewardshipreflection

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Pray with us every Friday
during Lent
6 PM, Worship Space



The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis, commemorate Jesus' passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary.



Fish Fry Fridays

February 24th - March 31st

5 - 8 PM

Dine In or Carry Out



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

kofc10160.org

Come enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship every Friday during Lent.

Menu: Fried Fish (\$12), Baked Salmon (\$13), Shrimp (\$13), Combo (\$13), Mac & Cheese (\$8), Pizza (\$6)

Kids Meal (age 5-10): Fried Fish (\$7), Mac & Cheese (\$6) (4 & Under: Free!)

- Includes French fries, coleslaw & roll
- Desserts provided by the Council of Catholic Women (cash only)
- Beer from Nebraska Brewing Company and wine offered for a freewill donation.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Can you recommend some good books for Lenten spiritual reading?

Answer:

On more than one occasion, a coach being interviewed about his team--successful or not--will be asked about the next step. The inevitable response includes something about getting back to basics. Reviewing the fundamentals of the sport strengthens performance and builds confidence. The best Lenten reading takes us back to the fundamentals.

If Lent is the time for the Church to be on retreat, then we should focus on the texts that help us deepen our understanding of our faith. Spend time reading one of the Gospels, and use a Scripture commentary to learn all you can about the passion of Jesus. Read about the lives of the saints, especially your patron saint and that of your parish. Perhaps there is some local candidate for sainthood, like Father Walter Cizek, SJ, who wrote several faith-inspiring books.

Finally, you can use the Catechism of the Catholic Church to learn more about the church's teachings and beliefs. The sections on prayer and the Mass are really great reflections. Focusing on the basics really helps us take another step forward in our faith. We have not only a better understanding of what we believe and practice, but also why we believe. With that belief comes the confidence we need to be better, more faithful witnesses to Christ.

©LPi

March 4th-26th

Lenten Family Service Project



Drive for Christian Outreach Program - Elkhorn



Sponsored by St. Stephen the Martyr Social Justice Ministry



Donations can be placed in/near the purple box in the Gathering Space

Needed items include:

canned chicken, pancake mix & syrup, laundry soap, personal hygiene products and feminine hygiene products. Cash donations also accepted.

You Are Invited!

Welcome.

An incredible experience that will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it. Because you deserve to live with passion and purpose.

Men's Weekend:

Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12, 2023

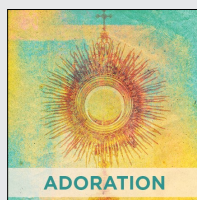
Register and more information
at stephen.org/welcome-weekend

Welcome.

CRHP 2.0



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ADORATION

Adoration of the Eucharist

First Friday Adoration: March 3rd

The miracle of the Eucharist is one we can all experience! Please join us from 9 AM—2:30 PM to adore the Blessed Sacrament. You are welcome to come and go as needed.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space



Pray
THE ROSARY

First Saturday Devotions

Join the Knights of Columbus on March 4 for First Saturday Devotions to Mother Mary. We will pray the Rosary prior to the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.

Beloved:
A WOMEN'S GROUP



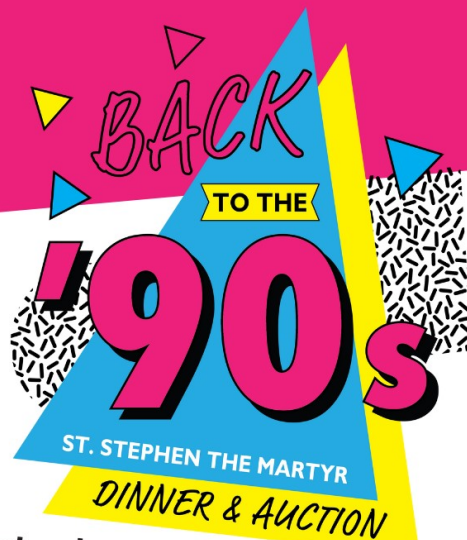
St. Stephen the Martyr
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Join Us March 2nd!

This group meets in the Parish Center and is for women of all ages.
5:45 AM Coffee & light snacks provided
6:00 AM Watch Video
6:30- 7:00 AM Small Group Discussion
We hope you can join us!



THANK YOU, 2023 GENERAL CHAIRS!
JAYNE AND MIKE MACHOLAN &
LIZZY AND CHRIS OSTERLOH



Saturday, March 25, 6-11 PM
St. Stephen the Martyr

Purchase your tickets before they sell out!
Scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/dinner



Event Proceeds benefit St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church and School



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Submit your nominations for "Woman of the Year"

The Council of Catholic Women will award one outstanding woman with "Woman of the Year". Please send written submissions to gigistamp@cox.net by midnight on March 12. Submissions should include the reason for nomination and a brief bio. Thank you!

Operation Rice Bowl



Join our faith community—and nearly 13,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the impact of global hunger and climate

change on vulnerable communities around the world, and we will pray, fast and give alms to help our sisters and brothers in need. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more. **Rice Bowls are available in the Worship Space.**



**Holy Land Pilgrimage
with Fr. Dave Belt
October 9-20, 2023**
*Learn more at the info
meeting March 1st!*

Please join us at an informational meeting, Wednesday, March 1st at 7 PM in the Gonderinger Parish Center to learn more from a representative of Magi Travel about this special pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Dave.

ST. STEPHEN BASKETBALL ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW FOR THE 23-24 SEASON: 4TH GRADE BASKETBALL

Beginning next winter, St. Stephen the Martyr Sports Club will add 4th grade boys and girls basketball teams to our program.

The teams will compete against area parochial schools in the PAL League.

Learn more on our website:
stephen.org/sports-club



SPRING SPORTS CLUB REGISTRATIONS



For SSM Parishioners
Athletes of all abilities and in multi-sports welcome

- CYSL Soccer (K-8th): Registration Closed
- Micro Soccer (Ages 3-6) Deadline: 11:59 PM, Monday, March 6th
- Track & Field (5th-8th) Deadline: 11:59, Friday, March 10th

Register & more information at stephen.org/sports-club



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We worship a God who understands human limitation. A God who has felt the pangs of fasting and the enticements of the tempter. Our God, hungry and tired and weakened, has stared into the face of the devil and said: "I am stronger than you."

Observances for the week of February 26, 2023

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
Saturday: St. Casimir
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit stephen.org. Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer of our website. Contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 25

8:15 am † Leovigildo & Concepcion Gutierrez (DB)
5:00 pm † Vince Irlbeck (ZT)

Sunday, February 26

7:30 am † Byron Barber (ZT)
9:00 am SI Sara Venner (DB)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm SI Heese Family (DH)

Monday, February 27

6:30 am † Hector Augusto Rojas Gutierrez (ZT)
8:15 am † Don Schaecher (ZT)

Tuesday, February 28

6:30 am † Charley Bacon (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (ZT)

Wednesday, March 1

6:30 am SI Heese Family (DB)
8:15 am † Tom Selzle (ZT)

Thursday, March 2

6:30 am † David Lange (DB)
8:15 am † John "Pete" & LaRue Hill (DB)

Friday, March 3

6:30 am † Terry Podraza (DB)
8:15 am † Ali & Joe Tupper (ZT)

Saturday, March 4

8:15 am † Terry Podraza (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, March 5

7:30 am † Nora Nellis (ZT)
9:00 am † Donald Schwarte (ZT)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (DB)
6:00 pm SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker;
DH=Fr. Denny Hanneman

Please note: Priest schedule subject to changes.
*If you'd like to reserve a Mass Intention, please contact Melissa in the parish office at m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Parishioners who are sick/injured/ healing:

Jo Ann Spurgin, wife of Jim
Nancy Major Jaeck
Bill Utecht, brother-in-law of Ron and Bonnie Skartvedt
Ryan Huebner, son of Marty and Cheryl
Father Ed Stander, brother of Rosie McGuire

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Michael Wais, son of Thomas & Rosemary, brother of Donna Garrett
Arthur (Dave) Houston, father & father-in-law of Lauri & Gary Hering

News from the Community

40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2023: FEB. 22ND—APRIL 2ND

Peaceful prayer at the abortion facility with your church or friend to end abortion. Visit 40DaysForLife.com and sign up for your hour, or a day with your church. Please pray for this life saving mission!

SEMINAR: HELP CATHOLICS RETURN TO THE FAITH



Do you have a loved one who has stopped practicing their Catholic faith? Are you unsure of what to say to them? Join us at St. Vincent de Paul for this new 7-session program that, along with prayer and support, will help you understand why most people leave the Church and give practical tips and strategies to help our loved ones return. Starting Tuesdays, March 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Blessed Virgin Mary/Good Shepherd Rooms at SVdP. Cost is \$25 for materials. To register, contact Bonnie at 402.496.7988 or email fricsb@svdpomaha.org. For more information on this program, visit www.returnfaith.org.

GRIEVING WITH GREAT HOPE

Firmly grounded in the Catholic faith, Grieving with Great Hope is a 6-week grief workshop/support group for adults who have experienced the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, or friend or other loved one.

DATES: February 25th—March 25th, 2023 (Saturdays)

TIME: 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

LOCATION: Calvary Cemetery Office (space is limited)

REGISTRATION: Contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-551-2313, 402-391-3711 or at JTardy@CatholicCem.com

QUESTIONS: Contact Deacon Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

SHARE YOUR LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE - GET THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME! IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS IS RECRUITING!

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps is an organization of retired men and women who want to use their time and experience to help others. IVC service corps members commit 1 or 2 days per week to work directly with organizations that address the issues of poverty. IVC service corps members gather monthly to prayerfully reflect on their apostolic work and discover the deeper meaning of the service they do. For additional information, please contact Joanne Fisher at jfisher@ivcusa.org or (402) 215-1651 or visit www.ivcusa.org.

MAGNIFICAT OMAHA LENTEN BRUNCH MARCH 11

All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Lenten Brunch on Saturday, March 11, 2023, 9:30 AM – 1 PM, at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Therese Cirner, licensed clinical counselor and inspirational speaker for Renewal Ministries, will share how to find the “Six Keys to A Deeper Spiritual Life for Lent.” For Reservations, go to www.MagnificatOmaha.org. Magnificat-Omaha is an archdiocesan-wide Catholic women’s organization focused on evangelization.

REGINA CAELI ACADEMY FUNDRAISER—MARCH 25TH

Please consider supporting the Regina Caeli Academy fundraiser on March 25th from 6-10PM at St. Robert Bellarmine! The night will feature Jonathan and Amanda Teixeira from WalletWin as well as The Church Keys band. Night includes live and silent auction, plated meal, drinks, vacation raffle drawing, and dancing. Please come join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. Tickets are on sale at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=154206> until March 3. Priests and Religious are free. Contact Sarah Weiss at sweiss.oma@rcabrid.org for more information.

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT SEMINAR

A marriage annulment seminar will be held on Thursday, March 30th at 6pm in the auditorium of the Archdiocese of Omaha’s Office (2222 N. 111th St. in Omaha). The marriage nullity case process will be explained and how to start it. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Registration is required. Please register via the website: www.archomaha.org/annulments. Or if unable to register online, please call Tribunal Judge, Elizabeth Sondag, at 402-827-3737 to register.

St. John Paul II Newman Center presents:

A RADICAL INVITATION: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JPII NEWMAN ORATORY

FR. PHILIP BOCHANSKI

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD
7:00 P.M.

IVC Omaha invites you to a

Lenten Morning of Reflection

with **Fr. Tom Merkel, SJ**

Saturday, March 11, 2023
10:00 - 11:00 AM CT
Doors open at 9:30 AM CT for coffee and donuts

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
15353 Pacific Street, Omaha, NE 68154

Please register at:
www.ivcusa.org/Omaha2023
Cost: Free

For questions, contact
Anne Mollner at
amollner@ivcusa.org

STAYING STRONG AND SAFE WITH OSTEOPOROSIS/OSTEOPENIA: PHYSICAL THERAPIST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXERCISE

Presented by

Anna Harkins, PT, DPT & Mei-En Cheng, PT, DPT
Geriatric Physical Therapy Residents | 2022-2023

Creighton University | School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

March 7th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

CAIN HALL – ST. WENCESLAUS
15353 PACIFIC ST.
OMAHA, NE

Approximately 10 million Americans have osteoporosis and another 44 million have low bone density, placing them at increased risk.

At this gathering, the presenters will discuss:

- Review of osteoporosis
- Proper body mechanics to prevent fracture
- Exercise and fall prevention strategies with low bone density

RSVP parishnurse@stwenceslaus.org or 402-697-7514 with questions or to reserve your spot at this presentation. You don't want to miss this. Walk-ins welcome but pre-registration preferred.

Dessert and Drinks provided by Volunteer Nurse Ministry.



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CONTACT ME
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