

THE ECHO

November 2021

Beloved Parishioners,

November is a beautiful month. It is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving as a nation and as families all across our beautiful country. I remember well those grade school celebrations when we dressed either as Pilgrims or Indians in order to reenact in some small way that momentous occasion in our American story when the hospitality of the indigenous native Americans was met the following year, in 1621, with a meal of thankfulness for lives spared and the Plymouth settlement saved. We ate a slice of pumpkin pie, often pie that we had made together as a class, and we remembered as best you can remember anything at the tender age of eight or nine or ten, the harrowing challenges of those early years of American settlers and the saving aid of their friends the Indians.

Today we see the past through a much more complex screen of historicity, and we wonder how that initial good will of indigenous peoples and European settlers evaporated? Many wrongs that can never be righted. But, I believe it is still SO significant that the founding holiday of our nation, arguably more significant than Independence Day, is that of Thanksgiving. In this American Feast par excellence of Thanksgiving, we see in the actions of the Pilgrims the humble expression of THANKFULNESS to God and deep thanksgiving offered to the native Wampanoag Nation, and from the side of these indigenous peoples, an expression of deep *philotimo** followed by a willingness to accept the humble thanks of these strangers with whom they now shared land and water and wild game. *(*philotimo* meaning that determination to do the good to one's fellow man without any expectation of reward, even from God, but only out of a sense of duty)

As an Orthodox Christian American, I can think of no more emblematic holiday than Thanksgiving to express the core Christian Orthodox values of thankfulness and thanks offering. And it is for this reason, more than any that our parish and many Orthodox parishes across our country choose November as our Stewardship Month. We can and indeed must see our stewardship in the context of thankfulness, both to God and to our fellow man. We give to God only a small portion of all that HE has given unto US. Let us give it with gratefulness, ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR, for all that we have traversed and all that we have been delivered from and with joy at the enduring love of our Savior for us.

With love and thankfulness for all of you, my beloved flock,

+Fr. Paul A. Patitsas

**Saint Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church**
760 West Wattles Road
Troy, Michigan 48098-4500
(248) 362-9575

Website: www.stnicholastroy.org
Archdiocese Website: www.goarch.org

Rev. Fr. Paul A. Patitsas
Proistamenos
FrPaul@StNicholasTroy.org
Emergency Phone (248) 525-0711

Rev. Fr. Michael Manos
Assistant Priest
FrMichael@StNicholasTroy.org
Emergency Phone (313) 590-0354

Sunday Services
Orthros, 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.

Maggie, Office Administrator
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Nicole, Finance
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Catechism School Office
Cated@StNicholasTroy.org

Bookstore
Bookstore@StNicholasTroy.org

- ECHO STAFF**
- Pulpit.....Fr. Paul A. Patitsas
 - Council Secretary.....George Manolias
 - Catechism.....Karen Cosmos
 - Philoptochos.....Angela Seaborn
 - Argonauts.....Lela Filias
 - G.O.Y.A.....Nina Bologna
 - Y.A.L.....Fotini Michalakis
 - Book Store.....Maria Kokkinakis

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(586) 286-8435



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



The Fall General Assembly is scheduled for Nov 7. Please plan to attend as there is a request to approve over \$700,000 in expenditures for roof replacement, front parking lot replacement and kitchen upgrades to the Event Center. Approval by two-thirds of those present is required. The Parish Council unanimously recommends these expenditures.

CATECHISM

Catechism is well under way for the 2021-2022 year with 166 students enrolled. We are looking forward to a very successful year.

Your child should have received their new stewardship envelope boxes. Please do not use past year's envelopes as they will not receive credit towards their Award Pins.

We are asking that your child use only the envelopes assigned to them for this year 2021-2022. We ask that you dispose of any other boxes of envelopes your child may have as if these are used it will not be recorded for your child. Please make sure each child uses the box that is assigned to them and not their sibling's boxes.

Stewardship points are based on your child's attending virtual classes and turning in their envelope when in church for Divine Liturgy. In addition, please put your child's name and amount on the envelopes as this will help in recording.

Our St. Nicholas Catechism program is a self-sustaining program. We do not receive any money from the parish for our books and materials for our classes. Our sole income comes from registration, the stewardship of the students and one fundraiser each year. Any amount is accepted and appreciated. With Catechism Stewardship, we are preparing our students for their role in the support of the church once they are adults and parents themselves.

Community Service project (CSP)

Again, this year we are participating along with Philoptochos in our CSP- *Mitten, Gloves, Hats & Scarves Tree* as one of our projects. Please stop by the administration office and pick up a mitten, with age and gender on the back and return to the church along with the mittens in a gift bag (please do not wrap) so we can distribute to the appropriate age and gender.

The other CSP is the *Giving Tree*, also located in the administration lobby. We ask that you take an ornament and provide what is listed on the back. Watch your email for more information. If you are participating in either of these projects, please make sure you advise the office so we can credit the children for their award pins. Watch your emails for further information.

Christmas Program

Plans are underway for the Christmas Program, which will be Sunday, December 19. This year we are having a Christmas concert with our children singing many different seasonal and Christmas songs. As in the past we need parents to step up and help this year's program. A few parents stepped up to coordinate the program, but we need more to help during the program. MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.

Weddings

October 9, 2021

James J. Hendrikson & Maria D. Borka
 Koumbaro & Koumbara is Michael &
 Eleanor Teodorescu



Baptisms

October 17, 2021

Elizabeth Lydia Constantine Parke
 Godparent is Georgia Cherpes See

Funerals

George P. Psihas
 +August 25, 2021

Joseph Phillips
 +October 6, 2021



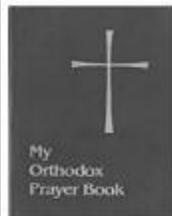
BOOKSTORE



To reserve your copy of these books or for other book or icon inquiries please contact Maria Kokkinakis at 248-362-9575 or by Email at bookstore@stnicholastry.org

The bookstore opens immediately after and not during Divine Liturgy until 12:30 p.m. and weekdays during regular office hours.

My Orthodox Prayer Book



Author: Theodore Stylianopoulos

This pocket-sized prayer book is intended for both personal and family devotions. This book of new and traditional prayers features a fresh format and contemporary language. Also offers clear direction about prayer, Bible Studies, Confession and Holy Communion. Encourages one to pray and to grow in prayer. Soft cover | Dimensions: 4 x 5.5 inches | 128 pages | **\$8.00**

Children's Bible Reader



This *Children's Bible Reader* brings to life the central stories of the Old Testament and the New Testament and makes them accessible to children. Translated from the Greek Bible Society's acclaimed work, this English edition with its easy-to-understand text and excellent Byzantine iconographic illustrations will illumine the hearts and minds of our children and strengthen their faith as they read these inspiring stories from our sacred Scriptures. Includes more than 150 stories. Soft cover only/hard cover longer available | 294 pages | Dimensions: 9.3 x 7.6 0.9 inches | **\$25.00**

Porcelain Icon Ornaments



A variety of saints to choose from includes a ribbon for displaying on the Christmas tree and in a gift box.

\$12.00

~ Thank you for supporting our parish bookstore ~

CHOIR

Calling All Singers!

Please join us as we sing our praises to Him!

The Saint Nicholas Choir is looking for new members of all ages and experience levels.

All are welcome to join us at rehearsals.

Rehearsals are held on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the community room.

We hope to see you all there!



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Would like for you to join us in extending Christmas Greetings to our parish friends!

2022 Christmas Cards
Donation: \$25.00



Deadline: November 17, 2021

Keep above portion for your records

Return this portion St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church | 780 West Waukesha Road Troy, MI 48098

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Christmas Cards

Please add my family to the Christmas Card Donation List.

How do you want your family name listed on the card?

Please Print **CLEARLY!**

38 Character Maximum

Cards must be turned in no later than the deadline.

Deadline: November 17, 2021

Your Name as it will appear in the card
please PRINT clearly!

The cost is \$25 to participate

Please make checks/ money orders payable to St. Nicholas Church in memo section "Christmas Card"

Your First/Last Name: _____

Stewardship: _____

Your Address: _____

Please contact the Maggie for any questions at 248-462-9575 or email: office@stnicholastro.org

Beloved Parishioners,

Working in conjunction with our Health Advisory Committee, our Parish has reviewed our mask mandate as promised. We have been apprised of the welcome news of decreasing rates of COVID infection across our Country.

We are, therefore, relaxing our present mask mandate. At this time, mask wearing is no longer mandatory for attendance to our Church nor for participation in its ministries and events.

However, mask wearing continues to be strongly encouraged at our Parish especially for those who remain unvaccinated. COVID remains a threat to the health and mortality of many and caution is encouraged. Please use discernment when attending or participating in events at our parish. If you are ill or have any symptoms of illness please stay home.

As per our Catechism and Greek Schools we continue to follow the mandate of Troy Public Schools which continue to require masks. We require our children continue to be protected by the use of masks during their instruction.

We share this revision of our parish mask mandate and thank you for your vigilance throughout. May our Lord grant health to us all.

Respectfully,

Fr. Paul Patitsas



G.O.Y.A.

We had our G.O.Y.A. meeting on October 3, followed by a group activity where Goyans made sandwiches for charity. The food was donated to the Royal Oak First Lunch Program of the United Methodist Church of Royal Oak that helps to feed people every day for lunch Monday through Friday. We donated to feed 200 people. On October 17, G.O.Y.A. had their annual trip to Blake's Cider Mill. Members had cider, donuts, and went on the haunted activities. The trip is always a great time and one of G.O.Y.A.'s favorite fall activities. On October 23, G.O.Y.A. had a Trunk-or-Treat from 2-4 p.m.

Next month, the meeting is scheduled for November 7. The St. John Holiday Hoops Basketball tournament is set for November 12-14th, with the dinner/dance on Saturday, November 13. The St. Nicholas Feather party is scheduled on November 14. During the party, G.O.Y.A.Ns will be writing cards for those in nursing homes. G.O.Y.A. is looking forward to the upcoming weeks of fun and charity. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact G.O.Y.A President Kalli Gaggos at: **248-915-5321**



HELPING HANDS / LOVING HEARTS

Our meals program was launched on March 19, 2021. Every 2 weeks we have been delivering an average of 20 to 25 meals. Meals are delivered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each meal is made from scratch by our group of volunteers who meet at the church and cook and assemble the meals. The program has been very well received. Contact Cindy **248-217-2987** or Fr. Paul if you know someone who would enjoy the program or participate in preparing or delivering.

Thanks for the fun day golfing!



YOUNG FAMILIES

The Young Families Group has enjoyed seeing one another again with morning playtimes in September and November and even a trip to the cider mill in October.

Our community of families with little ones ages 0-5 works to introduce parents and children to each other as well as introduce the church to our newest members.

We meet the first Saturday of every month, join us for one of our upcoming events!

December 4 at 10:00 a.m. Ornament craft at church

January 8 at 10:00 am, Family playdate at church

February 5 at 10:00 a.m. Make Valentine's Day cards for church members at church

TBD - Parents' Night Out!



ARGONAUTS

The Saint Nicholas Argonauts hope you are Healthy and Safe.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, and other reasons, we did not have our October Luncheon. Hopefully we will get together in November, and celebrate Thanksgiving. We know, many of you are looking forward to it. Please watch the Sunday Bulletins for announcement. You will also be notified by Lela Filias.

We are in the process of updating our Mailing List. Please notify us of any changes.

You are welcome to join the Argonauts, and help us to meet our objectives. Please remember, that our seniors often need assistance, and you do not need to be a senior for assistance.

Soon, we will have two new members on the Argonauts Board, and we thank them, for stepping up, and help us in meeting our objectives.

Wishing you the best, please let us know, if you need help.

Sincerely,

The Officers of Saint Nicholas Argonauts.



St. Nicholas Philoptochos has been busy!



THANK YOU to everyone who donated to Lighthouse during the Trunk or Treat on Saturday. In addition, THANK YOU for spreading some Sunshine through your contributions to the Sunshine Committee that supports Troy People Concerned, The Salvation Army Bed and Breakfast Program of Detroit and Forget-Me-Not holiday packages. Your support is greatly appreciated!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the upcoming events!!!

Tuesday, November 2 at: 7:00 p.m.

Our monthly meeting which will be hosted
in person and virtually.

Sunday, November 14

Philoptochos Sunday to honor past, present, and future Philoptochos members. Look for the flyer
in the ECHO and weekly bulletin to nominate.

Sunday, November 28

Giving Tree collection begins!!!

Want to get involved? Email us at: Philoptochos@StNicholasTroy.org to get on the email list for upcoming events. Or join our monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you!!!

St. Nicholas Catechism Annual



BAKE SALE

November 14, 2021

Sign up on stnicholastroy.org home page in event box.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Annual Feather Party

Save the date!

Join us for a fun night of
BINGO With EXCITING PRIZES!

Sunday November 14 at 6:00 p.m. SHARP!

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.

Donations \$10.00 per card
Turkey | Hams | Fruit Baskets
Refreshments for Sale by G.O.Y.A
Bake Sale by Catechism

ST. NICHOLAS EVENT CENTER
760 WEST WATTLES ROAD
TROY, MI 48098

For more information or questions please contact the Church administration office at: office@stnicholastroy.org or simply call 248-362-9575.



Stewardship Report Out End of September 2021



GOAL
\$500,000



Number of Pledges YTD:	331
Average Pledge:	\$775
Recommended Pledge:	\$1,000
YTD Total:	\$256,425
2021 Stewardship Goal:	\$500,000
New pledges this period:	8 (September)
Number of new Stewards:	0
# of non pledging contributors:	146 YTD
Total donated by Non Pledging Contributors	\$40,297est
Expenses:	Planned Budget \$704,894
	YTD spent \$502,292.36
Income to date:	\$470,392.83
Current Deficit	-\$31,899
Daily Cost to run our Church:	(est.) \$1,931

Did you Know:

All of our Clubs have started back up.
We have something for everyone.
See what Club is a good fit for you. Contact the office for more info.

comedian · actor
greek · lover of food



St. Nicholas, Troy
Parish Council presents

A Night Of KEFI & KOMEDY

featuring **THE FUNNY GREEK**
Angelo Tsarouchas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021
strolling dinner · fellowship · entertainment
Doors open at 6:30 pm

TICKETS available at www.stnicholastroy.org
Or mail check to St. Nicholas Church, 760 W. Wattles, Troy MI 48098
(kefi & komedy night on the memo line)

\$100 - front table seating
strolling dinner + 2 drink tickets

\$75 - open seating
strolling dinner + 2 drink tickets

\$50 - show only
entry at 8:30 pm - cash bar

Additional Information: email katinacoutier@hotmail.com or phone 248.408.1810

The 2021-2022 Pan Orthodox basketball season is fast approaching and we are looking for some new recruits (boys/girls – ages 7 and up). Basketball experience is not necessary.

Please encourage your eligible children to participate. This is a great opportunity for the kids to learn the fundamentals of the game, have fun, and represent our church. More importantly, they will spend more time with other Orthodox Christian kids fellowship/filia and forge lifelong relationships.

The practices will start in November and will be held at the Oakland Fieldhouse in Rochester Hills. The games will begin in December/January and end in March.

Tentative Practice Schedule

Biddy C (Ages 7-8) &
Biddy B (Ages 9-10):
Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Biddy A (Ages 11-12)
& Girls (Ages 13 & up):
Wednesdays 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Junior Boys (Ages 13-15) &
Intermediate Boys (Ages 16-18):
Mondays 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Senior Men (Ages 18 & up):
Mondays, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact:
Perry Kardasis at 248-225-3754



BASKETBALL

**Philoptochos Sunday
November 14th**



Light a candle in honor of those past, present, or future Philoptochos members, who have inspired, motivated, or challenged you to honor the dogma of Philoptochos by doing charitable works or good deeds for others with discretion, courtesy, and kindness.

On Sunday, November 14 we will be having a memorial service honoring all our Philoptochos members who are no longer with us and an Artoklasia (Blessing of the 5 Loaves) honoring all our present and future members. All names submitted will have a candle lit in their honor and their name will be read during the memorial or Artoklasia service.

*All those being honored will have a candle lit and their name will be acknowledged. This event is not limited to past or present Philoptochos members. All names submitted will be included.

Honoree Name: _____
 Name to be read during: _____ Memorial _____ Artoklasia
 Inspired (Your Name/Names): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Suggested Donation \$10 / Please Make Checks Payable to: St Nicholas Philoptochos
Donations Due By: Sunday, November 7.
 Donations can be made at stnicholasatroy.org or
 dropped off at the church office, the sunshine collection table or mailed to:
 Andrea Felix-Katsimbani, 1290 Pierce, Birmingham MI 48009
 For more information call: 248-723-9322

ST. NICHOLAS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
Sunshine Committee
 October marks the 46th year of the Philoptochos Sunshine Committee, bringing **SUNSHINE** to those in need. We provide meals to families in our community for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Pascha/Easter. The Sunshine Committee helps those in need throughout the year including donations made to **Troy People Concerned**, **The Salvation Army Bed and Bread Program of Detroit** and **Forget-Me-Not** holiday packages to our **St. Nicholas Parishioners** who are confined to a nursing home, hospital, or their own home.
Our aim is to provide the same this year and more!
 Together, with your generosity and love, we can help fight hunger and help bring **SUNSHINE** into the lives of others.
The Holidays are quickly approaching and many are relying on our assistance. We are asking for your help again this year.

We will be accepting monetary donations from October through December 2021

My Contribution to the **Philoptochos Sunshine Committee** to help those in need is
 \$100 \$50 \$25 _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City & State _____
 Please make checks payable to **St. Nicholas Philoptochos** with **SUNSHINE** on the memo line
...spread a little Sunshine today!

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!

Dear St. Nicholas Family,

Even on the day of my ordination to the priesthood here on September 27th, 2015, I knew a goodbye was looming somewhere in the distance. Even as I felt your prayers surrounding me during the ceremony itself, and as I met so many of you for the first time in the hall after the service, I knew that at some point God would call Presvytera Kerri and I to a new assignment. In our day and age, it's extremely uncommon for a priest to stay at his first assignment for the duration of his ministry, and I didn't imagine that our case would be an exception. It turns out that I was right.

This isn't a bad thing, as God needs different people in different places at different times, and the best thing any of us can do is pray that God takes charge in our lives and directs our paths. For a clergy family, and for *every* Christian family, security is not controlling where we live and what we do, but rather entrusting everything to God and asking only that it is His path which opens before us. Over these past six years, despite the temptation to try to hold tight to everything we love about serving at St. Nicholas and living so close to family and friends, Presvytera and I have done our best to keep our ears open to God's voice, and not to resist His direction. While we're grateful that God has allowed us to stay at St. Nicholas until this point, we're also confident that He is calling us to a new chapter now.

This January, Presvytera, the boys and I will be relocating to Thessaloniki, Greece, to serve the Church there and to continue our mission service to the Christians of Eastern Thrace. We were so moved by what we saw on our "mini-mission" this summer that we want to continue to support the work being done in the region. For me, this fulfills a dream that I've had to do mission work from my elementary years, when I would go to the library and check-out books on Spanish so that I could go serve in South America. For Presvytera Kerri and I together, it answers a question we've had since we first became parents: how do we teach our children to live their faith better than we do? How do we make Christ *real* in their lives? We saw so much this summer, and grew in so many unexpected ways, that we feel God is opening a door for us. While He would certainly forgive us if we didn't walk through it, we hate to imagine what we might miss if we turn Him down.

Of course, this is extremely bittersweet. Our move means goodbye, or at least "see you later," to so many people who have meant so much to us. St. Nicholas opened its arms wide to our family the day we got here, and we don't feel they have closed them since. We have been so honored to be at the bedsides, the baptisms, the weddings, and the funerals of your loved ones. We have been so inspired by the faith that we've seen in your own hearts, and so instructed by the way we've seen you live your lives. I, personally, have been so helped by the patient examples of Fr. Stratton, Fr. Bill, and now Fr. Paul. And I, personally, am so sad to think of the baptisms, weddings, and funerals that I'll miss.

But that brings me to my last point. The Church here on earth feels like family precisely because we are united in our hope for heaven. We pray, believe, and insist that someday all things will be made right, and that we will share eternity together with God and one another. We've spent six years looking up together with you, and I know that when we leave, you'll still be gazing towards heaven. We will raise our hearts too, and at every Liturgy and in every prayer, we will always feel the presence of this parish and the wonderful people who call it home. I want to see you again, I believe I will see you again, but, speaking as a priest, my greatest joy will be to see you in the heavenly Liturgy, a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Words cannot describe my gratitude.

Sincerely, Fr. Michael

NOVEMBER

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sts. Cosmas & Damianos Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School 4:30 p.m.	2 Philoptochos Meeting 7:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Book Club 8:00 p.m.	3 Greek School 4:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4 Book Club 7:00 p.m.	5 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	6 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.
7 7th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Sunday School G.O.Y.A. Meeting Y.A.L. Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8 Synaxis of the Archangels Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Greek School 4:30 p.m.	9 St. Nektarios Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Book Club 8:00 p.m.	10 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	11 Book Club 7:00 p.m.	12 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Holiday Hoops! G.O.Y.A. 7:00 p.m.	13 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.
14 8th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Feather Party 6:00 p.m.	15 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	16 St. Matthew Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Book Club 8:00 p.m.	17 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	18 Argonauts Meeting 11:00 a.m. Men's Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. Book Club 7:00 p.m.	19 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	20 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.
21 Entrance of the Theotokos Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	22 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	23 St. Amphiloхий Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Book Club 8:00 p.m.	24 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	25 St. Katherine Thanksgiving Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	26 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	27 Saturday Vespers 5:00 p.m.
28 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	29 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	30 St. Andrew Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Book Club 8:00 p.m.				



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