



St. Stephen the Martyr CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

March 3, 2024

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 are live-streamed on our Facebook
page ([https://www.facebook.com/
StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha)) and our website.

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open
6 AM-9 PM Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM-6:30 PM
Saturday & 6:30 AM-7:30 PM Sunday. Church doors
are locked during school Mass from 8:20-9:15 AM
on Tues/Wed/Fri. The Adoration Chapel is available
24/7 via door access code: 9675*

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space

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.



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

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

OLP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." -Matthew 22: 36-40



Jesus didn't just teach His followers about love—He showed His followers what true love meant by laying down His life for each one of us. Genuine love for God and neighbor means that we must lay down our lives every day—in acts of forgiveness, charity, compassion, and generosity. But the reality of life is that there are times when we choose to act out of selfishness, anger, hatred, and lust. Because God gave each of us the gift of *free will*, we can choose between love and selfishness, between life and death. What happens when we choose to be selfish, when we choose death through our sin?

This deliberate choice to be self-centered, to be hurtful or to neglect the needs of others; this choice to give in to our selfish desires and passions is what we call "sin." First and foremost, sin is an offense against God, a break in our union with Him. At the same time, it damages or breaks our union with the Church. To restore the union with God and with His people, we must first open ourselves to the process of conversion. We must see that our hearts are heavy and hardened by sin and that God is the only one that can give us a new heart. Conversion is God's grace present in our lives, making our hearts return to Him. God gives us the strength to begin again, as we discover the awesome power and presence of God's love within us. It is in this discovery that we are shaken by the weight of sin in our lives, and we are filled with remorse and sadness, knowing that we have offended God by our sins and have separated ourselves from Him.

What do we do when we are so touched by God's grace that we see how we have sinned against Him and His people? How do we restore the union that has been bruised and broken by our own offenses? How do we "come back" to God when we have wandered far from Him? The Sacrament of Penance offers us the possibility of conversion, of beginning our life in Christ once again, and of restoring our relationship with God and with the Church. Through the ministry of the priest, who acts "in the person of Christ" when he presides over the Sacraments, the heart of God the Father should be revealed to the repentant sinner and the image of Christ the Good Shepherd should be seen in the priest's patience and compassion. The priest is, at the same time, "the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner" (CCC #1465).

The Sacrament of Penance is a Sacrament of healing for us. We bring our lives—infected by sin—to the priest, who serves as the "spiritual doctor" for his people. We open the wound that has been caused by sin, we name our sins, and we accept an act of penance from the priest, which is seen as a remedy for the infection of sin. Finally, we allow the infection to be removed by God's grace, spoken through the Prayer of Absolution offered by the priest and the fulfillment of the penance.

Please note that it is not the role of the priest to sit in judgment of the penitent. We are there to love, to guide, and to challenge. Some people say that they will not come to Confession because they are afraid that I will look at them differently outside of the Sacrament of Penance. The truth is, I do look at you differently. I love you even more because I have witnessed how God has brought about conversion in you and how you have responded in love to that call. All priests are also bound by the "**sacramental seal**," which means that what the penitent has revealed to the priest remains "sealed" by the sacrament. The Church declares that every priest who hears confessions is bound under very severe penalties to keep absolute secrecy regarding what penitents have told him.

Next week I will write about the types of sin and how to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.

"If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, 'We have not sinned,' we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." -1 John 1:8-10

*God Bless,
Father Dave*



LENTE
Parish Mission

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

Guest Speaker
**FR. RALPH
O'DONNELL**



March 17-19th | 7 - 8:30 PM

Be inspired this Lent at our Parish Mission!

Join us for inspirational talks to help you grow closer to Christ this Lent at our annual Parish Mission. Our guest speaker this year is Fr. Ralph O' Donnell who will speak March 17 and 18. Our Parish Mission will conclude on Tuesday, March 19th with a Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service from 7-8:30 PM. There will be a freewill offering benefitting Catholic Charities of Omaha. Light hospitality will be provided.

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 Fr. Zach Tucker at (402) 896-9675 ext. 2

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 2/20-2/26, 2024:

Actual:	\$45,875
Budget:	\$47,576
FYTD Actual:	\$1,704,834
FYTD Budget:	\$1,697,320

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.



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Maria Fe Riedesel Herrera,
daughter of Jacob and Angela

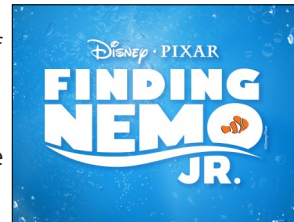
School News

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

⇒ **Enrollment for 2024/2025 School Year:** We are still accepting new student applications for the 24/25 school year. Once your application has been accepted, our office will send you an enrollment packet to complete. To apply, visit school.stephen.org/admissions.

⇒ **Tickets On Sale for Finding Nemo, Jr.**

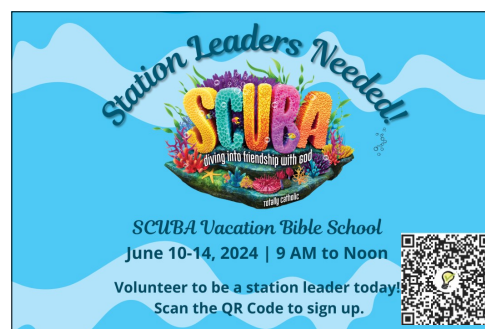
Musical: See our students live on stage this year as we present the musical production of Finding Nemo, Jr! Performances will be held in the gym on Friday, March 22nd at 7:30 PM and Saturday, March 23rd at 7 PM. The gym doors will open 30 minutes before show time and seating is available on a first-come basis. Tickets may be purchased in advance at school.stephen.org/musical or at the door.



Religious Education

⇒ **Seeking Station Leaders for VBS this summer:**

Station Leaders are our volunteers who present the material in the stations to the children. Each station leader will have a manual that is easy to follow with the day's activities and a few middle or high school volunteers assigned to assist them. Adult volunteers may waive the tuition of one child participating in VBS. Scan the QR code to volunteer.



Youth Ministry

⇒ **Witness Wednesdays:** High Schoolers are invited to join us for Witness Wednesdays every week from 8–9:30 PM. Join us March 6th at St. Wenceslaus. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know friends and grow in your friendship with Jesus! Find all information and future dates at stephen.org/witness-wednesdays.

⇒ **Register Now for Steubenville of Rochester!** Join us for a weekend experience of your Catholic faith in Rochester, MN. All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this weekend retreat with our group. Visit stephen.org/steubenville for more information.



MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3–6
- Games will start April 7th and play for 7 weeks, every Sunday
- Register by Noon, Monday, March 18th



Sports Club

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



Totus Tuus

A Catholic Summer Camp for Kids

July 7-12, 2024

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

1st-6th Grades:

9:30 AM-2:30 PM July 8th-11th & 9-Noon on July 12th

Grades 7th-12 Grades:

7-9 PM, July 7th-11th


Scan the QR Code to
Register Now!





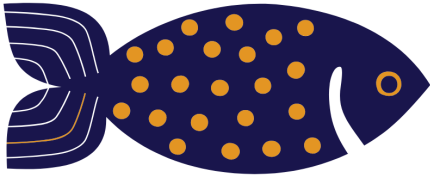
We're expecting a "full house" on April 6th!

Hurry! The house is already half full. Buy your tickets today! Scan the QR Code or visit stephen.org/dinner.

Fish Fry Fridays


Fridays in Lent



kofc10160.org

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

CCW Seeking Nominations for *Woman of the Year*



We are accepting nominations for our Council of Catholic Women's "Woman of the Year" Award. The Council of Catholic Women supports, empowers, and educates the Catholic women in the Archdiocese of Omaha, specifically in the areas of spirituality, service and leadership. Written submissions for considerations for this year's honoree must include the reason for you nominating her with a brief bio sent to gigistamp@cox.net by midnight on March 12. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity

The Saint Stephen Knights of Columbus are accepting applications for the 2024 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. This is not an academic scholarship. We award based upon the applicant's service to our parish family and involvement in other charitable activities which align with our Catholic faith. We will award four \$500 dollar 1-year scholarships to individuals attending a local Catholic High School and four \$1,000 1-year scholarships to individuals attending an accredited college or university. Additionally, new this year, we will award one \$1,000 scholarship to an individual attending a trade school. Applications are available either from the kiosk in the Gathering Space or from our website kofc10160.org until April 30, 2024. Completed applications must be submitted to the Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish Office by May 1st. If you have any questions, please reach out to Hank Hardy at hhardy@janome-america.com.

Save the Date!

Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH
AFTER 10:30AM MASS



LEARN MORE




Join us for fun & fellowship!

CARDS & GAMES EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAY: Stop by and see what's happening on Cards and Games Thursdays! Meet some new friends and have a fun afternoon. We play Pitch, Manipulation, and Bridge players are often looking for a fourth! Don't play cards? How about a game of Mexican Train Dominoes or Tripoley. Or why not introduce us to **your** favorite game! You will feel welcomed! Bring a friend and a snack to share as we meet at the Parish Center! It's also a great time to donate an item to the SSM Food Pantry. Questions? Contact us at stephens.primetimers@gmail.com.

Vatican International Exhibition

Eucharistic Miracles of the World

Eucharistic Miracles of the World Coming to St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

St. Stephen is hosting the Vatican-approved international Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit from March 9th - March 20th in the Gathering Space. The Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit is a traveling display on loan from Spirit Catholic Radio and is free to view. It was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis and features 39 beautiful panels that highlight some of the most powerful Eucharistic miracles in the world.

For more information, visit stephen.org.



CONFESSION TIMES LENT 2024

Tuesdays | 5:30-6:30 PM
Saturday | 3:30-4:45 PM

Parish-Wide
Reconciliation
Service
Tuesday, March 19
7-8:30 PM

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Pray with us every
Friday during Lent
6 PM
Worship Space

*KOC Fish Fry Fast Pass
Available for Stations Attendees



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.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Is it ever ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer: This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why. First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others. If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass. ©LPi

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

Join us in the quiet to worship Jesus every week. You can also join us in our Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.

"When we pray with others, we are part of something bigger."

LISTEN Love PRAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 7 PM
ST. WENCESLAUS CHAPEL
15353 Pacific Street

Presented by West Omaha
Family of Parishes:

St. Stephen the Martyr
St. Vincent de Paul
St. Wenceslaus
Immaculate Conception/Boys Town

Featuring
Deacon Tim McNeil,
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Omaha

Listen, Love, Pray: A Lenten Evening of Reflection

Join our family of parishes for an Evening of Reflection with Deacon Tim McNeil featuring the power of prayer. When the night is over, you'll forget about your watch, smartphone, and devices and be more aware of the people around you and their needs. You'll hear real-life testimony of how Jesus' life flows through others and witness the beauty of lifting a person to God.

“

SINCE GOD
DOES SO MUCH
FOR ME, WHAT
COULD I NOT
DO FOR HIM?

”

- ST. EMILY DE VIALAR

ST. EMILY DE VIALAR

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:
"I, the LORD am your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place
of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me." (Ex 20:1-3)

Psalm:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

We proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
(1 Cor 1:23-24)

Gospel:

Jesus answered and said to them,
"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
(Jn 2:19)

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

Jesus was not afraid to confront iniquity wherever he encountered it, and his zeal for righteousness was so strong it looked like anger as he drove the moneychangers from the temple. Pray that, with that same devotion and care, he will cleanse our hearts from sin.

Observances for the week of March 3, 2024

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Casimir
Thursday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Friday: St. John of God, Religious
Saturday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious;
St. Catherine of Bologna
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins



How can we pray for YOU?

You are not alone! St. Stephen has prayer warriors who are ready to pray for YOUR intention! God has given us this incredible gift to intercede on behalf of others through prayer and thanksgiving! Submit your prayer request to at stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 2

8:15 am † Rich Johns (DB)
5:00 pm † Kyle Andersen (ZT)

Sunday, March 3

7:30 am † Charle, Frederie, Agnes Aflagah (ZT)
9:00 am † Gene Mitchell (DB)
10:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 pm † Joe Latoza (MS)

Monday, March 4

6:30 am † JoAnn Spurgin (ZT)
8:15 am † Rich Johns (ZT)

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 am † Merlin Loberg (DB)
8:15 am † Claude Welch (ZT)

Wednesday, March 6

6:30 am † Jim Willette (DB)
8:15 am † Gerald Moseke (ZT)

Thursday, March 7

6:30 am † Michael Strehle (DB)
8:15 am † Rich Johns (DB)

Friday, March 8

6:30 am † David Lange (DB)
8:15 am † Mark Fuchs (ZT)

Saturday, March 9

8:15 am SI Esther Gninefou & James Gninefou (ZT)
5:00 pm SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)

Sunday, March 10

7:30 am † Arthur D Houston (DB)
9:00 am † Patricia Fields (ZT)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)
6:00 pm † Angelo Felici (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change
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.



Pray For...

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Rochelle Thomas, wife of Norman
Jeanette Peterson, mother of Pamela and Debi

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Berneice Adams
Tiffany Cole, wife of Jim, mother of Jaeli, Eli, Brynlee & Millie
Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim
John Lewandowski, husband of Suzie
Max Rocha, husband of Kelly, father of Jayden, KK, Trinity and Xander
Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy
Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia
Kim Weeks
Yvonne Kamphaus, wife of Mike
Dan Liles, husband of Lori, father of Cash and Jerzy
Ryan Huebner, son of Cheryl & Marty
Matt Kelly, son of Billie Watsabaugh

Community News

SCHOLARSHIP FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS ATTENDING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Catholic Daughters Court #2182 Mary Immaculate from Christ the King is accepting scholarship applications from 8th grade girls planning to attend a Catholic High School their freshman year. Any student interested in the \$1,000 scholarship should contact Marilyn Lowery at mlowery122153@gmail.com by Friday, March 15, for an application. All applications will be due by April 5, with the winner presented at their meeting on May 14.

MAGNIFICAT-OMAHA UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Brunch: All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Lenten Brunch at St. Robert Bellarmine March 9th at 9:30 AM. Our guest speaker is Julie Storr, OSB Oblate, an inspiring speaker/writer and founder of the LectiotheLiturgy.com. She will inspire you to hold on to joy during your Lenten journey. Cost: \$20. Find more info and register at magnificatomaha.org.

Life in the Spirit Retreat: All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Life in the Spirit Retreat on March 23rd, from 9 AM to 2 PM at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. The cost is \$10, including a Box Lunch. Register by March 7th at magnificatomaha.org.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY 8-DAY SILENT RETREATS

Now in its 50th year, Creighton University's Christian Spirituality program invites you to an individually directed 8-day silent Ignatian Retreat. Join us May 17-26th or May 28- June 6th at the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, IA. Contact csp@creighton.edu.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT CATHOLIC CEMETERIES:

Come pray with us on the Wednesdays of Lent. We will journey The Stations of the Cross in Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery at 78th and Center at 6 PM starting on February 21st. On Good Friday we invite you to walk the Stations of the Cross at 3 PM in Calvary Cemetery at 78th and Center Rd. For further information please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

St. Stephen the Martyr is Walking with Moms in Need!

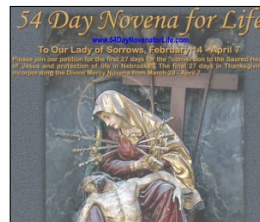
Walking with
Moms in Need



We are here to promote a culture of life & support in our community and parish. If you are pregnant or parenting and in need of assistance, please reach out to Colleen at 402-861-4538 or c.eusterwiemann@stephen.org.

Join your parish family in praying the 54 Day Novena for Life

February 14—April 7



Say the rosary every day for 54 days with the intention that abortion becomes illegal in Nebraska. Each Wednesday during Lent at 7:45 AM, we will pray the rosary for this Novena as a parish family. This will take place prior to the 8:15 AM Mass. Visit stephen.org for more information on this devotion.



Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

NINE-WEEK SERIES BEGINS

MARCH 12TH @ 8PM

PARISH CENTER

(CLASS LIMITED TO 20)

QUESTIONS: A.YBARRA@STEPHEN.ORG



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

Register Here



THE PAIN OF A PAST
ABORTION NEED NOT
ENDURE FOR A LIFETIME

IN ONE WEEKEND,
THIS RETREAT BEGAN A
TRANSFORMATION
TOWARDS HEALING AND
SELF-FORGIVENESS
THAT I HAD BEEN
SEARCHING
YEARS FOR.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
for women & men

Omaha/Lincoln area
April 19-21

Email helpingrachel@yahoo.com or
text/call 402.671.3749

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Agent & Parishioner tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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