

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

www.stsylvesterli.org

(631) 475-4506

A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.

Eucharist:

Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7:30am, 9am & 11am.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am
in the Parish Center. Rosary recitation begins at
8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as
announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. ***Prior to making plans***, call Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation/Confession :

For those seeking spiritual healing.
Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Sacristy or by
appointment 631-475-4506, Ext. 101 or email
dsuglia@drvc.org

Confirmation:

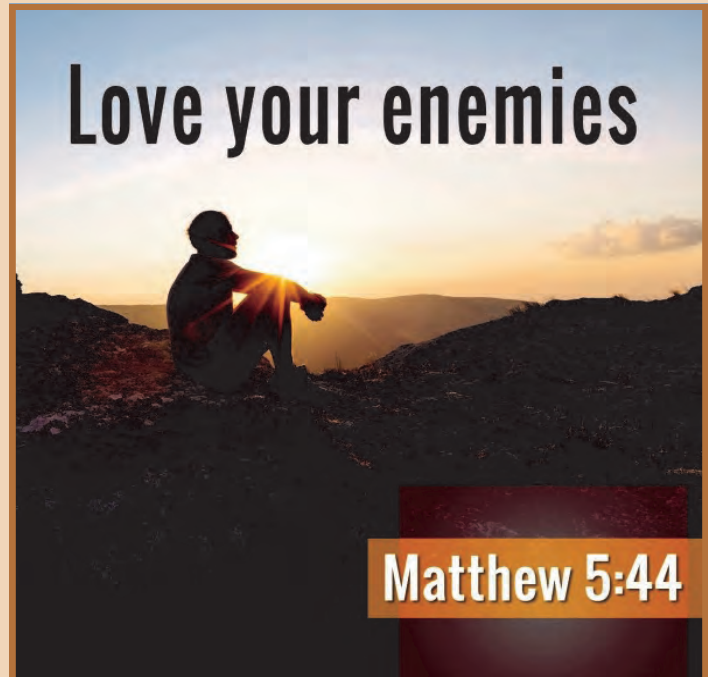
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

Marriage:

Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm; Saturday @ 11:00am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: & Dying:

For those needing surgery or serious medical treatment and for those in danger of death. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1515, the Sacrament should be received once, unless during an illness the sick person's health worsens, or for subsequent surgeries, or after recovery they begin a new illness. They may then receive it again. Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass, or call the Rectory at 631-475-0418 any time.



February 23, 2020
The Sixth Sunday

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Administrator,
Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director,
Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahon, Director,
Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director, Parish Ministries & Events

Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org
Mon. Tues. & Wed. 9am-12 & 1-8:30pm; Thurs. & Fri.. 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sun. 9:30am-12:30pm.

Faith Formation Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org
Please call (631)475-4506, ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Parish Social Ministry at Clare House: (631) 475-4506, ext. 122; Fax (631) 475-6058
Mon. 10am - 3pm ; Wed 10am - 3pm & 4pm - 7pm ; Fri. 10am - 12pm

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124; Tu, Wed & Th ~ 10am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10am - 1pm

We Pray

Saturday, February 22, 2020

5:00pm Larry Vilardo
Salvatore & Carmela Toscano, 13th Anniversary
Edward J. Frederick
Michael Hindle
Deceased & Living Members of Caravana, Matteo
and Castriota Families

Sunday, February 23, 2020

7:30am Sal & Carmela Toscano
9:00am Marie LoSchiavo
11:00am Gloria Vannucci, 37th Anniversary

, February 24, 2020

8:30am Joseph Larocca

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester
7:00pm The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, February 28, 2020

8:30am Cheryl Marz

Saturday, February 29, 2020

5:00pm Armando Fusco
Denise M. Kay
Morgan Walsh
Michael McHugh
Peter Martino, 6th Anniversary

Sunday, March 1, 2020

7:30am Patrick John Connaghan
9:00am William Schuessler
11:00am David Schroeder



**We remember and pray for those who
have died, especially:**

*Victor Digilio, and Lawrence Sullivan,
Francesco Grillo, and Frances Poyner*



*The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
The Bauer Family
in loving memory of
Frederick J. Taeger*

Do you know someone who is not longer able to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist? Please have them or a family member call our Parish Social Ministry Office at 631-475-4506, ext 122 to arrange for a visit from an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahon, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being—or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

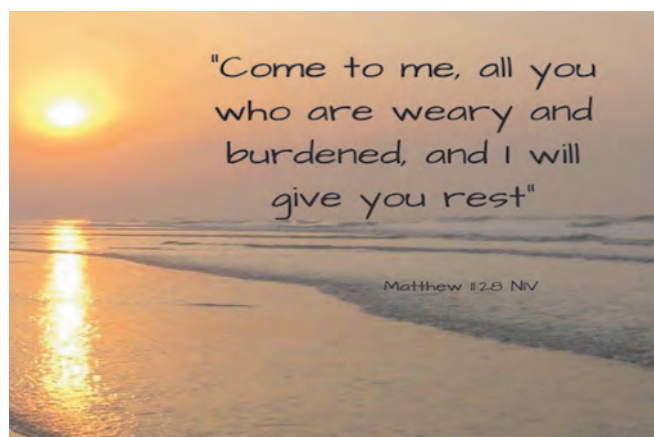
Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray



Please pray for all who are sick,
especially . . .

Mary Worthington, Paul Mazza,
Brody Kuenzler, Melanie Schmadtke,
Christopher Ewart, John McGarvey,
Ellen Wisnoski, Rita Ruberto,
Joan McGrattan, and Nello Liberatore.



*In order to keep our **Sick List** up to date, we will remove all names at the end of each month. Simply call or email the Parish Office if you wish to place someone on the list. Please remember that for the sake of privacy, this request must be made by either the sick person him/herself, or by an immediate family member. Thank you.*



**Please pray for world peace and
all public servants
including the following who are
serving on active duty:**

Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army
Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force
1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army
1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army
2nd Lieutenant Michael Hawkins, Army
Petty Officer 2nd Class Elena Greck, Navy
Lieutenant Nicoli Carlson, Navy
Captain Holly Grosso Carlson, Army

*If you have a family member who is
currently serving on active duty in the
military and would like his or her name added to
this prayer list, please call
631-475-4506 Ext. 101 or email
ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org Please notify the same
of any change in status.
Thank you.*

***Romans 12:12
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.***



Turn away from sin



and be faithful to the Gospel

Ash Wednesday is February 26.

Distribution of Ashes will take
place in the Church at the
following times:

8:30am ~ Mass

12:00pm ~ Prayer Service

4:30pm ~ Prayer Service

7:00pm ~ Mass

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive should observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.



Parish Life

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

There will be a
Simple Soup Supper
and

Lenten Reflection by Fr. Francis Pizzarelli

SMM (Montfort Father), LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW
Executive Director-Founder and CEO of Hope House Ministries,
Port Jefferson Station, NY

Hope House Ministries provides compassionate, comprehensive and competent care for the poor, the marginal and the wounded among us; specifically, young people and families in crises, pregnant women, mothers and babies in crisis and all who are abandoned or neglected.

Sponsored by St. Sylvester Middle School Ministry & and the Knights of Columbus
All are welcome!

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass
In the Patricia Desmond Hall (Lower Level of the Parish Center)

Free Will Offering to Support Hope House Ministries

Please fill this out, tear off and drop in collection basket at Mass or call 631-475-4506
Ext. 105 with the following information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of people in your party: _____

Catholic Ministries Appeal



**Tender support and care for people in need by caregivers who nurture, and donors who generously support these programs, bring us all closer to God...
That's *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in Action!**

Catholic Charities residences for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities help individuals achieve their highest level of functioning and to participate as fully as possible in the surrounding community.

When Brian was 3-years old, he had a massive cerebral hemorrhage and needed extensive care. As he got older, his parents wanted to find a place where he could be more independent and be a part of a community. Just before his 30th birthday, Brian moved into Catholic Charities' Christopher Residence.



"This program means so much to Brian. It gives him so much pleasure living here and it gives our family joy to see how happy he is. He's content and safe and as we are getting old, we know that he will continue to be cared for with love and dignity," shared Mrs. Healy, Brian's mom.

A gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps to support programs which bring love and care to those who are in need. Your support of the Appeal will help to ensure that our shared vision for *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in our Diocese will have a firm financial foundation.

100% of all funds raised are restricted to the ministries of the Appeal.

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Parish: St. Sylvester, Medford

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Stewardship

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service



Gifts of Treasure

February 16, 2020

Regular ~ \$8,304

Renovation ~ \$110 Solar ~ \$25

Last Year's Collection ~ February 17, 2019

Regular ~ \$7,192

Reflection: The readings for this week are about loving others, no matter who they are. However, it is important to note that loving someone does not require that you love their sin. Also, the first reading stresses the difference between reproving someone for their sin, and falling into sin yourself because of him/her." There is a middle ground between hatred and celebrating someone's sinfulness.

Living Stewardship—Hospitality:

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to love those who hate us. The reward to doing so, according to Our Lord, is great! This week refrain from speaking ill of anyone, no matter what they have done to you. Be hospitable to people who make it very difficult to be hospitable!

Will & Estate Planning

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C non-profit.

Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning.

Thank you and God bless!



FUNDRAISING /ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SEEKS HELPERS FOR PARISH EVENTS

Our Fundraising and Social Activities Committee is interested in developing more fun parish and community-centered events for our parishioners to enjoy, while also raising some money in the process. They have some good ideas, but would like extra sets of hands to help make them a reality.

Do you have a knack for organizing or decorating? Are you the family party planner?

Do you enjoy meeting others while

Get
INVOLVED



serving food or refreshments? Or, maybe you are the neighborhood helper, the one they call when they need assistance bringing tables up from the basement or the friend who helps with the set-up and clean-up for summer barbecues and graduation parties? Perhaps you are the mom or dad who helps out at the school plant sale, the holiday boutique or field day — if so, we welcome your gifts and your energy!

Please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministry Office at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or email to lzito@stsylvesterli.org if you are able to lend us your hands and fun-loving spirit for these events.

Parish Social Ministry



Many Thanks

to the students, teachers, and families of
Holy Angels Regional School in Patchogue!

During Catholic Schools Week this year they collected personal hygiene items which were donated to support the food pantry at Clare House. In addition they presented us with a check for \$500.00 to support the cost of heating for a family in our community. Thanks so much!

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For more info, visit 2020census.gov

**FORMING
CONSCIENCES**  **OF FAITHFUL
CITIZENSHIP**

At their November General Assembly, the full body of bishops approved scripts for videos to inspire prayer and action in political life and to help Catholics apply the teachings of Pope Francis to our day.

The videos complement Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the bishops' teaching document for the faithful on the political responsibility of Catholics, and they seek to help the faithful participate in public life, prioritize faith over partisan politics, engage with civility, and respond to pressing issues of our day.

www.FaithfulCitizenship.org

Faith Formation

Adult Confirmation

**Were you Baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion
*but for whatever reason***

never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Coming to St. Sylvester Parish March 2020....

A program for adults who would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Classes will begin March and end late May with the celebration of Confirmation
on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

For more information or to register please
email fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

Adult Baptism

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is a process, which welcomes those who wish to inquire about joining the Catholic Church. Along with the guidance and support of members of the St. Sylvester RCIA Team and the community, those who are inquiring, explore the loving presence and action of God in their lives, have opportunities for deepening their prayer life, and prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.**

If you have never been baptized & are interested in becoming a Catholic or, if you are a baptized non-Catholic but would like to become a Catholic, please email fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

Would you like to get involved in the RCIA Team?

We always welcome new members to the RCIA Team. You can help by sharing your faith, being a sponsor, or making coffee and cake. There are always opportunities for ministers of Scripture Sharers, Catechists, Sponsors and Hospitality. Training and support is available. For more information please email fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

Eucharistic Retreat Day

Sunday, February 23, 2020

The Missionaries of The Most Holy Eucharist

Come abide with Him on this day for

Hot Breakfast, Lunch, Spiritual Meditations, Holy Mass, Confession, Rosary, Divine Mercy
Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception

440 West Neck road, Huntington

8am—5pm

To register, please use this link <https://forms.gle/HeezVkigBAWUy7aD9>

Or call Alison Ferrara, 631-896-0870

\$35 Cash or Check (made out to the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception)

Faith Formation



When You

REDISCOVER THE SAINTS

Amazing Things Happen!



Join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for another incredible journey through our BEST LENT EVER daily video reflections.

It's not what you give up.
It's who you become.

Who will you become? Sign up at
DynamicCatholic.com/Amazing

Dynamic Catholic

All Are Welcome!!!!

***Did you know that we have an
Individualized Faith Formation Program
for children with special needs?***

If your child has special needs, and has been
diagnosed with:

Autism

ADD or ADHD

Reading Disability

Cognitive Speech Delay

ODD or Other Behavioral Concerns

Sensory Processing Disorder

Other Health Impairment

....please know that there is a place for your child in
the St. Sylvester Faith Formation and
Sacramental Program. We have been blessed with
volunteers who are educated and experienced in
working with children with special needs
and their families.

Please call the Faith Formation office at
631-475-4506, Ext 118

so that we can help in placing your child in the class
that will be most beneficial for them.



The Office of FAITH FORMATION
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Upcoming Workshop

Basic Religious Studies Course Series

St. Mary's, Manhasset

3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Old Testament

Mondays, February 24; March 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2020

New Testament

Mondays, March 30; April 6, 20, 27; and May 4, 2020

Christology

Mondays, May 11, 18; June 1, 8, and 15, 2020

Divorce & Beyond Support Group

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Melville

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2020
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

School of Missionary Disciples – Lenten Experience

Seminario de Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington

Sunday, March 8, 2020

1:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Escuela de Discípulos Misioneros – Experiencia de Cuaresma

Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington

Domingo 8 de marzo, 2020

1:45 p.m. a 4:30 p.m.

Retreat Day for the Elect of 2020

Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington

Sunday, March 8, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Un Día de Retiro para los Electos de 2020

Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington

Domingo, 8 de marzo, 2020

2:00 p.m. a 6:00 p.m.

Catechist Training Level II

St. James, Setauket

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bereavement Conference –

For the Bereaved and those Ministering to them.

St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh

Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wonderfully Made Mother and Daughter Tea

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt

Sunday, March 22, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Or

St. James, Setauket- East Setauket

Sunday, March 29, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Or

St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

Sunday, April 19, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Level I & II

St. Bernard, Levittown

Saturdays, March 28; April 4, 18, 25;

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and June 6, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

Saint Patrick's, Smithtown

Sunday, May 3, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Annual Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment - Ministry of Consolation

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Melville

Thursday, May 14, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online,
please visit drvc-faith.org/event/

What's Happening?

Get Involved!



Drawing Class

Mondays 10am to 12pm East Wing

Art Class

Tuesdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Art Class

Saturdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall



First Wednesday of the Month 10:30am to 12pm in the East Wing We knit, crochet, pray and share patterns. The shawls and lap robes are lovingly brought to the sick and homebound. Donations of yarn are appreciated and new members always welcome.

Senior Circle of Friends

Second and Fourth Fridays of the Month
12:30pm to 3:30pm



Support Groups

Al-Anon

Meets every Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm

Compassionate Friends

(For those who have experienced the loss of a child)
Second Friday of the Month at 7:30pm to 10:00pm

Divorced & Separated Support

If you are going through the pain of marital separation or divorce, we have a parishioner with a degree in psychology and a background in social work who will be happy to meet with you here in the Parish Center to support you at this difficult time. Please contact our Parish Social Ministry Office at Ext. 122 if you would like to set up an appointment.

Prayer Groups

*Please see the Website for more details
for Prayer Group Meetings*

Holy Hour & Adoration

2nd Friday of the month ~ 8pm ~ WR

Charismatic Prayer Group

1st, 3rd & 4th Fridays of the month ~ 8pm
Worship Room

Women's Prayer Group

3rd Monday of the month ~ 4pm ~ WR

Legion of Mary

Tuesdays ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Spanish Legion of Mary

Wednesdays ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 9

First Saturday Devotion

First Saturday of the Month 9am to 10 am Worship Room

Religious Orders

Lay Carmelites

3rd Friday of the month Mass ~ 7pm
Worship Room Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing



See You in the Spring!

Sponsored by

St. Sylvester's Knights of Columbus

507 Long Island Avenue
Medford
(VFW Building)

Beginning April 2020

Tuesdays, Doors will open at 6:30pm, start time 7:30pm

FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE, LOCAL

Come enjoy the game!



“....a witness in defense for all human beings from conception to their natural death.”

March For Life 2020 Reflection

*From the Diocese of Rockville Centre
Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics*

Life is Precious

The March for Life, I think just the name speaks for itself truly. Not only is it a March for unborn babies, it is a witness in defense for all human beings from conception to their natural death. We marched for the unborn, the ill, the elderly, men, women, all human persons. It is a march for all human life around this Earth. This year was my first year attending the March, and at that moment I was speechless. To see thousands of people all with the same values, to save all life, in one place at the same time was truly a blessed experience. As the young people of my generation are the upcoming adults of this world, I believe that me attending this March was a perfect start to getting ready for adulthood. It made me realize how big an impact I can make on the world by just using the voice God gave me, and my rights allow me to use that voice to express what is true, good and beautiful.

Two seconds after getting off of the bus we had come to Washington D.C on, I turned to my mom and said, “I am coming every year.” It is just a wonderful feeling you get by doing good for others without expecting or wanting anything in return. I could practically feel Jesus walking alongside me as I held up posters with bible passages and words about protecting all life. The March for Life is an experience I believe we all need. To feel so united, as one, which is truly a blessing in such a dark and cold world that we live in today's day in age. We need to remind ourselves of our humbleness before God and our purpose. Our purpose is to know, love and serve God. We need to honor Him and the gift of life He gives us all.

We need to remind our brothers and sisters who are in that dark and cold place that God loves them, even in their wrong state of minds, He still loves them. God is love! God doesn't do harm to those who do not have the same beliefs as Christians, He wraps His loving arms around them and protects them as well. We are all His children. The March for Life is a reminder to us all of how precious this life that God has given to us is and to never forget where we come from, the Heavenly Father, where we will return beside Him when He welcomes us home.

By: Isabella, Age 15

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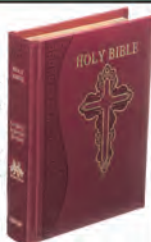
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