

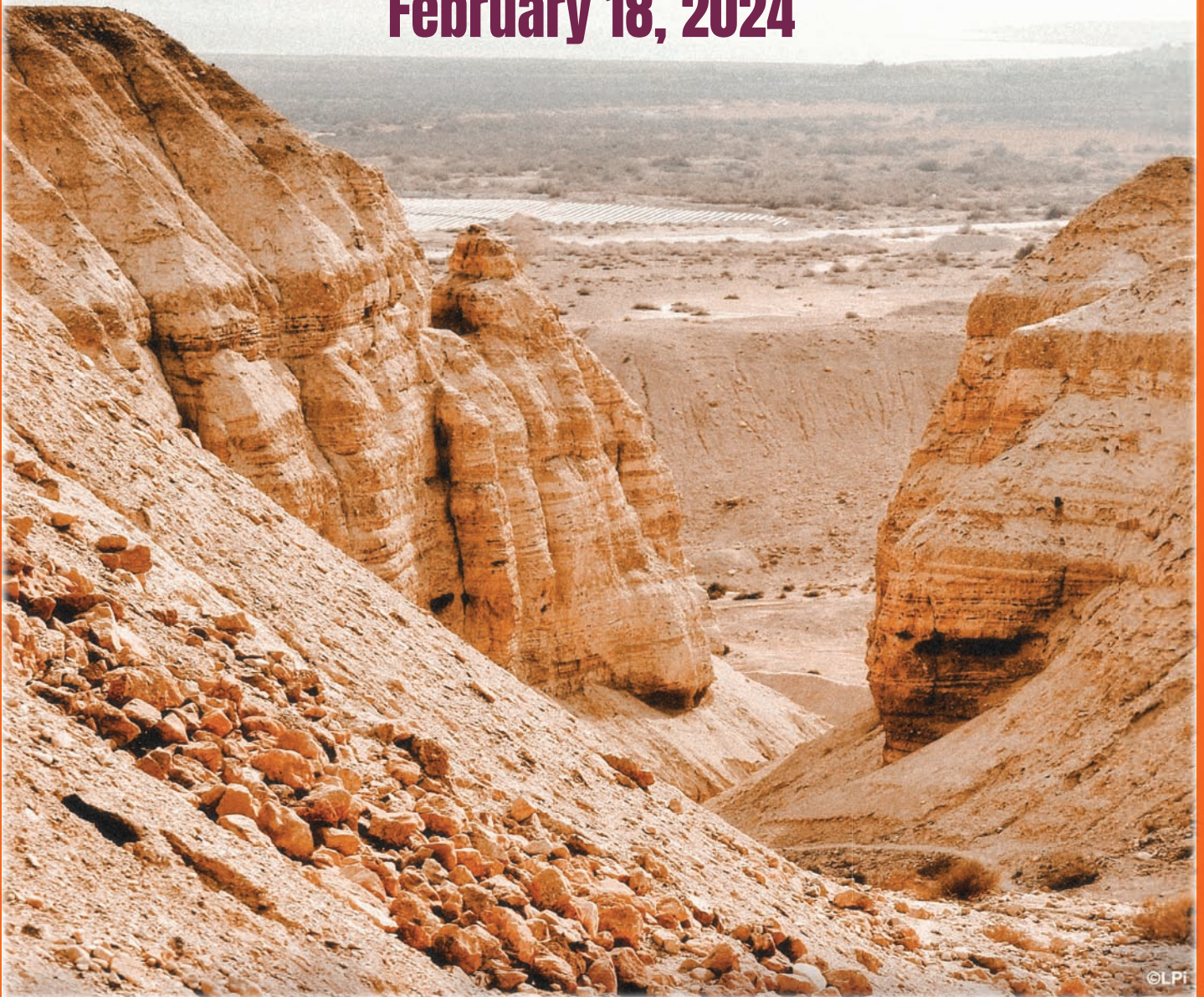
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

INTO THE DESERT.

MARK 1:13

February 18, 2024



Welcome



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

31 ASBURY ROAD ▪ FARMINGDALE, NJ ▪ 07727



frontoffice@sienachurch.org



732-938-5375



www.sienachurch.org

CONNECT WITH US

CLERGY

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon Pastor
E: pastor@sienachurch.org

Deacon Daniel Sakowski
E: deacondan@sienachurch.org

PARISH STAFF

Laura Randazzo Pastor's Associate
E: passociate@sienachurch.org

Janet Amato Office Assistant
E: officeassistant@sienachurch.org

Charles Clarke Music Director
E: frontoffice@sienachurch.org

OFFICE HOURS

MON—THURS

9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM — 12:45 PM

*The Church is open during
Parish Office hours
for prayer.*

WORSHIP WITH US

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 4:30 PM

SUNDAY 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation

9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

31 Asbury Rd., Farmingdale, NJ



WEEKDAY MASS

St. Catherine's Chapel

1 West Main Street Farmingdale

MONDAY 9:00 AM

TUESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 9:00 AM

FRIDAY 9:00 AM

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday's immediately following
Weekday 9 AM Mass at Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the Month
immediately following Weekday
9 AM Mass at Chapel

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 3:30—4:00 PM

Church

Other days by Appointment



A Message from our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Monday, February 19, is officially a federal holyday in our nation. It is often celebrated to honor all those who served as presidents of the United States and since 1879, has been the federal holiday giving honor to the Founding Father George Washington, who led the Continental Army to victory in the American Revolutionary War.

Therefore, our parishes offices are closed and no classes with our Religious Education Program.

We are all reminded that every Friday during Lent there are Stations of the Cross in the Church. Please come and join us as we do our Lenten Prayers and Exercises on this Holy Season.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The readings of today's Mass do not depict human beings as sinners, having "wild beasts within us." The 1st reading about Noah and the flood represents God as feeling sorry about the flood. We are told that God will never do that again. "I, your God, will establish a covenant with my people – I will watch over you, protect you and guide you on your pilgrimage through life."

In the 2nd reading, baptism is not described as a "removal of dirt from the body" but as a celebration that brings salvation and new life.

Finally in the Gospel, Mark makes the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert very short. Yes, Satan tempted him, but he apparently enjoyed the beauty and silence of the desert, including the wild beasts and the angels who were around and entertained him.

After his Lent experience, Jesus walked confidently

towards the future, knowing that God's reign was at hand, was already present. All that the disciples had to do was to repent and believe.

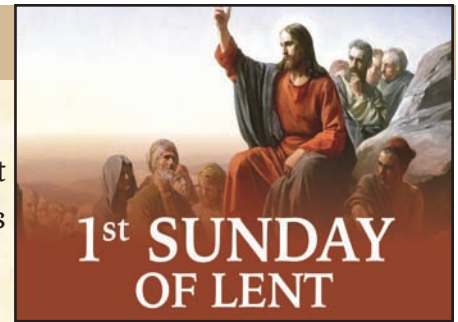
"Repenting" in the Gospels does not mean to run around with sad face, to do penance in sackcloth and ashes but to turn towards God – to surrender to God—to walk together with Jesus towards a joyful life of love and service to the neighbor and oneself. Without washing up and producing our most beautiful smile, we can hardly render such a service.

Jesus was tempted by Satan---what is the temptation all about? We know that the story of Jesus' forty days in the desert is a parable. It is an image taken from the forty years of God's people in the desert, preparing themselves to receive the land. The land for this farmer's community was the gift of salvation --- from the land they would receive food and drink, from the gift to the land they would become families and communities that enjoyed life and love. We, too, are on a pilgrimage in life, and from time to time we must refocus our life because it is threatened by "temptation" – we make choices in life that are not life-giving but death-dealing.

From time to time, Lent is such a time, we must refocus our life and commitments for the things of life that will continue to count. Then "hectic" life may become a "holy life." Amen.

May God Bless you,

Father Angelito



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you
and with every living creature that was with you."
(Gn 9:8-10)

Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who
keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

It is not a removal of dirt from the body
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Pt 3:21)

Gospel:

He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him. (Mk 1:13)

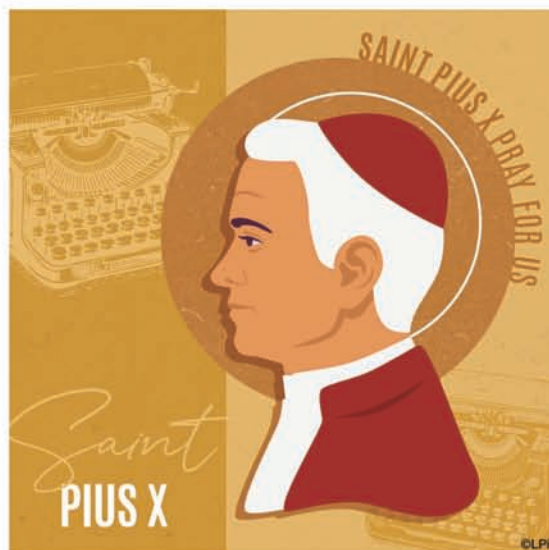
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation. But he did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to him," the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

Observances for the week of February 18, 2024

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: Presidents' Day
Wednesday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Friday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

St. Pius X's devotion to the Eucharist was truly inspiring! He lowered the age of First Communion to seven years old, encouraging young hearts to encounter Christ early-on. He also advocated that everyone, regardless of their social class, should have access to the Eucharist.

Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,
This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Saturday · February 17

4:30 PM

† **Donna Rossi**

r/b Loving Sister, JoAnn

Sunday · February 18

8:00 AM

† **William O'Doherty**

r/b Catherine & Dave Runkel & Family

10:00 AM

† **Roy Cranmer**

r/b Loving Wife & Son

11:30 AM

† **John Croddick**

r/b Loving Family

Monday · February 19

9:00 AM

† **William Hanley**

r/b Loving Family

Tuesday · February 20

9:00 AM

† **Frank DeLibero**

r/b Dominick Pondaco & Family

Thursday · February 22

9:00 AM

† **Charles Auclair**

r/b Anne Hilker

Friday · February 23

9:00 AM

† **Peter Albanese**

r/b Donald & Lisa Tash



Weekday Mass at
St. Catherine's
Chapel is
moved to the
CHURCH
until
further notice.



We Celebrate the Sacraments

SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

The godparents, together with the parents, must be willing to help the baptized grow in love for Christ and neighbor. By word and example, the godparents will encourage the candidate to live the Christian life and fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 872-874).

Requirements to Obtain a Sponsor Certificate/Letters of Eligibility

In St. Catherine's Parish and in all Catholic Parishes in the U.S.

- A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, & Confirmation and if married, married in the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A sponsor attends Mass faithfully participating in the life and support of the Church, receiving the Eucharist, and leading a life according to the teachings of the Church.

For sponsor requests from St. Catherine's, you must be registered at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and registered for at least six (6) months prior to the request, showing participation in the life & support of the Church.

*Note, if he/she received all his/her sacraments here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish years ago **but now lives elsewhere, he/she is not a member of this parish.***

*Rather, he/she is a member of the parish in whose territory he/she resides. **This is where the sponsor certificate must be obtained.***

Anointing of the Sick

Please call 732-938-5375.

Baptism

First-time parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to scheduling the Baptism.

Godparents are required to provide Sponsor Certificates before a Baptismal date is given.

Please call the Parish Office for information.

Matrimony

Engaged Couples should contact our parish at least one year in advance of the proposed date of marriage and before making other arrangements.

Ministry to the Homebound

For Homebound requests, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass

Please call the Parish Office at
732-938-5375.

Reconciliation

3:30 p.m. Saturday
Other days by appointment.

Low Gluten Host

An extremely low-gluten host (37 micrograms) is available for those in need. Please notify the Priest prior to the beginning of Mass.

Altar Flowers for Church & Chapel

Please call the Parish Office to order.
Flower orders are not permitted during Lent.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/
Mk 9:2-10



Every Friday During Lent 6 PM

February 16

March 8

February 23

March 15

March 1

March 22

Good Friday March 29

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Call the Office
to sign-up

POTLUCK

6:30 PM

March 1, 2024 Parish Hall

BRING A SOUP TO SHARE!



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 23, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024** --- the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these forty days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.

The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as noted above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called “**Easter duty**” --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024, to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024**. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of Penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Sunday Morning
at the 11:30 AM
Mass
Ages 4—8



Children are called forward after the opening prayer, and follow our CLOW Leader to the gathering room to hear the Gospel at their own level.

They return for Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Just sign-in with the CLOW Leader before the start of Mass.

Sharing the Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. Jesus stayed close to God, and he followed God's directions every day of his life. When Satan came to test Jesus he was ready. Jesus passed every test beautifully. He said "No" to temptation. When

you write spelling words over and over, it is easier to remember them. If you are learning a new language, it helps to make flash cards to practice with. Once you memorize all your words, taking the test is pretty easy. The more you read the Bible and do what God asks in his word, the easier it will be for you to pass Satan's tests, too.

Now color
the picture!



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

Upcoming Events

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother.



You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear.

Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God.

If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2024 Weekend Retreats

November 15-17, 2024

Offerings at Francis House of Prayer
Trenton Diocesan
Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

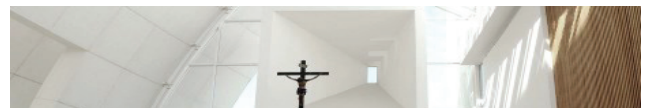
All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

Interfaith Neighbors at the
Howell Senior Center
Needs Volunteers
to Deliver Meals to
Homebound Seniors.



For more information, call Melanie Decker, Director of Senior Services at [732-938-4500](tel:732-938-4500) x 2550.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR ANYONE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

We have many offerings for anyone experiencing the pain and hurt of losing a marriage relationship. It doesn't matter if you are contemplating divorce, newly separated, going through the divorce process, recently divorced or divorced many years. You could have been married 4 years or 40 years, it doesn't matter, this program has help for everyone that attends!

We are currently offering a 12-Week Program

Beginning Thursday, March 7, 2024

From 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Leo The Great, Parish Center Meeting Room

Located at 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ

To register or to have one of the Facilitators give you a call to find out more information, please email: healing-heartsfromdivorce@gmail.com. For more information to help you decide if this program is right for you, please visit: <https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry>.

Parish Support

Weekly Sunday Collection		
Saturday/Sunday, February 10-11, 2024		
4:30 PM Mass	\$1,269.00	112 People
8:00 AM Mass	\$1,435.00	117 People
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,038.00	108 People
11:30 AM Mass	\$1,230.00	144 People
Online Giving	\$2,573.00	
Total	\$7,545.00	
Second Collection		
Maintenance & Repairs		\$750.00

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST FORM

If you wish to receive a written statement reporting your 2023 contributions to St. Catherine of Siena Church for purposes of your income tax returns, please email your request to:

taxstatements@sienachurch.org.

Please include in the email your full name, address and envelope number.

If you contribute through the online giving platform, WeShare, please indicate that in the email. All requests will be emailed directly to you unless otherwise noted.

Please contact the Parish Office at 732-938-5375 with any questions.

Thank You for Your Generosity.



ONLINE GIVING

Sign up for online giving through WESHARE.

VISIT: www.sienachurch.org



The Parish Offices are closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.

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