

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

March 24, 2024 † PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

From The Pastor

Holy Week begins with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is a week that begins with the glory of the world and ends with the glory of God. These are vastly different expressions of glory. The glory of the world is often misguided. The world proclaims Jesus in glory as a man of great power and wisdom to heal and move hearts. Well intentioned, but like most glory offered by the world, it is not long lasting. Enthusiastic praise quickly turns to 'crucify him, crucify him.'

The Prophet Isaiah describes a suffering servant who is given the courage to speak words of wisdom and hope to a despairing world. More than words, the unidentified servant accepts the buffet and spitting of a resisting crowd. Willing to suffer humiliation, the suffering one stands strong in the help and constancy of the Lord.

In the context of the Passion, it is clear the suffering servant anticipates the crucifixion of Jesus. Through the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, the true glory of God is revealed, and it is a glory of obedient surrender to death for the sake of all.

As the Passion begins, who really is on trial? Jesus is the subject of prosecution and accusation, but is he the guilty party that deserves a conviction of death? In the light of the Resurrection, it becomes abundantly clear it is not Jesus, but all humanity that is on trial in the conviction of sin. Jesus stands in our place taking on all human sin and the lie of evil by the surpassing power of a sacrificial offering of love, death on a Cross.

What does the scene reveal? Our God is vulnerable to love. God is willing to reveal and fully exercise Divine love for the redemption of all creation. Jesus is the focal point of willing sacrifice that reveals the nature and essence of Divine love. Jesus knows what he is doing, fully aware and willing to surrender his life in love of others. Do not miss the accepted vulnerability of Jesus. Jesus fully surrenders to undefended love by exposing himself to hatred, rejection, shame, persecution, humiliation, and ridicule, as well as torture and death.

The evidence is clear. Jesus is perfectly at home to himself in union with the Father's love. He holds no inner division, no self-rejection, no false self to defend against the envy, jealousy, and evil of a deceived crowd of people. This is the revelation of

Divine glory. True, undefended, obedient love unto death for the sake of sinful and deceived creatures whom God pines to redeem. In the truth of love, Jesus is willing to surrender self-preservation for the greater glory of God for the sake of our union with the Divine nature.

So, who or what is on trial? Pilate before a silent Jesus stands in for all of us. Do we say truth is on trial? Is love on trial? The truth and love of Jesus is rejected for the sake of a lie. Jesus is judged against the lie of worldly power and control in the rejection of love out of the fear of vulnerability and loss. Jesus instilled fear and vulnerability in the hearts of his accusers in the loss of power over others. Lies and deception become the manner of the day. Those in power deceive the crowd and create a hatred for Jesus seeking his death.

The lie and deception of evil is the illusion that worldly power is the great truth of human existence. Worldly power has its day in the condemnation of Jesus to death on a Cross. Evil had its moment. Darkness had its hour. And a short hour it was. Truth cannot be killed and Divine love will not die. The undefended love of Christ is revealed and reigns in the power of the Resurrection.

The day of suffering has its message, and we must accept its truth, disquieting as it is. Holy Week reveals the willing surrender of God in pure love through the vulnerable act of Jesus. The undefended love of Jesus is the only way humanity could ever be redeemed. We are acquitted of all sin by the one who stood in our place. This is the nature and truth of Divine love.

What is our response? Gratitude, honor, and praise practiced in trusting the love of Jesus given on the Cross. Jesus showed us what a fully realized human being looks like. Our response is to imitate the example of his love. Let God love you. Be honest with yourself before God. Be vulnerable, allowing God to love you in your best and worst qualities. Surrender to the transforming power of love to set you free. This is not easy because it demands honesty with yourself, God, and others. Jesus is the model. Love wins. The lie and illusions of worldly power will one day end. Those who live in love will shine brightly in the glory of God through the Crucified and risen Christ.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

> Adoration on Tuesdays 8:45am to Noon

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721 Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm, Friday 9-Noon Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Jim Balistreri. Music Coordinator

Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator

Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MONDAY, March 25, 2024

8:00am Mass: Toma Family req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

TUESDAY, March 26, 2024

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, March 27, 2024

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer THURSDAY, March 28, 2024 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00pm Mass: Intentions of the Liturgy

SATURDAY, March 30, 2024 EASTER VIGIL 8:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Gigi Cooper† req. by Linda & LeRoy Proszkowski Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, March 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary K of C

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Family

Leonard Kwapis† req. by Members of SVF St. Vincent de Paul Conference

John & Tresa Lamerato† req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato Ray Family req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato Robert Lebioda† req. by Kim Magri & Family Jessica Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family Michael Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

March 24, 2024

Sunday: Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/

Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39
Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15

and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-

34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex

12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15 Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16,

Friday: İs 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn

18:1-19:42

Saturday: *Easter Vigil:* Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/

Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-

11/Mk 16:1-7

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-

23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-

9 or Mk 16:1-7







It was during the fourth century in Jerusalem that Christians first starting using palm branches in commemoration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Today, we continue to use palms in most churches on this Sunday, Catholic and Protestant alike. It is one of those traditions of worship that, no matter how far apart we may seem at times, we continue to share due to our common heritage.

But Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday, because we hear an account of the passion of Jesus Christ during the liturgy. Most churches also share this reading in common. Many Catholic parishes use multiple lectors to proclaim the Gospel, while it is not uncommon for a similar reading or even a performance in many mainstream Protestant churches.

The commonality found in the worship on this particular Sunday seems to highlight the fundamental truth in the observance: Jesus Christ died for everyone. He did not die on a cross for just Catholics, or just Orthodox, or just Protestants. Whether one acknowledges it or not, he was crucified for all those who are born of man. Today, we rejoice not just for what he has done for us but also for what he has done for all of creation.



Flower Deadline Correction

To be included in the Easter bulletin, memorial flower envelopes must be submitted by THIS MONDAY, March 25.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

A few months before they married, my twenty-three -year-old sister and her fiancé planned a cross-country road trip to visit his family. My parents told them that they could only go if they slept in separate hotel rooms, offering to foot the bill. It might sound prudish, but my parents wanted the young couple to understand that their approaching unity was close, but not yet. Patience solidifies love.

What could this possibly have to do with Palm Sunday? It's usually overlooked, but the Gospels tell us that, after entering Jerusalem, Jesus "looked around ... and since it was late, went out to Bethany with the twelve" (Mk 11:11) for the night. Who cares? Why include this detail? Jews in those days believed that the new Davidic King would one day re-enter and "marry" the city. A new future marked by fidelity would begin for God's people. Israel's God would be in union with His people forever. Without over-sexualizing the metaphor, perhaps Jesus refused to sleep in Jerusalem to remind us of his marital purpose. He was entering Jerusalem as the bridegroom-king. It was almost time, but not yet. Soon he will sleep in Jerusalem in the tomb and then something new will begin: his one body, his Church.

Lenten challenge: This Holy Week, I challenge you to keep this image in your mind all the way until Easter Sunday: Jesus is the faithful bridegroom who patiently prepares his bride for their new life together. Go to the Good Friday liturgy and kiss the cross. When you do, let that gesture be the long-awaited "I do" to our faithful God, who always waits for us.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents of infants and toddlers who desire baptism for their child must

attend a Baptism preparation class. This class is held quarterly.

The next class will be Saturday, April 6th - 2:00pm Admin Bldg.

Call the Parish Office to register at 248-542-8720.

Walk Every Step with Christ

Holy Week is a week for being mindful. We must set loose the baggage of Lent, and not be deterred by the dazzling sunrise of Easter morning beckoning in the distance.

It's okay for us to be excited for Easter. We've waited so long, after all. In my opinion it's one of the best feelings there is: the yearning we have in our hearts for the Resurrection as we embark on Palm Sunday. And in a purely logical sense, many of us have Easter celebrations for which we are preparing, and practical considerations to contend with. It's going to be a busy week, one likely full of happy distractions.

But my friends, we simply must keep our feet on the ground. Let's not "skip" Holy Week. Resist the urge to flip to the last page of the book, to fast-forward to the final scene of the movie. Don't rob yourself of the journey. This week is a blessed opportunity. It is this week that teaches us who we are. In the span of the Triduum, we have the birthday of the priesthood, the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrifice on Calvary and so many other vivid and meaningful scenes.

It may sound strange, to advise someone to savor the moments of Holy Week. There are so many violent and heartrending moments, after all. But this is the valley of tears, remember — we are not in Heaven yet. And here, in our fallen, sin-filled world, it is the heartrending moments that seem to matter the most.

These are the moments that define us as Catholics. Live them. Cherish them. Be present for each one.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: What Italian word for Mary means "My Lady"?

Answer: Madonna. ©LPi



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods,

earthquakes and disasters.

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests. Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING



JOM EASTER BASKET OUTREACH

Many families of incarcerated persons will be sharing in the joy brought to them through the Easter baskets which you have provided, filled with Easter "goodies" to share.

Forty-six baskets were collected

Forty-six baskets were collected and taken to the Jail Outreach Ministry center in Pontiac. Sincere thanks to all who so lovingly provided!

The Whole Story

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Bible is a strange book.

It's one of the only books that most people never read in its entirety, even those who claim it as one of their favorites. It's also one of the only books that we feel comfortable chopping up and sectioning out. There's nothing wrong with that, really, until people start making wholesale judgments of divine revelation based on one tiny part of it. You can't base your belief system on a few lines from Leviticus and ignore the Gospels, just like you can't embrace the teachings of Jesus and ignore the Old Testament. You need to accept the whole story, in its entirety, or none of it means anything.

But it's hard, because accepting the whole story means patience. It means critical thinking. It requires endurance. It's easier just to throw a line from Leviticus at a problem and be done with it.

Holy Week reminds us that salvation history is a tapestry, not a collection of threads. As beautiful as the individual stitches might be, you won't appreciate the message unless you back up and look at the complete product. If we didn't have the whole story, Holy Thursday and Good Friday would be neither holy nor good. And without Holy Week, Easter morning means nothing — it's just a guy waking up.

How often in life do we find ourselves confused to the point of hopelessness, unable to make sense of it all? Overwhelmed by the pain and suffering that exists in this world, and for seemingly no reason. Some of us become so frustrated we throw up our hands and despair.

We need Easter. We need the whole story. We need to be patient.

"His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him." — John 12:16 OLPi

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 9am Faith Formation Office in School

The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome.



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	Ministry	Scheo	lule
H	Holy Thursday	Good F	⁻ riday
Mass	7:00pm	Liturgy	1:00pm
Sacristan	Tourville/Riley	Sacristan	Tourville/Riley
Reader #1	R Pasiak	Reader #1	T Riley
Reader #2	T Riley	Reader #2	D Tourville
		Narrator	M Kairis
Feet	T Riley	Voice	P Miles
Washing	D Tourville	Crowd	L Yolkiewicz
Help	T Karolski		
		Greeters	L Collins
EME	T Karolski		R Bertolini
	M Simmons		R Juska-Svoba
	R Pasiak		P Rarus
Greeters	L Collins	Cross	C McCarthy
	R Bertolini	Holders	P Miles
	R Pasiak		L Collins
	T Pasiak		R Bertolini
	St. Longinus		
TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD.	is the centurion who pierced the side of Our Lord.	Body	M Kairis
		Bearers	L Yolkiewicz
			J McCown
-ST. LONGINUS			T Karolski

Mass	Easter	Easter	
	Vigil	Sunday	
	8:00pm	9:00am	
Sacristan	Tourville/Riley	T Karolski	
Reader #1	J McCown (OT)	J Kosnak	
Reader #2	P Allen (OT)	T Karolski	
OT Reader #3	M Kairis		
OT Reader #4	J McCown		
Epistle	A Goll		
EME	A Goll	R Grant	
	P Miles	D Gray	
	M Waskowski	C McCarthy	
G	T C 11:) () () () () () () () () () (
Greeters	L Collins	M McLaughlin	
	R Bertolini	D McLaughlin	
	P Rarus	N Oparka	
	Volunteer	T Oparka	



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

COMMUNION WAFER

Question: Do Catholics always need to receive communion in wafer form, or can it be different kinds of bread?

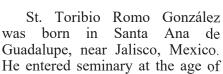
Answer: In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the most common form for the eucharistic bread is the small white communion "wafer" that is a ubiquitous part of the Catholic Mass. The instructions of the Church have been very specific regarding the make-up of the bread used in the Mass: "The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made ... it follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or if it is mixed with another substance different from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament" (see Redemptionis Sacramentum by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, no. 48).

The Church's tradition of using a wheat-based bread is based on the bread that Jesus would have used at the Last Supper and is considered to be an essential part of the "matter" of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As we consider the question of whether a "wafer" — which is properly called a "host" — should be used, we also must keep in mind that in the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, leavened (i.e. "raised") bread is more often used. And so, while the thin, white "wafer" is most commonly used in the Roman Rite of the Church, the full expression of the Catholic tradition does allow for a more substantial form of bread to be used, but the tradition of using a simple wheat bread with no other additions or additives is considered essential.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

St. Toribio Romo González 1900-1928





13 and was ordained a priest in 1922 when he was only 22. As a priest, he dedicated himself to serving the faithful in the midst of the Cristero War, a period of intense religious persecution in Mexico during the 1920s and 1930s.

Despite the danger posed by the anti-Catholic government, Romo continued to carry out his pastoral duties. He provided sacraments, offered spiritual guidance, promoted devotion to the Eucharist, and was frequently forced more and more to do so in secret or under the cover of night. He became known for his compassion and selflessness, often risking his own safety to bring consolation and hope to the persecuted Catholic community, and catechesis, as well as the Eucharist, to the poor.

In the late 1920's, a formal law was passed that imposed strict penalties on priests who were found exercising their priestly ministries. Despite the risks, Romo continued to celebrate Mass and administer the sacraments to those in remote areas. For a time, he had to hide in an abandoned distillery in the town of Tequila in order to avoid violence, and celebrated Mass there for the community.

Tragically, on February 25, 1928, Romo was murdered. He was shot twice by government troops who broke into his bedroom while he was asleep. His martyrdom became a powerful testimony to the enduring strength of the Catholic Church in Mexico in the face of discrimination. St. Toribio Romo, pray for us!

©LPi

Love Outpoured: Regional Eucharistic Congresses in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Knowing that many will not be able to attend the National Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis in July, the Archdiocese of Detroit will host four regional Eucharistic Congress events with dynamic speakers, amazing music, prayer time and more. These events are open to all people who want to learn more about Jesus and the Eucharist and what they means for your life.

The Northeast Region Congress Saturday, April 6th 9am to 1pm St. Kieran

53600 Mound, Shelby Twp. 48316

RSVP to

https://www.aod.org/love-outpoured?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Despite his suffering, we hear how the prophet Isaiah found strength in his faith and fidelity to God. How does your faith help you through professional or family challenges?

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Paul taught that central to Jesus's identity was his humility and obedience to God. How well do you practice these Christian virtues?

Gospel: Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

We hear today Mark's account of the Passion of our Lord. How do you prepare yourself to listen to the passion narrative?

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

Frances Kwapis Su Phan

Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

Draw Closer to God

During the Lenten season we observe certain practices of sacrifice and self-denial as an offering to God and as good spiritual training for this race we are engaged in called life. These things are good for us but they should not remain only in Lent. In fact, we should always be about working towards a complete surrender of ourselves to the will of God...

Surrender is not easy. But we need to see our observance of Lent as a way to move forward. No athlete lifts the same weight forever. No dieter finds satisfaction in losing the same 5 pounds year after year. We must work to always be moving toward holiness. This is the commitment of an everyday steward. We are called to pray today than yesterday. We are called to give more today than yesterday. We are called to love more today than yesterday. Standing still is not an option. Our God is calling us to grow in our discipleship and stewardship for the benefit of our souls and the health of the Body of Christ. May this Lent be a time of moving forward and may we all draw ever closer to our God who calls us to leave it all behind and follow Him.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Jean and I would like to thank all the St. Vincent Ferrer family members that offered us prayers and good wishes for Jean's eye surgery. The doctors said the surgery was successful in saving her eyesight. God Bless You.

Jean & Mike Pietraszewski







Come,,, walk with us on our journey!

We are seminarians at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit

Every year in preparation for ordination to the priesthood our first-year theology class makes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land or European continent. We will spend four weeks participating in intensive prayer, study and spiritual formation. Our journey will end in Rome.





The Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club Detroit Oakland invite you **and your family** to **THE 2024 DESERT MEAL** polluck dinner to support our
seminarians on their journey.

Sunday, April 7th, 2024 (3-6 PM)

National Shrine of the Little Flower, Grade School Gym; 12 Mile at Woodward, Royal Oak

Please RSVP by April 2nd: Call Kathy Pruse at 248-217-7109 or kpruse@gm ail.com

PREPARING FOR

SICILY



In the city of San Biagio Platani, people build Archi di Pasqua or Easter Arches. These are large, building-like structures people can walk under made entirely of bread and other foods.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MARCH 16/17 Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24 Budgeted Actual Over/Under YTD Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants 245 106 Offertory (including loose cash) \$ 5.293.00 \$ 4.659.76 (633.24)(5,045.44)Energy 289.00 220.00 (69.00)(1,267.61)(764.39)Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles \$ 1,115.39 351.00 (33,525.73)Mass Intentions 60.00 n/a 4,470.00 AOD Collections: Catholic Relief Services 100.00 605.00 n/a Holy Days: Easter n/a 408.00 558.00 Budget deficit donations 370.00 7,081.00 2023 CSA overage (pledges outstanding - 2,786.86) 6,923.14



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