

### God's love knows no barriers. St. Pascal's...where all people matter.

Welcome! We hope you enjoy your time with us. Whether you are just visiting or looking for a parish home, it's great to have you with us. Whatever your life circumstances, wherever you have been or whatever has happened in your life, you are welcome here.

#### FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Remove all that keeps us apart from you so that we may live in the light of your love.

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### **Stations of the Cross**

#### Two Options Friday, February 26: Virtual and In-Person

(Virtual) 3:00 PM via Facebook livestream. People who are unable to come to church on Friday for 6:30 PM Stations or unable to watch 6:30 PM Stations on YouTube but would still like to participate in a live Stations might find this to be a good option. See our Parish Facebook Page: "St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church" for this event.

(In-Person) 6:30 PM, live in church, with people, also livestreamed on the parish YouTube channel. We will gather in church and remain in the pews as the leader reads from the pulpit and a server carries a cross and stops at each Station along the back wall of the church.

#### Words of Pope Francis for Lent 2021

"In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with 'speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn' (Fratelli Tutti, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be 'willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference' (ibid., 224)." (Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021.)

Join us for the Open Wide Our Hearts: Lent 2021 Study Opportunity.

We will read and discuss the November 2018 Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter Against Racism. There will be four sessions: February 23, March 2, 9 and 16 from 6:30-7:30 PM. Join us on computer, tablet or smart phone through Zoom. Sign up at <a href="mailto:stpascals.org/adult-faith-formation">stpascals.org/adult-faith-formation</a>, or contact Kim Roering in the parish office or 651.432.4958 or <a href="mailto:kim.roering@stpascals.org">kim.roering@stpascals.org</a>. If you prefer, you can do a self-study or study with a group of family/friends using the free materials located on our parish website or at <a href="mailto:usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism">usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism</a>.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February 2021:** *Violence Against Women.* We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

**Prayer Intention for March 2021:** *Sacrament of Reconciliation.* Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

#### Young at Heart—Pray the Rosary!

Little did we know one year ago that our February 2020 meeting would usher in an entirely new way of living. Many of you are yearning to gather again to share the blessings of the Eucharist, have our meal together and enjoy some entertainment—but the date for that is on God's calendar! In the meantime, we will gather in spirit.

On Thursday, February 24 and on the 4th Thursday of the coming months, we encourage you pray the rosary at noon wherever you are. This will unite us in spirit. With Our Blessed Mother on our side, we will eventually meet in person for our Young at Heart meetings. For more information, please contact Betty Hensel at bjhensel@comcast.net or 651.714.8958.

#### **Lenten Prayer**

A limited number of *Living Faith* booklets for April-June 2021 and *Little Black Books* with daily reflections for the season of Lent are available in the parish office. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the parish office at 651.774.1585 or church@stpascals.org.

# Social Justice and Caring Committee We Care Campaign

On the weekend of March 6-7, St. Pascal's parish will gather the loose change and bills from the collection and donate them to the Social Justice and Caring Committee's We Care Campaign. The three options chosen by the committee for its winter project are:

#### **Option 1: Freedom House**

Freedom House is a day shelter located at the former fire station on West 7th Street operated by the Listening House.

#### **Option 2: Mosaic Christian Community**

Mosaic Christian Community is a multiethnic church located on the eastside of St. Paul that is partnering with Settled to establish a tiny home community for the unsheltered. The community will offer affordable and sustainable homes, will create a space for social belonging and build a support system. The church is also offering its building as a shared space for the residents—including the use of its kitchen, shower rooms and some common areas.

#### Option 3: You Matter Outreach Ministry

You Matter Outreach Ministry is run by Jeanette Jones, a member of Progressive Baptist, to minister to the unsheltered in the Twin Cities by providing them with needed items such as hot food, sanitizing wipes, tarps and tents. Jeannette is currently supporting this ministry out of her personal funds. Contributing to this option will supplement her funds for this ministry.

We encourage you to consider making a personal contribution as well, using the envelope provided in the packet of envelopes sent by the parish every other month or found on the tables located near the entrances to the church. If you prefer to give to one or more of these charities, please indicate this by marking the appropriate option(s) on the envelope and your contributions will be distributed as requested. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

#### Lenten Fish Fry?

Sadly, the wildly popular St. Pascal's Men's Club Lenten Fish Fry has been cancelled for 2021. We will see you again in Lent 2022. Until then—stay healthy and hungry!

#### Baptized in Christ -

We welcome into our community of faith

Melanie Marie Conley child of Timothy & Amy

who was recently Baptized in our church.

May God bless this household of faith.

#### - REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

As Lent begins, we are working to help our students better understand its true purpose. We don't want students to remember Lent only as the time of the year where they have to give up video games and can't eat meat on Fridays. Instead, we want them to know that Lent is a time where we not only practice fasting but also return to lives dedicated to prayer and almsgiving. To help students understand Lent better, the middle schoolers are using the Bible to read and reflect on the number 40 and Lent as well as on all of the traditions of Lent like using ashes as a form of repentance. They are also being challenged to partake in activities throughout Lent that fall into the three of the pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many of the younger grades are also learning about the traditions of Lent and the three pillars. They are encouraged to not only think of Lent as a time where they need to fast, but also as a time where they can say extra prayers, do extra chores, read from the Bible, or donate their gently used toys.

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

#### **Pre-Baptism Session**

March 15, 2021

The next pre-baptism session at St. Pascal's will take place on Monday, March 15 at 6:30 PM. Parents interested in having their child baptized at St. Pascal's are asked to participate in one formation session prior to baptism. Pre-registration is required. To register for a session or schedule the celebration of a baptism, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

NOTE: While pre-baptism is scheduled to take place in person at the parish, there is an option to use Zoom as well.

#### **Pre-Lent Retreat** Thank You and Follow Up

Thank you to those who participated in our virtual retreat "Hope in the Cross" on February 8 & 9. Thank you also to St. Pascal's Women's Club for their sponsorship of the event. If you were unable to attend but would like some of the information from the retreat, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

#### Cuppa Joe: 10 Talks on the 10 Wonders of Saint Joseph

First Tuesday of the month, March – December 2021 at 4:00 PM—just in time for afternoon coffee Cuppa Joe is an online series of 10 talks by 10 theologians on the 10 wonders of Saint Joseph, taking place from 10 locations in our archdiocese entrusted to the patronage of our spiritual father. The virtual talks will be posted on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram and on the Year of Saint Joseph page at archspm.org/cuppajoe/.

#### Details of the first five talks are listed below:

March 2: "Delight of Saints," Fr. Tom Margevičius, West St. Paul "Our Spiritual Father," Dr. Deborah Savage, Lino Lakes April 6: "Young Husband of Mary," Fr. Evan Koop, Maple Grove May 4: "Virginal Father of Jesus," Kelly Wahlquist, Red Wing June 1: "Just and Reverent Man," Fr. Kevin Zilverberg, New Hope July 6:

For more information and a full list of talks, visit archspm.org/cuppajoe/

As part of our Lenten discipline, Catholics practice fasting and abstinence, which often means "giving up" something for those 40 days. Here's an idea: Let's give up judging one another's faith commitments: no excommunications, no "you're not really Catholic," no potshots from the peanut gallery.

—Heidi Schlumpf, "Let's Give Up Culture War Infighting for Lent", National Catholic Reporter

#### Lent Rice Bowls—Supporting Catholic Relief Services

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from in the gathering space beginning February 7. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the parish office. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice.

HUNGER IN OUR WORLD Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

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#### **Parish Office**

Phone 651.774.1585 Email church@stpascals.org For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying

or anointing): Call the parish office.

#### **Parish Office Hours**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Mon-Fri Holidays as announced

#### **Parish Councils**

#### **Parish Pastoral Council**

Meetings 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM Mary Weyandt, Chair

#### **Parish Finance Council**

4th Thursday at 6:30 PM Meetings Mike Aeling, Chair

### St. Pascal Regional Catholic School

Phone 651.776.0092 icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org Email

#### **School Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

#### **Sacramental Information**

#### Reconciliation

Saturday from 4:00-4:25 PM or contact Fr. John in the parish office Communal celebrations as announced

#### **Baptism**

Pre-baptismal classes are required. To register for classes or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

#### Marriage

Arrangements must be made with the pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

#### **Parish Prayer Line**

8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004 Mary Butler-Levine

4:00 - 6:00 PM

651.774.3248 Pat Kackman

#### **Parish Communication**

#### **Bulletin Notices**

Due 3:00 PM Monday thea.munoz@stpascals.org

#### **Mass Announcements**

Due 3:00 PM Tuesday keri.mader@stpascals.org

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Mass Times & Intentio	ns
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## Readings

February 21, 2021

#### Tuesday, February 23

8:00 AM + S. Ann O'Neill, CSJ

#### Wednesday, February 24

8:00 AM + Barbara Mondry-Courier

#### Thursday, February 25

8:00 AM + Hildegard Davis

#### Friday, February 26

8:00 AM + Caleb Herrera Shanley

#### Saturday, February 27

4:30 PM + Jim Stach

#### Sunday, February 28

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM The people of the parish

#### **Heart Questions** A Change of Heart

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18

Adults: When or how could you step away from your daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so that you can do a better job of following in the footsteps of Jesus?

Kids: What good habit could you work on during Lent so you could grow closer to God?

#### Sunday:

Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9

1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

#### Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4

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

#### Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19

Mt 6:7-15

#### Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

Lk 11:29-32

#### Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

#### Friday:

Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19

Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Mt 5:43-48

#### **Next Sunday:**

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

We are not headed toward a single goal: we are on a pilgrimage toward the center of our hearts. It is in this place of prayerful repose that joy unspeakable erupts.

—Barbara Holmes

#### Stewardship of Giving

Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

	January	Year to Date
Sunday Giving	\$ 87,991.50	\$ 473,429.37
Budget	\$ <u>65,697.92</u>	\$ <u>459,885.40</u>
Surplus/Shortfall	\$ 22,293.58	\$ 13,543.97

#### **Mortgage Reduction**

#### **Mortgage Balance**

(as of January 7) 3,299,039.11

Year to Date

**Collected Donations** \$ 160,286.85 **Payment** \$ 158,610.40 Surplus 1,676.45

Many thanks for your overwhelming financial generosity. We look forward to the day you all return to worship.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

St. Pascal's is committed to help you to navigate through the upcoming weeks of COVID-19 safety measures. We have cutback programs and community gatherings in an effort to keep all in our community healthy and safe. Visit www.stpascals.org

#### Sunday, February 21—Lent 1

12:00pm Confirmation I: Brioschi Hall

#### Monday, February 22

Bell rehearsal: Church, Choir Room 6:00pm

#### Tuesday, February 23

6:30pm Open Wide Our Hearts: Zoom

#### Wednesday, February 24

Rosary: Church 11:15am 6:30pm **RCIA: Founders Room** 

6:30pm Faith Formation at home session

#### Thursday, February 25

6:30pm Finance Council: Zoom

#### Friday, February 26

6:30pm Stations of the Cross: Church

#### Saturday, February 27

No scheduled events

#### Sunday, February 28—Lent 2

12:00pm Confirmation I: Brioschi Hall

#### Monday, March 1

6:00pm Bell rehearsal: Church, Choir Room 6:30pm First Eucharist Parent/Child session: Zoom

#### Tuesday, March 2

Pastoral Council: Zoom 6:30pm 6:30pm Open Wide Our Hearts: Zoom

#### Wednesday, March 3

11:15am Rosary

6:30pm Faith Formation at home session

6:30pm First Eucharist Parent/Child Session: Brioschi Hall

#### Thursday, March 4

6:30pm SJCC: Zoom

7:00pm Men's Club Board meeting: Zoom

#### Friday, March 5

Stations of the Cross: Church 6:30pm

#### Saturday, March 6

We Care Campaign

No scheduled events

#### Sunday, March 7—Lent 3

We Care Campaign No scheduled events

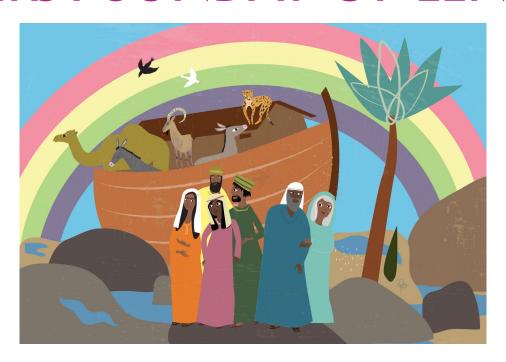
#### St. Pascal's Legacy Society

#### Planned Giving—Options for leaving a legacy to St Pascal's

One particularly tax-efficient way to make a bequest is to donate part or all of your regular individual retirement account to charity by designating a charity as a beneficiary. Leave a legacy of faith. Consult with your tax advisor. If you want more information on St. Pascal's Legacy Society, please call Theresa Ruttger at the parish office at 651.774.1585 or talk to a member of the Legacy Committee—Ellen and Mike Aeling, Susan Hommes, Joe Sullivan, and Brigid O'Malley.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



# Guide us, Lord

Lord.

you brought salvation to Noah through the waters

and carried him through his time of trial to a covenant of love.

All times and all seasons belong to you. As we now begin this time, this season,

our time of trial, stay close to us. Carry us through our temptations. Remove all that keeps us apart from you. Lead us by the right paths so that we may live in the light of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Sunday, February 21, 2021 Forty Days

Today's readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15. After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Spirit drove him out into the desert, where he experienced temptation. Sometimes we fail to consider that, in the incarnation, Jesus took on every bit of the human experience, except sin. He knew what it was to be tempted, to face trials.

In the Bible, the number *forty* symbolizes a time of trial or testing. In today's readings, Jesus' forty days in the desert are placed alongside the experience of Noah and his family, the forty days of the flood. Neither reading leaves us in a time of trial. In the reading from Genesis, we see the rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah. In Mark, we

hear Jesus proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand, the time for which they have been awaiting has come. At the very beginning of our season of preparation, we hear proclaimed the fruits that await us at its conclusion.

In this season of Lent, we have forty days to confront our temptations. We hear Jesus calling us to repent and believe in the Gospel. How might we use these forty days to ready ourselves to hear the proclamation at its end? What must I repent of so that I may better believe? This week, think about obstacles that hold you back from God's love. Consider your temptations. How can you use this season to make yourself ready for what is to come?



# THIS WEEK AT HOME

# Monday, February 22

### Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

The people who surrounded Jesus often wondered about his identity. He healed the sick, forgave sins, preached the coming of the kingdom of God. Walking alongside him, seeing all that he did, Peter must have wondered about this question too. When Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers readily: Jesus is the Messiah, the one for whom all Israel has been waiting. Jesus founds the Church on Peter's proclamation. What is your response to the query "Who do you say that Jesus is?" *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 16:13–19.* 

## Tuesday, February 23 The Lord's Prayer

When we step back to consider the prayer that Jesus taught and we memorized long ago, the challenge of the Lord's Prayer is seen in a new way. In saying "thy kingdom come," we long for God's kingdom of justice and righteousness. But are we anxious to do God's will, so that it is done on earth as it is in heaven? Do we forgive, even as we long to be forgiven? Take some time to meditate over each line of the prayer, perhaps writing each line and journaling with it. What might God be calling you to, as you reflect on the prayer that Jesus taught? *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.* 

# Wednesday, February 24

# Turn Away from Sin

After his sojourn in the belly of the fish, Jonah traveled to Nineveh as God commanded. Upon hearing Jonah call them to repentance, the Ninevites changed their lives. It is tempting to seek big signs, but the call to conversion is daily. How can you reorient your life toward God today? How can you turn away from those things that are holding you back from his love? *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.* 

### Thursday, February 25 Ask, Seek, Knock

In today's Gospel we are told to ask, to seek, to knock. Does this mean that God will give us our every desire? From both reason and experience, we know that sometimes we want things that are not good for us. Yet we are called to bring our needs and desires before God, who desires every good thing for us. What need can you entrust to God? How might giving it over to God transform its role in your life? *Today's readings: Esther C:12*, 14–16. 23–25; *Psalm 138:1–2ab*, 2cde–3, 7c–8; *Matthew 7:7–12*.

# Friday, February 26 Go First and Be Reconciled

Jesus' words about anger are challenging. Anger can come upon us easily, and sometimes we allow that emotion to govern our actions. But Jesus teaches another way. He says that before we bring our gift to the altar, we must go and be reconciled with the one we have wronged. How hard it is to admit we have made a mistake! Apologize to someone you have hurt and seek out the sacrament of reconciliation this week. *Today's readings: Ezra 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.* 

# **Saturday, February 27**Love Your Enemies

Jesus' instructions to love our enemies and pray for persecutors are familiar, yet somehow these instructions never fail to cause discomfort. Love our enemies? Pray for those who persecute us? Our natural inclination is to hurt those who have hurt us, to return actions in kind. Jesus holds us to a standard that seems impossible. This week, consider a person who has hurt you. Say one Hail Mary for that person and then another. As Mother Teresa said, prayer changes me and I change things. See what happens when you entrust that person to God. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.* 







# Racism and the Criminal Justice System

In the November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, Open Wide Our Hearts, the **United States Conference of Catholic** Bishops urge all Catholics to acknowledge "the scourge of racism" that still exists in our hearts, words, actions, and institutions. Racism is rooted in a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of people of a different race. Racism does not reflect the inner life of God—the Triune unity of three-in-one that we are called to imitate. Racism manifests itself in sinful individual actions. which contribute to structures of sin that perpetuate division and inequality, as has been seen throughout our nation's history and into the present. One such structure in need of conversion is the criminal justice system.



In Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and the Criminal Justice system, the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, "Racism and discrimination that continue to haunt our

"We read the headlines that report the killing of unarmed African Americans by law enforcement officials. In our prisons, the numbers of inmates of color, notably those who are brown and black, is grossly disproportionate. Despite the great blessings of liberty that this country offers, we must admit the plan truth that for many of our fellow citizens, who have done nothing wrong, interactions with the police are often fraught with fear and even danger."

– U.S. bishops, Open Wide Our Hearts

nation are reflected in similar ways in the criminal justice system." For decades, the bishops have recognized the limited utility of mandatory minimum sentencing for drug and non-violent offenses. Recognizing that the default response to social ills such as mental illness, drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment and illiteracy is too often incarceration, the bishops have advocated for sentencing reform and increased use of rehabilitative and restorative justice programs that focus on education, literacy, job-placement, and substance-abuse treatment.

Over the past four decades, there has been a 500% increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S., which now totals roughly 2.2 million. Contributing factors to this increase include mandatory minimum

sentences, harsher sentences for non-violent drug offenses, "three-strikes" laws, and changes in policing. The United States now has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. With 5% of the world's population, the United States houses roughly 25% of the world's prisoners.

Currently, African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos make up 56% of prisoners but are only 28% of the U.S. population. Although "color blind" on the surface, racial disparities appear in every stage of the criminal justice system, which has built the resulting prison and jail population over decades.

- Whites and African Americans engage in drug use at similar rates, but African Americans are much more likely to be arrested for it.
- Although the gap among incarceration rates of different races

- has narrowed somewhat in recent years, African Americans <u>are still</u> <u>incarcerated at more than five times</u> <u>the rate of whites.</u>
- African Americans are more likely to <u>experience traffic stops</u>, searches, and <u>juvenile arrests</u>, and receive harsher sentences and greater <u>length</u> <u>of sentencing</u>.
- Recent headlines have also raised questions about treatment by law enforcement of persons of color, with <u>studies</u> pointing to racial <u>disparities in use of non-lethal force</u> against African Americans and Hispanics.

We must continue to work and pray against the evils of racism, particularly as it may manifest in our criminal justice system and in the way that laws are enforced.

#### For More Information

• Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and the Criminal Justice

## Pray with St. John Paul II

"Lord God, our Father, you created the human being, man and woman, in your image and likeness, and you willed the diversity of peoples within the unity of the human family. At times, however, the equality of your sons and daughters has not been acknowledged, and Christians have been guilty of attitudes of rejection and exclusion, consenting to acts of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic difference. Forgive us and grant us the grace to heal the wounds still present in your community on account of sin, so that we will all feel ourselves to be your sons and daughters." (Universal Prayer on the Day of Pardon)



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