

The Promise

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

WESTFIELD ✦ NEW JERSEY



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ST. GREGORY THE DIALOGIST

The Holy Spirit as Fire The Holy Spirit as a Dove

You have heard that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in tongues of fire. But why did the Holy Spirit, co-eternal with the Father and the Son, appear as fire? Why as tongues of fire? Why does He sometimes appear as a dove and at other times as a flame? Why did He descend as a dove upon the Only-begotten Son, but as a flame upon the disciples? The Holy Spirit appears as fire because, in the words of the holy Apostle Paul, God is an ethereal, indescribable, and invisible fire: "For our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). God is also called fire because He destroys the rust of sins.

The Lord sends fire down to earth when with the breath of the Holy Spirit

He enflames the hearts of mortal men.

Church teachers possessing the Holy Spirit have their tongues turn into fire because the words of their sermons kindle the hearts of their listeners about needing God's love. This flame

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BY REV. FR. PETER DELVIZIS

Glory to God, parish life is slowly but surely getting back to normal. Capacity limits and mask mandates have been completely lifted.

The challenge for us now is to return to pre-covid church attendance. The pandemic created many obstacles and lifestyle changes which include the "lazy factor" that has crept into our lives.



For over a year, we prayed to our good Lord to deliver us from this great pandemic. Our Lord has heard our prayers and acted, delivering us from the Corona virus. Now is the appropriate time to give praise to God by coming to His church and worshipping Him.

We were deprived for many months the mystical gifts that come

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Dates in the Life of Our Church

June–July 2021

✠ JUNE

5 1:00 PM Wedding

6 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

8 8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

7:30 PM Parish Council

10 Holy Ascension

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

12 3:00 PM Wedding

13 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Graduation

12:00 PM Baptism

19 Saturday of Souls

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM Baptism

20 Pentecost

8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

21 Holy Spirit/Parish Feast Day

9:15 AM Orthros

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

26 11:00 AM Baptism

27 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

28 6:00 PM Great Vespers

29 Sts. Peter and Paul

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

✠ JULY

4 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

10:45 AM Doxology for Independence Day

5 3:00 PM Wedding

10 11:00 AM Baptism

11 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

18 8:15 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

1:00 PM Baptism



↳ Continued from page 1

to us from the spiritual banquet table being unable to enter the house of God to break bread and eat of the Eucharist meal.

Now we must be good servants and children of God by coming together to render the proper thanks. As a community of believers, we need to be in the house of God worshipping Him, receiving His blessings, eating from the Eucharistic table, and praying for salvation.

When the Church speaks of fellowship, it is speaking to us about the Eucharist gathering. The Eucharist gathering is the faithful coming together to assemble around the holy altar table to praise, worship, and commune with God.

Other social gatherings at 250 Gallows Hill Road will still happen. These opportunities will always be with us. But now is the time to act as grateful Orthodox Christians to put our faith in action by entering the temple of Holy Trinity to thank God. To gather in worship must be our present priority. The Church never leaves us as orphans. We may stray, as did the Prodigal, we may become preoccupied with other pursuits, but the Church is always here for us, praying for us.

As the Church knows her mission and seeks to fulfill it daily, we are called to unite with her and allow the Gospel of Jesus Christ to become our guiding force that directs our every action in our lives.

I invite you inside the temple of Holy Trinity to worship our Triune God with fervor and faith. ❖



A Prayer of Deliverance

Almighty and merciful God, I most humbly and heartily thank Your divine majesty for Your loving kindness and tender mercies, having heard my humble prayer, and graciously vouchsafed to deliver me from the terrible pandemic. Grant me Your continuing grace that I may keep my good resolution and correct the errors of my past life. May I improve in virtue and live a new life in dutiful reverence of You, doing Your will in all things, and devoting this new life which You have given me to worship of You. And by living for You, I may be found worthy when it pleases You, to call me to You, O heavenly Father, to whom with Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your All-holy and Life-giving Spirit is due all honor, praise, glory, thanksgiving, and worship now and forever, and unto the ages, of ages. Amen.

The Fathers Speak

You must purify your intellect completely through stillness and engage it ceaselessly in spiritual work. For just as the eye is attentive to sensible things and is fascinated by what it sees, so the purified intellect is attentive to intelligible realities and becomes so rapt by spiritual contemplation that it is hard to tear it away. And the more the intellect is stripped of the passions and purified through stillness, the greater the spiritual knowledge it is found worthy to receive. The intellect is perfect when it transcends knowledge of created things and is united with God: having then attained a royal dignity it no longer allows itself to be pauperized or aroused by lower desires, even if offered all the kingdoms of the world.

If, therefore, you want to acquire all these virtues, be detached from every man, flee

the world and sedulously follow the path of the saints. Dress shabbily, behave simply, speak unaffectedly, do not be haughty in the way you walk, live in poverty and let yourself be despised by everyone. Above all, guard the intellect and be watchful, patiently enduring indigence and hardship, and keeping intact and undisturbed the spiritual blessings that you have been granted. Pay strict attention to yourself, not allowing any sensual pleasure to infiltrate. For the soul's passions are allayed by stillness; but when they are stimulated and aroused, they grow more savage and force us into greater sin; and they become hard to cure, like the body's wounds when they are scratched and chafed. Even an idle word can make the intellect forget God, the demons enforcing this with the compliance of the senses. ❖

- *Abba Pilemon's instructions to Paulinos*



Just as we want God to love us, to forgive us, to ignore our mistakes, to watch over us, to protect us with His providence, so let us offer the same to our brother. Sorry has no trouble, no difficulty. What's needed; It needs humility. By forgiving the other, we will receive the forgiveness of our innumerable sins and we will have every right to say to God: "Lord, I have forgiven all that people have done to me; Your Gospel, according to Your Word. Now I also ask you to express Your love on me and to forgive my own sins".

The Holy Spirit

↳ *Continued from page 1*

was acquired from the mouth of the Lord Himself by those who said: "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us... and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32), because from the spoken word the spirit is kindled, its cold rigidity is dispelled, the soul begins to burn with lofty aspirations, and distances itself from earthly desires. Celestial commandments are never heeded with a cold heart, but with a heart burning with the fire of inner love for them.

The Holy Spirit appeared both as a dove and as fire, because He makes all those whom He encompasses both pure and ardent – pure as a dove and fiery in their ardor. Such a combination of ardor and purity is the only one acceptable to God. Thus, since the Spirit teaches both righteousness and purity, He had to appear as a dove, so that every heart touched by His grace would be tranquil with meekness and fiery with ardor for the truth.

Yet why did the Holy Spirit appear as a dove over our Redeemer, our Intercessor between God and men, but upon the disciples He descended as fire? It is well-known that the Only-begotten Son of God is the Judge of mankind. But who could have borne His judgment if He, before gathering us together in meekness, had judged our sins with ardor for truth? Thus, having made Himself Man for the sake of men, He appeared meek before men. He did not want to destroy sinners, but wished to gather them to Him; He wished first to rectify them through meekness, in order to have with Him those who could later be saved on the Day of Judgment. For this reason, the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove over the One Who came not to destroy sinners through ardor, but to bear them a while longer through meekness. On the other hand, upon the disciples the Holy Spirit had to descend as fire, so that they, being plain people and even sinners, could spiritually enflame other slaves of sin to rebel against their sins and cleanse by means of repentance those sins which God had spared through

meekness. And the fact that even adepts of the Heavenly Teacher are not without sin is confirmed by St. John, who says: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

Thus the Holy Spirit descended as fire upon people and as a dove upon the Lord because we, in our ardor for truth, must carefully notice and burn with the fire of constant repentance those of our sins which the Lord mercifully bore through meekness. Consequently, the Spirit appeared over the Redeemer in the form of a dove and over people in the form of fire, because the more moderate is our Judge's strictness towards us, the more must our weakness be enflamed against its own self. ❖

Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 20

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

Holy Trinity

Feast Day of the Parish, June 21

Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Saints Peter & Paul

June 29

Today the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul. St. Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, is celebrated for the profound confession of Christ's Divinity: *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.* In response our Saviour deemed Peter worthy by saying: *Blessed art thou, Simon ... I tell thee, that thou art Peter, and on this stone [petra] I build My Church.* (Mt.16:16-18). On "this stone" [petra], is the basis of Peter's confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" it is on this confession that I build My Church. Hear the Apostle Paul: Brethren, I do not want ye to be ignorant, says the Apostle of Christ, *how all our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.* - (1 Cor.10: 1-4).

After His Resurrection, the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because Peter alone was pre-deserving to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because he was the first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church. Besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, the top Apostle, Christ confirms the unity of the Church. *Simon of John -- says the Lord to Peter -- do you love Me? -- and the Apostle answered: Yes, Lord, You know that I love You;* and a second time it was again asked, and a second time he answered the same; being asked a third time, see-



ing that as it were not believed, he was saddened. But how is it possible for him not to believe That One, Who knew his heart? And wherefore then Peter answered: *Lord, You know all; You know that I love You.* And Jesus said to him all three times, *Feed My sheep.* - (John 21:15-17)

It is remarkable that Christ, having said to Peter: *Feed My sheep,* did not say: *Feed your sheep,* but rather to feed, good servant, the sheep of the Lord. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul? - (1 Cor.1:13). *Feed My sheep.* Wherefore *wolfish robbers, wolfish oppressors, deceitful teachers and mercenaries, not being concerned about the flock* - (Mt.7:15; Acts 20:29; 2 Pet 2:1; John 10:12), having plundered a strange flock and making of the spoils as though it be of their own particular gain, they think that they feed their flock. Such are not good pastors, as pastors of the Lord. *The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep* - (John 10:11), entrusted to Him by the chief Shepherd Himself (1 Pet 5:4). And the Apostle Peter, true to his calling, gave his soul for the very flock of Christ, having sealed his apostleship by a martyr's death, is now glorified throughout all the world. ❖

Apolytikion of the Chief Apostles

O Foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.



The Assembly Of The HOLY GLORIOUS AND PRAISEWORTHY APOSTLES

Even though each of the Twelve Great Apostles has his own feastday during the year, the Church has set aside June 30 as a great synaxis feast for all the Apostles. (*Principle Feast Days for the Apostles and how they were martyred for Christ and the Gospel.*)

St. Peter the Chief Apostle - June 29 and January 16, (Crucifixion, upside down)

St. Andrew the First Called - November 30, (Crucifixion on an X-shaped cross)

St. James the Son of Zebedee, April 30, (Beheaded)

St. John the Evangelist and Theologian, September 26 and May 8, (died in a miraculous manner)

St. Philip, November 14, (Crucifixion, upside down)

St. Bartholomew (Nathaniel), June 11 and August 25, (Scrapped (flayed) and beheaded.)

St. Thomas, October 6, (Pierced by five spears)

St. Matthew the Evangelist, November 16 (Burned alive)

St. James, the Son of Alphaeus, October 9, (Crucifixion)

St. Jude (Thaddeus), the Brother of James, June 19 (Crucifixion)

St. Simon the Zealot, May 10, (Crucifixion)

St. Matthias (the one who replaced Judas), August 9, (Stoned and Beheaded)

St. Paul the Great, June 29, (Beheaded), always included with the twelve.

The 200 Anniversary of The Greek Revolution of 1821

■ BY MRS. STAVROULA MERGOUPIS,
HOLY TRINITY GREEK SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL

This year, the 200th Anniversary of the Greek Revolutionary War for Independence, we honor and remember those who revolted in 1821, in order to overthrow Ottoman rule. A harsh, draconian rule, under which the Hellenic Ethnos was for 400 years enslaved and almost erased from the histories among free nations.

The Revolution of 1821 is a moment of perseverance and triumph. It is in itself a significant event, the most important event in our recent history, for it was the first successful revolution of an Eastern European nation against the Ottoman Turkish Empire. It is the revolution of a people who, disappointed by the attitude of the then Great Powers, decided to believe in themselves and try with their own forces to claim Freedom. The date of March 25, in honor of the 'Evangelismos of the Panagia', was selected to be the genesis of the revolution, in order to guide, protect and defend the Hellenic Ethnos against her oppressors.

"Out of the bones // the sanctuaries of the Greeks // and as the first courageous // rejoice oh rejoice Freedom", Solomos writes in the "Hymn to Freedom".

In these 400 years, the Greeks had made other efforts to gain their freedom. But the difference between the previous uprisings and the Revolution of 1821 is that the previous up-

risings were carried out with the help of foreign forces, while at that moment, the newly formed nation decided to rely on its own strength of character and resolve. With the struggles and sacrifices of the heroes and heroines of the Greek Ethnos, the descendants of Greece are able to live freely and justly; preserving their religious faith, cultural customs, history, and language for many years to come. The qualities of Hellenism have become immortalized, because of this momentous event of revolution; a revolution to preserve the cultural and religious identity of a people.

With their heroism, the Greeks of that generation managed to liberate the Greek land, which became the catalyst for the liberation of the remaining unredeemed areas in the years that followed. Let us always remember the wisdom and sacrifices of our beloved ancestors, during the age of heroic men and women, who fought for religious and cultural liberties on behalf of all ethnic Greeks.

Long live the eternal glory and honor of beloved Greece! ❖

ZHTΩ Η 25Η ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 1821!
ΖHTΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!
ΖHTΩ Η ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ!



Special American Legion Hellenic Post 440 Presentation to Holy Trinity

On Sunday, May 30, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, American Legion Hellenic Post 440 presented a special donation to Holy Trinity. Commander Bill Theofanous, with other members of the Post, gifted the parish with a check in the amount of \$60,000.

We are thankful to Hellenic Post 440 and those brave veterans who comprise this Chapter and are greatly appreciative of their generous donation. ❖



Holy Trinity Parish Assembly Votes to Extend Stewardship Card Due Date to June 15

Please know that in light of the extenuating circumstances of the COVID pandemic, the Parish Assembly of Holy Trinity at the May 23 meeting decided to extend the Stewardship Card due date June 15 for this year only. This date is important as only parishioners who have submitted their Stewardship Card by this due date can vote in parish elections or seek elective office. Please preserve your right to vote and submit your Stewardship Card by the June 15 deadline. For your convenience, the Stewardship Card is also available online on the Holy Trinity website:

holytrinitywestfield.org/stewardship-program

Submit your Stewardship Card by Tuesday, June 15



Trinity Circle

Update

■ BY AVI KIRIAKATIS, PRESIDENT

XRISTOS ANESTI!

Our prayers go out to all our Trinity Circle members who are not well.

A big thank you to Joy Steele for donating the lovely ribbons with ivy for our pew spacers that give a new glow to our Holy Trinity Church.

Several members came out to help make koulourakia for NJ GreekFest To Go and had a wonderful time.

Every day we pray that everyone stays well so we will be able to meet each other on a regular basis in the future.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in Church. ❖



GOYA

Update

■ BY THOMAS SAVORGIANNAKIS, GOYA PRESIDENT

Christos Anesti! As the spring winds down and goes into summer, it is hard to believe this GOYA year has come to an end. Through our many cancelations and disappointments, we still found ways to have fun through COVID safe events. Although we did not participate in the events we were expecting, this will definitely be the most memorable year. I was happy to see how enthusiastic GOYA members were about coming to our local events, even with COVID restrictions.

Virtual Retreat:

On April 17th, the NNJYC hosted a lenten retreat through zoom for all GOYAs to attend. This event was hosted by Steve Christoforou, who runs the “Be the Bee” program, which is a video series in which Steve finds ways to make religion interesting for people to understand.

Clothing Drive:

Back by popular demand was the clothing drive on May 15th. This was a great way for community members to do spring cleaning, and help GOYA raise money for outreach programs.

Election:

On May 16 GOYA held their annual election for next year’s board and executive board members.

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 GOYA Officers:

- President – Maggie Vasilopoulos
- Vice President – Despina Tarhanidis
- Treasurer – Francesca Kastanos
- Recording Secretary – Molly Love
- Corresponding Secretary – Alexandra Vasilopoulos

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Board at Large:

Catie Carayannopoulos, John Colonias, Athena Ioannou, Bobby Liberatos, Niko Skalkotos, Nadia Tarhanidis, Conor West

Holy Trinity Oratorical Finalists, Bobby Liberatos and Nicholas Zotos with Fr. Peter and George Fousasianes.

Greek Fest:

On June 4th and 5th we hosted our annual Greek Fest "To Go", which may have looked a little different this year. GOYAnS were asked to help to make this a successful event for our community. Thank you to all that volunteered and supported, your help is much appreciated! On June 6th was a Holy Trinity community only continuation of our festival. On this day our Greek Dance group was able to perform and show off the dances they learned this past year, as this was the only performance.

End of Year Senior Recognition:

On June 25 we honored our seniors at a senior sendoff. All GOYA members were invited to spend some quality time with our seniors, while wishing them well.

I want to thank Father Peter, my advisors, and fellow GOYAnS for making my teenage years the most fun they could ever be. Starting GOYA in 7th grade I really thought to myself, "How fun would a religious youth group really be?" Now, 5 years later, I can confidently say it surpassed my expectations. At this age there is nowhere else that I could meet so many people with the same religion and culture as me, in which we could relate. I have made so many friendships over the years, that I already know will last a lifetime. As I attend college in Hoboken, I will be close by and will be thinking about our community. Also congratulations to all my fellow seniors and good luck in your post high school endeavors. Wishing everyone a safe, and hopefully more normal, summer. Thank you GOYA, I will miss you! ❖





SAVE THE DATE

and tell your friends and business associates

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
JUNE 4-5, 2021**

Sunday June 6th
reserved for Parish Members only

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Presents.....

NJ GREEKFEST To Go

Volunteers are needed for cooking, baking, filling orders, running food, etc. SignUpGenius coming soon.

Questions? Please email Christina Colonias at czcolonias@yahoo.com

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**SAT.
MAY 15
2021**

DRIVE THROUGH & DROP OFF

9:30-10:30 AM



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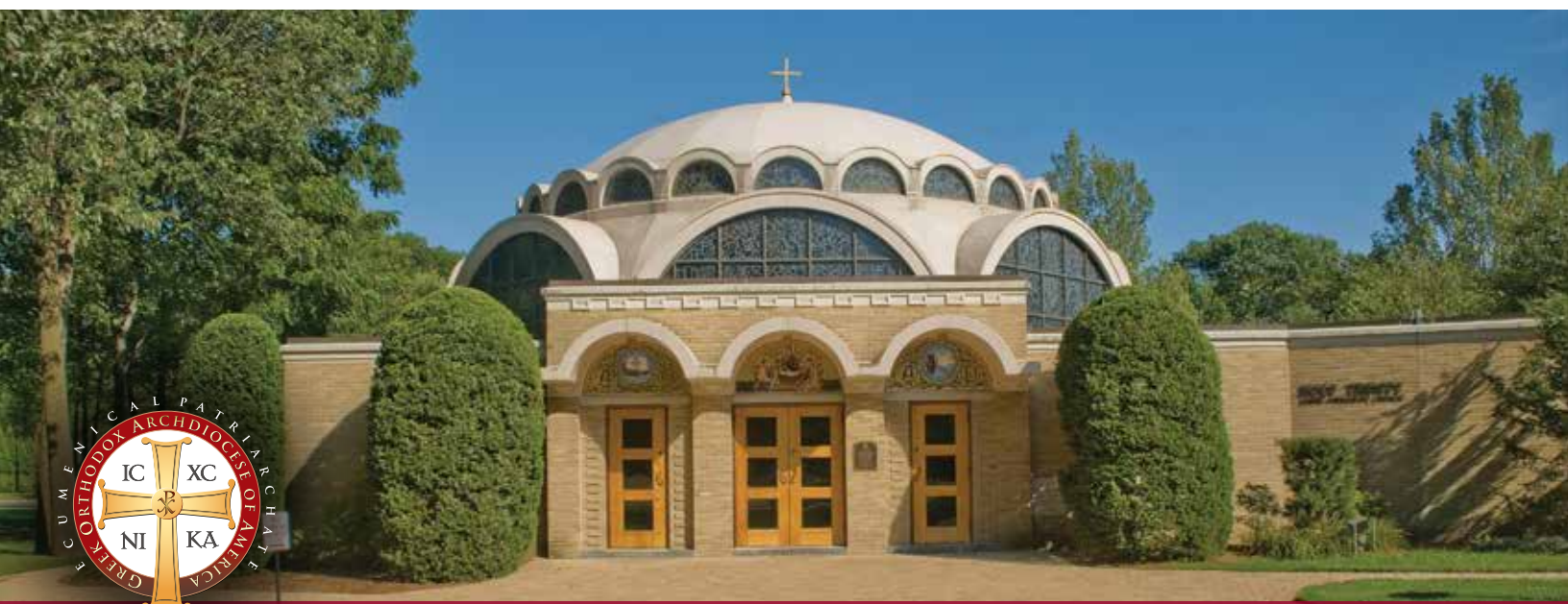
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Caretaker Madalena Czachor

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Choir Director Kathryn Athanasoulas
Organist Phyllis Verenes
Head Acolyte John Colonias

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Cultural Celia Kapsomera, Co-chair
Nitsa Bruno, Co-chair
Trinity Circle Avi Kiriakatis
Fellowship Lauren Karanikolas

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

| | Sundays | Weekdays |
|----------------|---------|----------|
| Orthros | 8:15 AM | 8:30 AM |
| Divine Liturgy | 9:30 AM | 9:30 AM |

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