

Second Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 8, 2019



Rev. William F. Platt, *Pastor*
Rev. Mark D'Silva, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Christopher Johnson, *Priest in Residence*

Deacon Renato Berzolla
Deacon Vincent Heidenreich
Deacon Robert Henrey, *Retired*
Deacon Eduardo Rodrigues
Deacon John Linsenmeyer

SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

REGULAR MASSES

SATURDAY – St. Catherine

5:00 PM (Vigil)

SUNDAY – St. Catherine

7:30, 9:00 (Family Mass), 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SUNDAY – St. Agnes

8:30 and 10:00 AM

DAILY – St. Catherine Chapel

Monday through Friday at 7:00 AM & 5:15 PM

HOLY DAY – St. Catherine

Eve: 5:15 PM (Vigil)

Holiday: 7:00 AM, 12:10 PM, & 5:15 PM

MASSES IN OTHER LANGUAGES – St. Catherine

September to June (Chapel)

French Mass - 2nd Sunday 11:00 AM

Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass - 4th Sunday 11:00 AM

Year-round (Chapel)

Korean Mass - Every Sunday 5:00 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Catherine Chapel – Every 1st Friday of the Month

Immediately following 5:15 PM Mass

RECONCILIATION - Sacrament of Penance

St. Catherine (Sacristy) Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

or by appointment at **St. Catherine** or **St. Agnes**

Contact Us

OFFICE

Ph: 203-637-3661

Administrative Assistant - Cindy Busani
ext. 315 / rectory@ stc-sta.org

Receptionists - Lisa DeLeo & Claire DeLuca
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and Faith Formation** - Lori Wilson
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Pastoral Associate of Youth

Faith Formation - Kate Noonan Glaser
ext. 329 / kate.glaser@ stc-sta.org

Faith Formation Office Assistants
ext. 330 Emma Doring
ext. 331 Betty Lundgren

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers - Deacon Berzolla

Baptismal Preparation - Fr. Mark D'Silva

Care of the Sick and Aging - Fr. Mark D'Silva

Eucharistic Ministers - Lori Wilson
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

Director of Music - Dr. Liya Petrides
ext. 322 / music.director@stc-sta.org

Parish Partners - Jeannemarie Baker, RN
ext. 375 / parishpartners@stc-sta.org

Readers - Lori Wilson
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Deacon Berzolla

Parish Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Faith Formation Office Hours: M – Th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(Individual or during Mass)

Please call the Rectory to arrange for Baptism.
Attendance at a Pre-Baptism Session is required –
3rd Saturday: 1:30 p.m. in the Rectory

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory 9-12 months before proposed
wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation.



*Please pray for the deceased members of our parish,
especially for **Vincent Clark** (11-17-19),
Joseph Francis Gigliotti (11-21-19),
Jesslyn McNamara (11-21-19),
Dietrich Alexander Van Alst Jander (11-21-19),
Patricia Elizabeth McQuade (11-24-19) and
Maria Tunnera (11-26-19)*

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 8

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

7:30 a.m. Bill Gallagher

9:00 a.m. Dolores D. Trudden

10:30 a.m. Vincenzo and Immacolata Marraffa

11:00 a.m. French Mass

5:00 p.m. All the Members of this Parish

Sunday, December 8 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Dorothy Masny

10:00 a.m. Matthew Gesell

Monday, December 9 - Immaculate Conception

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 a.m. Deborah A. DeMartino Ryan

5:15 p.m. Helen and Anthony Constantine
and Ida Boccia

Tuesday, December 10

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

7:00 a.m. Royce Moshier

5:15 p.m. Frannie Gray

Wednesday, December 11

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

7:00 a.m. All Souls

5:15 p.m. Phyllis M. Purcell

Thursday, December 12

Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 a.m. Deborah A. Demartino Ryan

5:15 p.m. Stephen X. Carroll, Sr.

Friday, December 13

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

7:00 a.m. Mary DiMaio

5:15 p.m. Albert B. Greco, Sr.

Saturday, December 14

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

5:00 p.m. All the Members of this Parish

Sunday, December 15

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

7:30 a.m. Msgr. Owen J. McEnaney

9:00 a.m. Patrick Machan

10:30 a.m. Filomena and William Morelli
and Misa Miliacca

11:00 a.m. Mario Russo and Rosina and Angelo Gangi

5:00 p.m. The Deceased Members of the Campisi,
Mangini and Sirbono Families

Sunday, December 15 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Margaret and Patsy Orrico

10:00 a.m. Peter Felix McAleer

NEXT WEEKEND CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14

Reconciliation: Fr. Mark D'Silva

5:00 p.m. Fr. Christopher Johnson

Sunday, December 15

7:30 a.m. Fr. Paul Sankar

8:30 a.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

9:00 a.m. Msgr. Alan F. Detscher

10:00 a.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

10:30 a.m. Fr. William F. Platt

11:00 a.m. Msgr. Alan F. Detscher (Italian)

5:00 p.m. Fr. William F. Platt

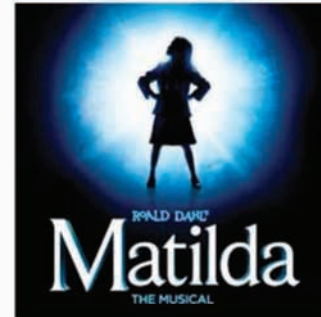
PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit www.stc-sta.org for our full calendar

Dec 9/10	St. Catherine's Players <i>Matilda</i> Auditions 7:00 or 8:30 p.m. (see details in bulletin)
Dec 10	Rosary Group 6:00 p.m., St. Catherine's Chapel
Dec 12	Walking with Purpose 9:30 a.m., Lucey Parish Hall
Dec 12	Meditation 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., St. Catherine's Chapel
Dec 12	St. Catherine's Support Circle: <i>Telling Stories: How to Impress Your Network & Your Interviewer Without Bragging</i> 7:00 p.m., Room 209
Dec 13	"Christmas in Paris" Pot Luck Dinner & Concert 6:00–7:30 p.m., Lucey Parish Hall & Church
Dec 14	Walking with Purpose 9:30 a.m., Rectory Conference Room
Dec 15	St. Catherine's Christmas Pageant 12:30 p.m. in the Church
Dec 18	Advent Concert and Evening Prayer 7:00-8:00 p.m., St. Agnes

ST. CATHERINE'S PLAYERS ANNOUNCES OUR 2020 PRODUCTION



AUDITIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019
7 PM FOR YOUTH AT LEAST 9 YEARS OLD BY 12/31/19
8:30 PM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA LUCEY PARISH HALL
4 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CT 06878

PERFORMANCES

FEBRUARY 28, 29, MARCH 1 AND MARCH 6, 7, 8, 2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: WWW.STCATH.ORG
OR EMAIL STCATHERINESPLAYERS@GMAIL.COM

ADVENT GIVING TREE



We hope you will be able to take a wish card ornament from our tree to brighten someone's Christmas! If you take one, please fulfill your commitment on time as the families and organizations are counting on us.

***All gifts should be left in the church by the tree no later than the return date listed on each ornament.**

If you are unable to participate, please return your ornament to the tree so that family is not forgotten.



**St. Catherine's
Support Circle**

"Telling Stories: How to Impress Your Network and Your Interviewer Without Bragging"

Thursday, December 12, 2019
7:00 – 9:00 PM in Room 209

Whether you're networking in a formal meeting, at a holiday party, or interviewing for a job it's important to effectively showcase your talents and leave a powerful impression of what you have to offer. Join NYC-based career coach Win Sheffield to learn how to pick and deliver stories that will convey the message of your value in a compelling way in a variety of work situations.

For more details on the event and how to attend, please visit: www.stc-sta.org under **COMMUNITY LIFE**



1st Announcement

Elizabeth Robben and Ryan Patrick Muldoon
Megan Ormand and Tony Morello

3rd Announcement

Faith Morley and Robert J. Hodges

Have made a Promise of Marriage

TAG
WARM COAT DRIVE

*Help keep our neighbors
warm this winter!*

Donations to benefit Neighbor-to-Neighbor

November 25—December 20

Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

13 Riverside Ave., Greenwich, CT 06878

NEWS AND EVENTS

Financial Report

Sunday Offertory (for the last four weekends)	
October 26 & 27 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 14,547**
October 26 & 27 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 836
November 2 & 3 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 9,291
November 2 & 3 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 2,112
November 9 & 10 – St. Catherine.....	\$ 9,896**
November 9 & 10 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 1,522
November 16 & 17 – St. Catherine.....	\$12,296**
November 16 & 17 – St. Agnes.....	\$ 1,474

**May Include Monthly (AEG) and/or (OLG) Offertory

Take the Simple Way to Support your Parish!



St. Catherine of Siena offers **Online Giving** and you can use it to make your offertory donation from anywhere!

Visit www.stcath.org/giving/online-giving

Online Giving allows you to easily make donations, payments, and pledges via your smart device or computer to your church back home. Your support during summer months helps grow and sustain our parish all year long and is sincerely appreciated!

SPECIAL RENTAL OPPORTUNITY



We have a 4 bedroom apartment for rent at St Agnes. If you have friends or family please share this news. All interested should email:

Lori Wilson at lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

After eight years of dedicated service, **Cindy Busani**, *Administrative Assistant to the Pastor*, will be starting a new chapter in her life. Cindy has taken another position, and her last day with us was on December 6th. We are grateful for Cindy's dedication and hard work, and wish her well in her next opportunity. Cindy is a parishioner and will continue to worship at our Parish so we will see her regularly!



We are starting a search for an **Administrative Assistant** with great communication, word processing and organizational skills. We also continue to search for a new **Business Manager** as Sharon Capparelle is retiring on January 31, 2020. Both of these job descriptions have been posted on the **Diocese of Bridgeport website** as well as on **ctreap.net**. If you know of anyone who has these skills and likes to work collaboratively with a fantastic team, please ask them to email **Lori Wilson** at lori.wilson@stc-sta.org.



2019 THANKS-IS-GIVING APPEAL GOAL: \$225,000

During the **second week** of the appeal **43 new gifts** have been received that total **\$22,725**. The **TIG Appeal total** for the period ending November 30th is now up to **\$36,255** with a total number of gifts at **87**.

Our thanks and gratitude to those families that have already responded to this year's TIG Appeal—thank you or your continued support to the parish.

Please give your prayerful consideration to contributing to this year's TIG Appeal.

Luke McQuillan's 3rd Annual

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE for 10-18 YEAR OLD PATIENTS at YALE NEW HAVEN'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

FRI, NOV 29 - SUN, DEC 15

GIFT DONATION IDEAS:

Gifts – cozy blankets, pj's, water bottles (not plastic), headphones, earbuds, sports attire, art supplies, legos, etc.

Gift Cards – please make sure \$ amount is specified. iTunes, Sephora, Game Stop, Amazon, American Eagle, Urban Outfitters, Dick's Sporting Goods, etc.

GIFT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH**
4 Riverside Ave, Riverside, CT (bins inside front foyer)
- KING'S FOOD MARKET**
26 Arcadia Rd, Old Greenwich (bin near registers)
- THE MCQUILLAN'S HOME**
45 Cedar Cliff Rd, Riverside (please call or text Meg McQuillan at 917-439-4433)

WISHING YOU HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!

NEWS AND EVENTS



Join us at St. Catherine's and
celebrate family Christmas Traditions in Food & Song

Christmas in Paris *Potluck Dinner & Concert*

Friday, December 13, 2019

POTLUCK: 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Lucey Parish Hall

Please bring a family Christmas favorite ready to serve and share:
Appetizer ♦ Entrée ♦ Vegetable Side ♦ Salad ♦ Dessert
plus **BYOB** to add to the Beverage Table

RSVP to Pam Sloane (psloane@optonline.net) **by December 11**
with number of people and what you are bringing

CONCERT: 8:00 PM in the Church

St. Catherine of Siena Festival Choir and Ensemble

Dr. Liya Petrides, Director
present ...

Christmas in Paris

Camille Saint-Saëns, Christmas Oratorio

French Christmas Carols

featuring Soloists, String Quartet, Organ, Harp and GHS Flute Ensemble

Tickets: \$10 per adult, Children 17 and under Free

Available now for purchase at the Rectory, in the Church vestibule after all weekend Masses
or reserve by emailing music.director@stcath.org.

Dessert Reception for All following concert in the Lucey Parish Hall

St. Catherine of Siena Church ♦ 4 Riverside Avenue ♦ Riverside, CT 06878

A SCHOLA ADVENT CONCERT

SCHOLA
Ministries

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CONTEMPLATIVE SONG
AND REFLECTION IN THIS SPECIAL SEASON
OF HIDDEN PRAYER, QUIET LONGING
REST FOR AN HOUR IN THE PEACE OF CANDLE LIGHT
AND CONTEMPLATION

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 18TH
7 PM - 8 PM

St. Agnes Church
247 Stanwich
Road
Greenwich, CT
06830



Star for which the world is waiting:
Christ
the bearer of God's Light
rises in the mystic heavens setting
ablaze the soul's dark night. KD



Join us and participate in our
St. Catherine of Siena Christmas Pageant
Rehearsals

Sunday, **December 8:** 12:00 – 1:30 PM in the Church
and

Saturday, **December 14:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM in the Church

Pageant

Sunday, **December 15:** 12:30 PM In the Church



*Come sing
with us
this Christmas!*

We invite all families with children to
sing as part of our **Family Choir** at the
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Please contact **Dr. Liya Petrides**
for more information at
music.director@stc-sta.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FAITH FORMATION



Take Note. . .

Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It's not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

Many of the faith formation students came home with an Advent calendar. There are more **copies of the Advent calendars in the church lobby**. Please take some time to look at your Advent calendar as a family. Each calendar day has a suggestion to help us prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

Let's take some time to slow down and reflect this season.



There are **NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES** on Tuesday, **DECEMBER 10** or Wednesday, **DECEMBER 11**.

Confirmation Class:

Our next class is Sunday, **December 15**.

We look forward to seeing you all of you at the **5:00 PM Mass** with dinner and class to follow.



Thursday, December 19, 9:30AM

St. Catherine of Siena Chapel

ALL are invited to this wonderful community gathering to pray the Rosary - a perfect opportunity for Advent! We will have extra rosaries and instruction sheets to share. Bring a friend!

Hosted by Walking with Purpose.

"I take refuge, then, in prayer, and turn to Mary, and our Lord always triumphs."

~ St. Therese of Lisieux



There is a basket in the lobby of the church containing the names of the confirmation students. Please take a name and pray for this confirmation candidate as they prepare for their confirmation and their journey into servant leadership.

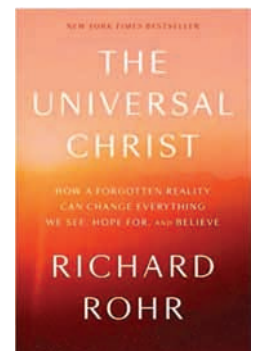
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next meeting is
January 22- 7:00-8:30 PM
in Room 101

The Universal Christ,
by Richard Rohr

Contact Lori Wilson at
lori.wilson@stc-sta.org
to register.

Each participant purchases their own book.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Fruition

Holy Lord,
from your Chosen People came
a royal descendant,
a righteous ruler, a Savior filled with
your Spirit.
In him you reveal your perfect
and powerful love,
a love that encompasses all people.
Through your Son, you liberate the world

from hatred, injustice, and violence,
so that all creation may know true harmony
and lasting peace.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
grant us wisdom, strength, patience
and mercy.
Grant us the gifts we need to bear good fruit
and to be signs that your kingdom has begun.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Busy Waiting

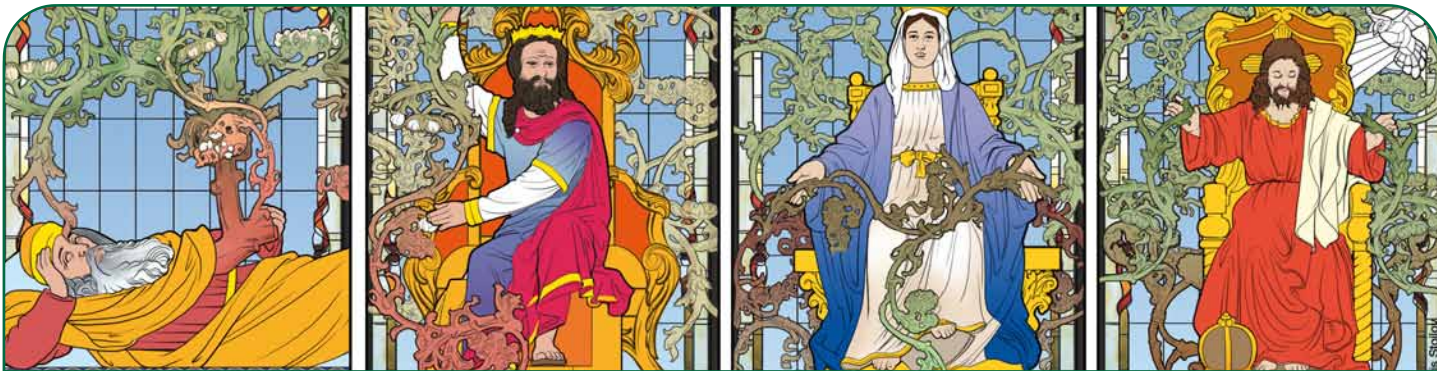


Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12. John the Baptist warned people to change their lives or be excluded from God's kingdom. His water ritual was a way for people to show that they believed him, but it wasn't the only sign they were to give. When some Jewish religious leaders said they wanted to be baptized, John demanded that they prove it. These leaders thought that, simply because they were Jewish, God would include them in his kingdom.

We cannot claim that our Christian Baptism guarantees us a place in God's kingdom, either. In the Second Reading, St. Paul makes it clear that although God has extended salvation to all, both Jews and Gentiles must treat one another

with patience, mercy, and love. Everyone who wants to live in a world without violence or pain, danger or devastation, must surrender to God's Spirit, just as Jesus did.

Sometimes we think of Advent as a season of waiting for God, but John the Baptist reminds us that God is waiting for us, too. God waits for us to blossom into holiness, to spring up with deeds of love. If we don't get busy preparing for God's arrival, "the ax lies at the root of the trees." But if we demonstrate our sincere desire to turn toward the Lord, we become signs for others to follow. And then, with Christ in our midst, "the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord" and God's kingdom "shall be glorious."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 9 Immaculate Conception

It is impossible for us to prevent sin from passing into the next generation. We see how quickly children imitate us and our sins. In the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception, we celebrate a moment in which God kept someone free from sin so that she could be mother to the sinless Son of God. This perfect Son, who came into our world as an infant, gives us hope that one day our children will perfectly imitate our Savior. Ask God to forgive you for a time that a child saw or heard you act sinfully. *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–20; Psalm 98:1–4; Ephesians 1:3–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, December 10 Shepherding the Lost

Jesus offered consolation and forgiveness instead of immediate condemnation. He looked upon God's people differently than they looked upon themselves. Where some saw only hopeless sinners, Jesus saw people who yearned to be led back to God. Show that you are ready for God to find you by asking someone for forgiveness and by letting go of a grudge. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–3, 10–13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

Wednesday, December 11 Burdens

God helps us carry our burdens. He lifts us up when our bodies drag us down. He yokes himself beside us in the person of his Son. We must, therefore, ask ourselves what burdens we ought to carry and what loads we can set down. Our arms might be full of things we do not need to hold onto. Check your Christmas to-do list, and cross off anything that doesn't truly help you and others prepare to celebrate the gift of God's Son. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 12 The Faces of Grace

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrates Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an appearance that inspired thousands to convert to Christianity. Many have venerated since childhood the image of Mary that was revealed to Juan Diego. We rejoice that God makes himself known across cultures and languages. Pray with an image of Mary or Jesus from a different part of the world, and reflect on God's love for all people, everywhere. *Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

Friday, December 13 Expectations

Sometimes we refuse to see God at work. We dismiss a teaching or invitation from God because it doesn't fit our expectations of how God should act. We might even think it is foolish. Jesus insists that what seems silly to us is wise to God. It seemed absurd that God would become human, yet that's exactly what happened. God's way is difficult for us to accept, but it is the only way for us to become one with God who came to be one with us. Make a list of things you expect from God, and surrender that list in prayer. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 14 Turn

We read in 2 Kings 2:11 that the prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven. In the centuries that followed, people came to believe that Elijah would return to prepare people for the day of judgment and a new era. The most significant similarity between Elijah and John the Baptist was that both devoted themselves to turning people back to God. In this season of preparation, the words of Elijah and John echo in our ears. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Acknowledge the ways you have turned away from God, and renew your efforts to turn back to him. *Today's Readings: Sirach 48:1–11; Psalm 80:1–19; Matthew 17:9–13.*



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