

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Thomas the Apostle
in St. Thomas

St. Cecilia
in Meta

www.stthomasapostle.net
www.stthomasapostleschool.net

www.stceciliameta.net

PO Box 146
St. Thomas, MO 65076

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

Pastor: Fr. Leonard Mukiibi
frleonardmukiibi@gmail.com
Rectory Phone: 573-477-3315
Mrs. Jan Heckemeyer
jheckemeyerooffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Admin. Secretary:
Mrs. Theresa Veit
tveitoffice@gmail.com



School Principal: Mr. Leroy Heckemeyer
lheckemeyer@stacs.school
School: 573-477-3322 **Fax:** 573-477-3700
Mrs. Diane Lueckenhoff
dlueckenhoffoffice@gmail.com

St. Cecilia Bookkeeper:
Mrs. Doris Stumpe
dstumpeoffice@gmail.com

St. Thomas Parish Office hours: Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
`School Office hours during school year: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
St. Cecilia Rectory Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment
Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. at St. Thomas; Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. and
Sundays 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. at St. Cecilia; or anytime by appointment, just call Father.

Saint Thomas the Apostle
Mass Schedule for the Week of March 8-15

Tuesday 7:45 am	Joe Veit
Wednesday 7:45 am	Sally Herigon
Thursday 7:45 am	Albert Plassmeyer
Thursday – after Mass	Stations of the Cross
Friday – 7:45 am	David Volmert
Friday – 6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 5:00 pm	Jackie Gibler
Sunday 10:00 am	St. Jude KC 4 th Degree

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	\$342,000.00
Offertory Goal through Month End	\$256,500.00
Actual Collection for 2025-2026	\$269,738.83
Offertory Difference Year to Date	\$13,238.83
Offertory Goal for March	\$28,500.00

Collection in Church	
March 1	\$6,452.81
March 8	
March 15	
March 22	
March 29	

Collection Online	\$6,855.50
March Total to Date	\$13,308.31
Difference for March	-\$15,191.69

Saint Cecilia
Mass Schedule for the Week of March 8-15

Wednesday 6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 6:30 pm	L&D Brune Family
Sunday 8:00 am	Norman & Delphine Jaegers

Your Sunday Offering	
Offertory Budget for 2025-2026	\$70,000.00
Collection Total for 2025-2026	\$54,546.00
Offertory Goal per Month for March	\$5,833.33

Collection in Church	
March 1	\$1,185.00
March 8	
March 15	
March 22	
March 29	

March Total to Date	\$1,185.00
Difference for March	-\$4,648.33

WEEKDAY SERVERS:

Weekday: Austyn Christian & Cadyn Libbert

Rosary before Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle

Tuesday 7:25 am	Bob Schellman - Sorrowful
Wednesday 7:25 am	Shirley Volmert - Glorious
Thursday 7:25 am	Dale Herigon - Luminous
Friday 7:25 am	Jim Lueckenhoff -Sorrowful

Offertory Gifts – St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday	Family of Jackie Gibler
Sunday	St. Jude Assembly

Rosary before Mass at St. Cecilia & Lector

Wednesday – No Rosary before Mass due to Stations of the Cross

Lector: Emilie Borgmeyer

Offertory Gifts – St. Cecilia

Sunday	Family of Norman & Delphine Jaegers
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PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT.

VOTIVE CANDLES: The requested donation for lighting a votive candle in church is **\$3.00.**

MASS STIPENDS: \$10.00

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Please call the rectory to schedule a meeting and date for Baptism.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Please call the rectory *at least* six months prior to the desired date.

BULLETIN NOTICES is Wednesday at noon. **PARISH BULLETINS:** If you are needing a bulletin and Church is locked at St. Thomas the Apostle, there are some on the Vitae House front porch.

SCRIP: Visit www.stthomasapostleschoolnet/scrip for more information about the Scrip program. Please contact Amanda Wooten 573-694-1735 or amandab27@hotmail.com

SNACKS FOR QUILTERS: Please bring snacks to the hall by 1:00 p.m.; snacks are served at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Luebbering at 573-477-3459 or Kathy Strope at 573-477-3349. Quilter's luncheon may be dropped off Wednesday night 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Evening quilting) or St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Thursday, March 12-Jessica Lackman & Lillian Lackman

Thursday, March 19-Lisa Lackman & Katie Lackman

Liturgical Role Schedule for March 14 & 15			
	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Altar Servers	Akin, Noah Fennewald, Emerald Fennewald, Georgia Verslues, Max	Bock, Eli Schroeder, Annaline	Lackman, Virgil Prenger, Emmary Wieberg, Victoria Wieberg, William (Ryan)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Boessen, Marshall Graessle, Mark Graessle, Barb	Even, Jennifer Hagenhoff, Betty Libbert, Pam	Prenger, Matt Reinkemeyer, Lynne Luebbering, Ben
Lector	Herigon, Dale	Veltrop, Karyn	Luebbering, Katie (Brian)
Rosary Leader: Sorrowful	Herigon, Dale	Borgmeyer, Cathy	Stockman, Tina
Greeters/Ushers	Verslues, Shane Verslues, Ezekiel	Libbert, Pam Hagenhoff, Randy	Reinkemeyer, Alan Prenger, Matt
Music Ministry	Schroeder, Jeanette Schroeder, Judy	Hurst, Lydia	Prenger, Jackie Wieberg, Lisa
Live Stream			Becker, Jenny
Count Collections		Libbert, Pam Libbert, Terry	Schellman, Donna Wieberg, Rosalyn
St. Thomas Church Cleaners	Luebbering, Gina - Luebbering, Karen - Schell, Brooke - Stockman, Tina		

BASKET FOR OLD PALMS: Please don't throw blessed palms away. There is a basket in the side entrance of church at St. Thomas and the entrance of St. Cecilia Church to collect them.

PASTORS MEDITATION: 3rd Sunday of Lent: TRUE WATER FOR THE BELIEVER (Ex. 17:3-7; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn. 4:5-42) The human heart has a deep-down thirst that only God can satisfy. Living Water represents God's Holy Spirit Who comes to us in Baptism, penetrating every aspect of our lives and quenching our spiritual thirst. The Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the Sacraments in the Church are the primary sources of the living water of Divine Grace. We are assembled here in the Church to drink this water of eternal life and salvation. Washed in it at Baptism, renewed by its abundance at each Eucharist, invited to it in every proclamation of the Word, and daily empowered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we are challenged by today's Gospel to remain thirsty for the living water, which only God can give. The first reading describes how God provided water to the ungrateful complainers of Israel, thus placing Jesus' promise within the context of the Exodus account of water coming from the rock at Horeb. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95), refers both to the Rock of our salvation and also to our hardened hearts. It reminds us that our hard hearts need to be softened by God through our grace-prompted, grace-assisted prayer, fasting and works of mercy which enable us to receive the living water of the Holy Spirit, salvation, and eternal life from the Rock of our salvation. In the second reading, Saint Paul asserts that, as the Savior of mankind, Jesus poured the living water of the gift of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. In the Gospel, an unclean, ostracized Samaritan woman is given an opportunity to receive the living water. Jesus awakened in the woman at the well a thirst for the wholeness and integrity which she had lost, a thirst which he had come to satisfy. The Gospel passage also gives us Jesus' revelation about himself as the Source of Living Water and teaches us that we need the grace of Jesus Christ for eternal life because Jesus is that life-giving water. Therefore friends, we need to allow Jesus free entry into our personal lives. Jesus wishes to come into our "private" life, not to embarrass us, not to judge or condemn us, but to free us, to change us, and to offer us what we really need: the living water of the Holy Spirit. Let us find this living water in the Sacraments, in prayer, and in the Holy Bible, especially during this Lenten season. We need to be witnesses to Jesus as the Samaritan woman was. Let us have the courage to "be" Jesus for others, especially in those "unexpected" places for "unwanted" people. Let us also have the courage of our Christian convictions to stand for truth and justice in our day-to-day life. We need to leave the "husbands" behind during Lent as the Samaritan woman did. Today's Gospel message challenges us to get rid of our unholy attachments and the evil habits and sinful addictions that keep us enslaved and idolatrous. Lent is our time to learn from our mistakes of overindulgence in food, drink, drugs, gambling, promiscuity, or any other addiction that distances us from the Living Water. Today's readings are centered on Baptism and new life. **Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Leonard Mukiibi**

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 PM in the Vitae House.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE FOR ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISHES is Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTION is Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

ST. CECILIA PRAYER LINE REQUESTS can be made by calling Katie Lueckenotto at 573-229-4318 or 573-619-6454.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH PRAYER LINE REQUESTS should be emailed to Theresa Veit at tveitoffice@gmail.com or by calling 573-418-7301.

ST. CECILIA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone interested in making a monetary donation for Easter Flowers in memory of loved ones is asked to place the donation along with **PRINTED NAMES** to be remembered in an envelope provided in your March Monthly packet and place in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office by March 29. The names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 5.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE if you would like Communion brought to your home by Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

ST. CECILIA PARISH PICNIC DESSERTS AND MORE AUCTION: We will once again be having the Desserts and More Auction following the Quilt Auction at our Picnic on July 12. If anyone would like to make a dessert or donate other items for the auction, please contact Betty Hagenhoff at 573-645-6565.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE & ST. CECILIA YOUTH GROUP: The St. Thomas and St. Cecilia Youth Group will meet the following dates and locations from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All high schoolers are welcome to attend! March 11- St. Cecilia, March 25 - St. Thomas, April 8- St. Cecilia.

ST. CECILIA PARISHIONERS: St. Cecilia is in the process of setting up auto transfer for monthly tithing to St. Cecilia Church. If anyone is interested in contributing monthly to St. Cecilia for their tithing electronically from their bank account to St. Cecilia through ACH, please contact Doris Stumpe. There is a form that needs to be filled out and signed by each parishioner in order for the transfer to be done. **The form is on the St. Cecilia's website.** If you have access to the internet you can print off the form and fill out. If anyone wants their giving statement put in the back of St. Cecilia Church or email them, please let Doris know. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to Doris Stumpe by email at dstumpeoffice@gmail.com or cell phone 573-619-6125.

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY DUES: Dues are \$10.00 per family and \$5.00 per year for a single person. Also, anyone after their 21st birthday must pay their own dues of \$5.00. Members who are 80+ years old and who have been members for at least 15 years will be exempt from paying dues. Please note: Anyone falling in areas over 5 years must pay \$100.00 to rejoin plus current dues. Please put payment in the collection basket at St. Thomas the Apostle Church or St. Cecilia Church marked "St. Thomas Cemetery Dues or mail to St. Thomas Cemetery Association, c/o Lisa Lackman, 2222 Upper Botto, Rd, St. Thomas, MO 65076. You may contact Lisa if you have any questions about your current or past dues at 573-338-2703.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWS:

Friday, March 13, report cards go home

Friday, March 20 – No School PreK-8, state archery tournament

Monday, March 23, No School PreK-8, Regional Professional Development Day

2026 WILLIAM H. (BILL) SIMON SCHOLARSHIP: The Diocese of Jefferson City is pleased to offer our parish families college scholarship opportunities through a generous donation from the family of William H. (Bill) Simon, funding is available to high school seniors or current college students with financial needs who commit to practicing their faith. The deadline to apply is March 27. Find eligibility details and application at diojeffcity.org/scholarships

HEART OF A HERO MEN'S CONFERENCE is April 10 & 11 at Cana Hall, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City. Featuring presenters Pete Burak from Renewal Ministries in Michigan, Msgr. Morris, Rector of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory & Augustine in St. Louis, Fr. Jones, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph & young men Thomas McCauley, Austin Stewart and Alex Mittendorf from the St. John Newman Catholic Church in Columbia.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER in Jefferson City has immediate openings for ages 1+ year-olds! We also have a waiting list for infants, which is moving quickly. If you are interested in affordable childcare provided in a Christ-filled environment, please visit our web site at www.diojeffcity.org/immaculate-heart or email lockwell@diojeffcity.org. IHM-CDC exists to provide faith-based care and learning to the youngest of God's children.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE RETREAT is March 13-14 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Our retreat will be led by two inspiring couples from the Marianist Retreat Center. Registration is now open for married couples. Childcare will be available.

THIS IS THE HOUR – LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH WITH COURAGE, CLARITY & CONVICTION is Wednesday, April 29, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. A powerful one-night parish mission to awaken hearts, renew faith, and inspire Catholics to live the Gospel boldly in today's world. Speakers: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Dr. Marcus Peter.

DIOCESAN CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: Camp Registration is NOW Open and Registration is coming in quickly! Please help spread the word on this great opportunity for our young people, entering 6th through 12th grade. Volunteer signups are also now available. If parishes are interested in covering a portion of the cost for their parishioners who go to camp the Youth Office can now set up coupon codes. Please reach out to the Youth Office at diojeffcity.org

DIOCESAN SUMMER MISSIONARIES: Any young Adult Catholics between 18-25, who would be interested in helping out the Diocese this Summer with various youth activities, please visit <https://diojeffcity.org/summer-missionaries/> to find out more.

A LIVING FAITH – YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – AGES 18-40 SOMETHING: Uncovering the practical steps to participate with God and his Church to experience a living faith. Discussion & Catechesis, Thursdays thru-3/26, 6:00-8:00 pm St. Joseph Cathedral, Cana Hall. Please contact Jared Horban (574) 400-9100.

VITAE FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRO-LIFE LUNCH & DINNER is Thursday, March 26 at the Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City. Keynote speaker Riley Gaines, NCAA Swimmer & Advocate for Women. For information or questions re: attendance/table sponsor etc., please contact Jenn Hammann at jenn.hammann@vitaefoundation.org

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING is Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 pm. A rosary will be prayed at 6:45 pm. Please read the March newsletter attached to the bulletin.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFERS VIDEO SERIES: Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the *Knights of Columbus* called the "**Mission of The Family.**" The videos can be found on the *Knights of Columbus* website for free! Here is the link and QR Code to find "**The Mission of The Family**" videos: <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html> The five videos are less than 14 minutes in length.

MEN OF ST. THOMAS & ST. CECILIA PARISHES: You are invited to join the Men of Signum Crucis at our next gathering, which begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. This month, we will be treated to a presentation by Levi Frisbie, a Wardsville native and a new FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary who is currently completing his studies at the University of Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla this Spring. Levi will be presenting on the topic of "The State of the Youth in the Church." Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Refreshments and fraternity in the Commons will follow Levi's presentation. We hope you can come every or any third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to deepen your knowledge of and devotion to our faith in fellowship with the best men in mid-Missouri. The mission of the Men of Signum Crucis is to provide Fraternity through Catholic Study, Devotion, and Service. For more information about the Men of Signum Crucis, contact Jeff Cassmeyer at 573-690-7546, or visit us at www.menofsignumcrucis.com.

THE OVER 50 GROUP group will be gathering on March 12, eating at noon at the St Cecilia Parish Center. Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy laughter, fellowship and have a good time. Everyone is welcome to join.

"SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY AT FATIMA" is Thursday, March 19. There will be a musical program by our students in the gym starting at 11:30 am. Lunch will then be provided to all attending starting at 12:40 pm in the cafeteria (courtesy of the Osage County R-III Board of Education. Bus Transportation will be provided from in front of Church, Meta 10:35 am/Folk at 11:00 am. The buses will drop off in front of the new gym entrance. We will have student escorts to guide you to the old gym. We encourage everyone to take advantage.

WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FR. FERDINAND HELIAS: Please join the Westphalia Historical Society to hear featured speaker, Professor James Farris. He will discuss the life of Fr. Ferdinand Helias and his work in the translation of Helias' diary from Latin to English. Additionally, "The Memoirs of Fr. Ferdinand" provided by Jenny Smith of the Historic City of Jefferson will be for sale at the event. The Presentation is Sunday, March 22, 1:00 p.m. Norton Roo, 130 E. Main. Street, Westphalia. The Historical Society Business Meeting will take place following the presentation. There is no cost to attend, but donations are appreciated.

WESTPHALIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHICKEN DINNER & DANCE is Saturday, March 14. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm and dance starts at 8:30 pm. Dinner & Dance ticket: \$25.00 per person, dance only \$15.00 per person. Set ups furnished. Music by Shiloh at the Westphalia KC Hall. For more information or for tickets, please contact Ron Berhorst 573-619-8213 or Russell Voss 573-619-1324.

TAOS KOFC FISH FRIES are March 13 & 27, serving fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, \$15.00 per meal from 4:30-7:30 pm. Kids burger & fries \$7.00. Cash or check only at the Taos KC Hall.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, RUSSELLVILLE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY is March 20, serving catfish filets, coleslaw, fried & boiled potatoes, baked beans, mac & cheese & dessert, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Adults \$14, children 7-12 - \$6.00 in the Parish Hall.

LENTEN FISH FRIES EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT, INCLUDING GOOD FRIDAY, 11:00-1:00 pm, \$15 per plate, fish, fries, slaw and dessert at the American Legion Post 5, 1423 Tanner Bridge Rd.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BISHOP MCAULIFFE COUNCIL #12992 FISH FRY, is March 20, serving white fish fillets, mac & cheese, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, Ice cream & beverages from 4:30-7:00 pm in Cathedral Cana Hall. Drive thru, dine in & carry outs available \$15 for adults, \$6 children, 6-12, \$42 family maximum (family living in same household for dine in only)

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CHICKEN DINNER, WESTPHALIA is Sunday, March 8, serving fried chicken, real mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, coleslaw, homemade bread and dessert from 11:00-6:00 pm. \$15.00 per meal, **DRIVE THRU ONLY.**

ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE PARISH CHICKEN DINNER is Sunday, March 15, serving fried chicken, real mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, slaw, homemade bread & desserts from 12:00-6:00 pm. \$16.00 per plate in the Bonnots Mill Parish Hall.

ST. ANTHONY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY is Friday, March 27, serving fried fish, fried potatoes, baked beans, hush puppies, coleslaw and applesauce from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Adults \$12.00, children 6-12 \$6.00. Carry-outs available.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE is Sunday, March 15, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the St. Stanislaus Gym, Wardsville. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StStanislaus to schedule an appointment.

BREAKING THE SILENCE OF ABUSE: As a Diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the Attorney General's clergy abuse online form. All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information or want to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org

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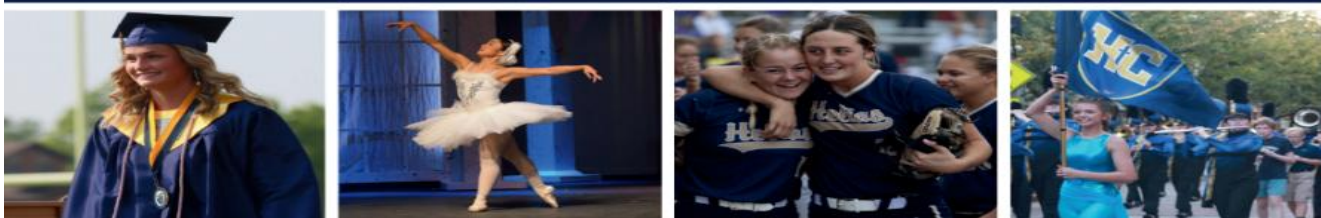
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SAVE THE DATES: Thursday, March 26, Confirmation at St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Thursday, April 30, – Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City
Sunday, July 12 – St. Cecilia Parish Picnic
Totus Tuus - St. Stanislaus Parish - July 12 through July 17

HELIAS CATHOLIC'S SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN. Helias has launched its Spirit of Excellence Campaign to raise \$14 million to build a performing arts center, a baseball/softball complex and an addition to the existing James L. Rackers Field house including necessary updates to its athletic and strength conditioning facilities. The campaign will run through the end of August. For more information and to support the campaign, please visit heliascatholic.com/spiritofexcellence or contact Helias+ Catholic President Ron Vossen at rvossen@heliascatholic.com or 573-635-6139.

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