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St. Matthew's R.C. Parish
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Tel: (604) 589-2448 Fax: (604) 589-2344
Website: www.saintmatthews.ca

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Tien Tran, Pastor - ttran@rcav.org;
- frtientran9@gmail.com
Rev. Patrick Le, Asst. Pastor - ple@rcav.org
Rev. Mark Gazin, CSB Part-time Asst. Pastor - mgazin@rcav.org
Dcn. Steven Potusek, Deacon - spotusek@rcav.org

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Rectory: 604-589-2083
Office: 604-589-2448 parish.smat@rcav.org

Parish Admin: Caroline Mrazek
Anna De Leon
Bookkeeper: Ma. Lourdes Tejada
P.R.E.P.: Christine Maypa - prep@saintmatthews.ca
Maintenance: Lorne Ward - lorne@saintmatthews.ca
Principal: Deborah Welsh - wels@stmatthewselementary.ca

Elementary School: 604-589-7545 - www.stmatthewselementary.ca
Preschool: 604-589-1222 - preschool@stmatthewselementary.ca

Sunday, December 3, 2023



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." - Mk 13:35

REGULAR MASS TIMES

SATURDAY: Anticipated Mass - 5:30 PM
SUNDAY: English Mass - 8:30 & 10:30 AM
12:30 & 7:30 PM
Vietnamese Mass - 5:00 PM
Last Sunday 12:30 PM (Mass in English with African Choir)

WEEKDAYS: Monday to Friday (except TUESDAY) - 8:00 AM
Tuesday - 7:00 PM
Friday - 7:00 PM (Vietnamese)
First Friday—7:00 PM (in English)
Saturday and Holidays - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS
Weekend & Daily Masses: half an hour before Mass

OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING

REGULAR DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary
30 minutes before daily Mass

Divine Mercy
Tuesday after the 7 PM Mass

Our Lady of Fatima
3rd Monday of the month 6:30-7 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Saturday after the 9 AM Mass

First Friday
After the 8 AM Mass -
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:00 noon Benediction
6:25 PM—Holy Rosary

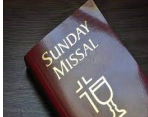

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon.	Dec. 4	Catholic Pacific College Breakfast Fundraiser
Thu.	Dec. 7	Witness to Love Date Night
Fri.	Dec. 15	Simbang Gabi Begins
Sat.	Dec. 16	Christmas Concert

(see details inside)

2024 Sunday Missal and Calendar are available

Missal—\$5 Calendar—\$2


Advent
PREPARING THE WAY

1st Sunday OF ADVENT

BAPTISM: By appointment with a minimum of 2 months' notice (during pregnancy) so that instructions can be given to parents and godparents about the duties and responsibilities assumed in this Sacrament. Contact parish.smat@rcav.org.

MARRIAGE: A minimum of 6 months' notice with one of the parties registered in the parish and practicing his/her faith. The Marriage Preparation course is mandatory. Please ask for "Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage".

FUNERALS: Please call the parish office before making arrangements.



Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? **"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep."** Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

- Father John Muir
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LIVE THE LITURGY

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: "When we lose you" she kept saying, instead of "When you die."

It's very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

"You can't do all your homework at the end," a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. "Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us."

I think of that a lot when I don't particularly feel like praying, when I think I'm too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to Church. *All our good deeds are like polluted rags*, says the prophet. *We have all withered like leaves.*

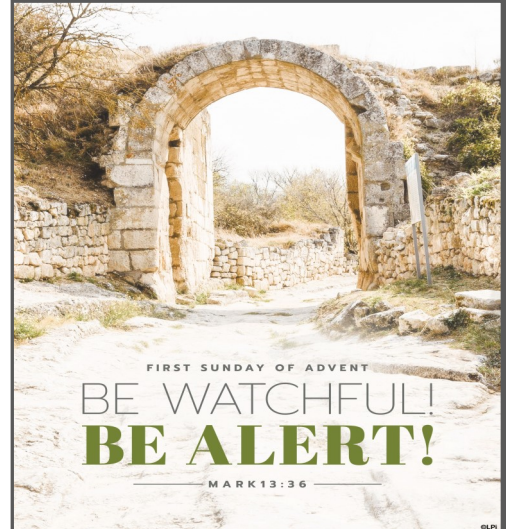
You can't do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

"May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"
— Mark 13:36

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CONTACT LIST - ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH COUNCIL

African Community	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Mrs. Teodora Suzuki	teodora.suzuki@gmail.com
Altar Women	Mrs. Margaret Pereira	604-589-2448
Bereavement Ministry	Dcn. Steven Potusek	spotusek@rcav.org
BLD Community	Ms. France Alayon / Mrs. Nerrie Hombrebueno	francealayon@yahoo.com neriehombre@gmail.com
Bible Study	Mrs. Louise Klaponski	cwlstmatthewssurrey@gmail.com
Catholic Women's League	Mr. Johan Rego	cvasurrey@gmail.com
Catholic Young Adults of Surrey (CYAS)	Ms. Hoang Nguyen	hoangn.nguyen93@gmail.com
Choirs: Fri 7 PM	Mrs. Letty Regis	letic@telus.net
Sat 5:30 PM	Mrs. Kathleen Grosjean	grosjean@shaw.ca
Sun 8:30 AM	Mr. Peter Luongo	sluongo@telus.net
10:30 AM	Mr. Homer Garcia-Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
12:30 PM	Ms. Tina Obiwumma	augustinaobiwumma@gmail.com
(last Sunday) 12:30 PM	Mr. Vincent Nguyen	vien4cdsurrey@gmail.com
5 PM	Ms. Nannette Lenoue-Guze	nannettelg@gmail.com
7:30 PM	Mrs. Maureen Fadum	mgfadum@gmail.com
Community Outreach Ministry	M/M Homer & Me- Ann Reyes	askmymusichomer@gmail.com
Couples for Christ	Mrs. Ann Amsing	annamsing@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Ministry	Mrs. Deborah Joel	djoel@positec.com
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Mr. Andre Maris	anne_andre_maris@telus.net
Fifty Plus Group	Mr. Shane Gogo	shanegogo@gmail.com
Gift Bearers	Mr. Jon Javier	jon2ejavier@yahoo.com
Knights of Columbus	Mrs. Julie Bala-Cunningham	morillabala@yahoo.com
Lectors	Ms. Ariel Bejer	arielbejer@gmail.com
Legion of Mary	Ms. Alexandra Jose	ajose.smp@hotmail.com
Liturgy of the Word for Children 10:30AM	M/M Dave/Doreen McKinnon	doreenmck@shaw.ca
12:30PM	Mrs. Germana Brotto	grbrotto@gmail.com
Marriage Prep-Witness to Love	Mrs. Teresa Gares	tgares@live.com
Our Lady of Fatima	Mr. Peter Tang	peter_tang@me.com
Pro Life Ministry	Mr. Tim McKinnon	tjm3499@gmail.com
Parish Education Committee	Mrs. Katrina Amurao	katrina.amurao@gmail.com
Parish Council	Mr. Abimbola Fagbamiye	bolingo1@mac.com
Pastoral Council	Dcn. Steven Potusek	spotusek@rcav.org
Project Advance	Ms. Christie Castro	SMPGPrayerline@hotmail.com
R.C.I.A.	Mr. Paul Stevens	604-589-2448
St. Matthew's Prayer Group	Mr. Eric Andres	604-589-2448
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	Mr. Marlowe Billedo	marlowe25@hotmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Mr. Tot Phan	totphan@gmail.com
Sports Ministry (Basketball)	Mr. Gerry Petines	glpetines@gmail.com
Sports Ministry (Volleyball)	Mr. Minh Nguyen	minhnguyen725@shaw.ca
Ushers	Ms. Van Nguyen	kathynguyen027@gmail.com
Vietnamese Community	Ms. Eleanor Wong	eleanorwong@aol.com
Youth Ministry		



GOSPEL
When you are invited to a big party, you get prepared. You take a bath. You wear your finest outfit and shoes. You take a gift to the host. God has invited you to his heavenly party. Get prepared for it. You want to be ready. You are God's gift. Give your soul a bath in God's waters of forgiveness. Dress yourself in a white robe. Wear shoes that are guided by GPS - God's Personal Soul Saving System.

PRAYER
Lord, prepare me for heaven's party.

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2023 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come and hear
St. Matthew's Choirs in Concert

"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth" ~ Luke 1:14



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 7 PM

Free Tickets Available From the Welcome Center



St Matthew's R.C. Church, Fleetwood, Surrey BC



SIMBANG GABI 2023

- Friday, December 15 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 16 5:30 PM
- Sunday, December 17 7:30 PM
- Monday, December 18 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 19 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 20 7:00 PM
- Thursday, December 21 7:00 PM
- Friday, December 22 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 23 5:30 PM

ABP. MILLER'S MESSAGE FOR ADVENT



<https://rcav.org/announcements/17028>

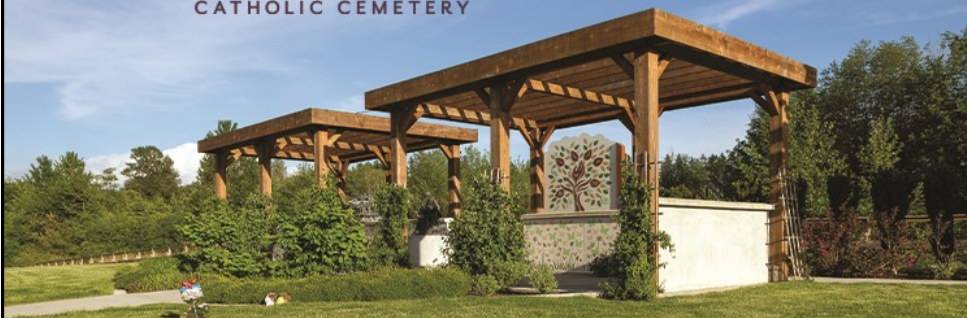
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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

I want to express my gratitude to the parents of Special Events committee for their assistance during the recent Workshop and Movie Night. Thank you for making this possible.

December Calendar

- December 6 Early Dismissal – Staff Christmas Party
- December 13 Mass Students and Family meet in the Church
- December 20 No Class – Christmas Break
- December 24 Christmas Pageant – Christmas Eve - Children's Mass 5:00 pm

Christmas Pageant:

Attention all PREP and SMES students! Please note that attendance to at least two out of three rehearsals is mandatory. The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 24th at the Children's Mass at 5:00 pm. Roles available include: Wisemen(2) and Shepherds(3). Parent volunteers are also needed, and those interested can email prep@saintmatthews.ca or Ms. Alex Jose at ajo-se.smp@hotmail.com. Please take note of the changes for the rehearsal date.

The rehearsal dates are as follows:

- December 9th, Saturday: 10:30-11:30 am rehearsal followed by lunch & costume assignment (12:30 pickup)
- December 17th, Sunday: 3:00-4:30 pm Dress Rehearsal, drop off and pick up at the Church
- December 23rd, Saturday: 10:30am-12:00 noon Final Dress Rehearsal, drop off and pick up at the Church

For Level 7 & Grade 7 Students, this event qualifies for 20 Service points for Church or community.

PREP Email:

Please add prep@saintmatthews.ca in your contact list to avoid mails going into junk/spam

PREP office hours: Wednesday 9am – 3pm and 5–8pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

A big thank you to all for your continued dedication in ensuring that your children attend prep classes weekly. It is so wonderful that we can continue to grow in our faith together.

CHRISTINE MAYPA - PREP Coordinator

Email: prep@saintmatthews.ca or call 604-5892448 ext 233

If we want children and teens to become lifelong Catholics and members of the Church, we have to start now by involving the whole family in the life of the Church -John Roberto, Family Catechesis

St. Matthew's Parish Hall
16079 88 Ave, Surrey



CATHOLIC PACIFIC COLLEGE

catholicpacific.ca/fundraiser
Registration ends November 27

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

TEXAS BRUNCH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

MASS @ 8AM • PROGRAM @ 9AM • KEYNOTE @ 9:45AM

TICKETS \$30

For more info: 778-869-1167



- Mass @ 8am
- Texas Brunch
- Keynote Speaker
- Live Advent Sacred Music
- Student Testimonials
- Message from the Founders

Keynote Speaker
Fr. Deacon
Andrew Bennett



CATHOLIC PACIFIC COLLEGE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Catholic Pacific College would like to invite you to Texas Breakfast (steak, eggs, hash brown, and more) Fundraiser hosted at **St. Matthew's Parish Hall on Monday morning, December 4.**

There will be Mass at 8am in the parish, and the program will begin at 9am. Guest speaker is **Fr. Deacon Andrew Bennett**, a member of the Board of Governors and Program Director for Faith Communities at Cardus. Fr. Deacon Andrew is a fantastic speaker and you will enjoy the morning program that have been lined up. There will be live Sacred Advent Music, student testimonies, and a word from the school founder, Tom Hamel. Tickets are \$30 each. https://youtu.be/IYWDiullFWs?si=rbn_Wwi-JWUw7ERN

GIVE 2025 CAMPAIGN

MARRIAGE MINISTRY



All married couples, including mentor and mentee couples under the Witness to Love Program, are invited to join us for a joy-filled dinner of celebration and encouragement. It's a time set aside to:

- Have intentional marriage-strengthening conversations
- Learn and laugh with other couples with the same values
- Hit pause and make space for your relationship, allowing the grace of God to shed wisdom and light to see each other in a new way

Cost is \$30/couple. On **Thursday, December 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Parish Center.** Registration deadline: **Thursday, November 30.** Register at <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/date-night>.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Our **Jesse Tree** is at the front of the Church and will remain there for the following two weekends, **Dec. 2 & 3 and Dec. 9 & 10.** On it are hanging tags requesting items to fill our various families' Christmas Hampers. Thank you for helping us fill those needs by taking a tag and returning the requested item with the tag attached to the office before **the date indicated on the back.** Please note, the dates vary as we have had many requests. We want to complete the hampers in batches. **If you are returning a gift card, kindly indicate the dollar value on the card or card envelope with the tag attached.** The gift cards best suited for the needs of our clients are from establishments where they can purchase food and clothing and other essentials.



Thank you for all the help you extend to us so that we can help those less fortunate than us.

PROJECT ADVANCE



So far to date, out of a total of 2677 families, only 408 families (or 15.2%) have contributed to Project Advance. That means there are over 2200 families that have not contributed. This year, we are hoping for an increase in the level of participation among our parishioners.



Our parish's rebate from Project Advance will go towards paying for the mortgage on our Parish Centre which provides critical meeting spaces for ministries and groups. It will also assist us to pay our share of the assessment for rebuilding Holy Cross Regional Secondary School.

We need all of us to pitch in NOW! Any contribution will be appreciated, and NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL. Please contribute what you can but please participate and give. You can give online at projectadvance.ca, or in-person at our Parish Office. You can also pick up a pledge form at the Welcome Centre and make a gift today.



DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Please pray the Holy Rosary daily



Please include in your prayers **All the Souls in Purgatory**
Eternal rest grant upon them O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Pray For
Desiree & Virgilio Pino; Liz Da Costa; Tommy Contreras; Victor Miller; Gerry Della Mattia; Helen Doyle-Stote; Horst & Elsa Seliger; Demetrio Tamparia; Angelita Correa; Edgardo Olivares; Alex; David Keenan; Alberto Ordonez; Colleen Salmon; Teresita Dimaano; Irene Collingwood; Antonio, Adela, Arvin, Johnna, Virgilio & Karen Guinto; Jane & Eunice Dare; Adelaida, Ronald & Andrew De Leon; Felix Djuhari; Sueann Zore; Cathy, Colleen & Gavin Herrera; Jaime & Nita Fermalan; Emilia & Rose Sayson; Norbert De La Tour; Ma. Lydia Ramirez; Yvonne Bailey; Cora De Jesus; Mary Grace Navasca; Lario Roma; Vicenta Ty; Leny Uy; John Pinto; Ricardo Piraquive; Rowena Serviento; Leonora Fejer; Roy Arbiol; Ely Pamintuan; Andrea Bernabey; Caceres, Rios, Alonso and Santa Cruz family; Pablito Basit; Helena Olivares; Consuelo Santos; Margaret Lee; Valeriana Quinto; Deanna Maceda Silva; Lena Pinto; Gregorio De Guzman; Concepcion Romero; Paul Fernandes; Scott Strobel; Don Barber; Jorge Papa; Lynn Hagglund; Juliet Buan-Torres & Joseph De La Cruz.; Mitch Montero; Talah Bautista; Mauricio Engada; Martha Doyle; Luz Eugenio; Pam Barthelette; Alanna Mckinley; Regina Diolata; Lawrence & Susan Odubajo; Theresa Fagbamiye; Naty Parinas; Mary Ann Cabading; Jurest Pe Perion; Greg Narciso

Priority on this list is given to parishioners, **as space permits.** Names will be removed from time to time. If you submit a name to the Prayer List, **it is your responsibility** to inform the office should his/her circumstances change.

Were you married outside the Catholic Church?

If you are married, but were not married in the Catholic church, we would like to offer you an opportunity to have your marriage regularized with the Church. Please make an appointment with our priest to discuss having your marriage convalidated.

Sacrament of the Sick. What was referred to as "Last Rites" is now called "Anointing of the Sick" administered by a priest when one is "in danger" due to sickness or old age. Please call the Parish Office to arrange.

Care Home Communion Visits. Please remember to let the Parish Office know whenever you or a loved one is hospitalized or moved into a Fleetwood area care home. The Parish has a dedicated group of people who will bring Holy Communion weekly to you or yours.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) CORNER



Advent is a season of preparation.

We are now preparing our membership renewals for 2024. An envelope will soon be in the mail for every member. Please take time to read and complete the membership form before it gets lost in the holiday festivities, and remember to pause and ponder with prayer the needs of our homebound and elderly members. Send a card or make a phone call. May Mary, Mother of us all, wrap her arms around them and bring them comfort and joy.

Come, join us to help in all our community and parish activities for the remainder of 2023 as a volunteer, and contribute in January 2024 toward CWL membership. Membership forms are available at the Parish Office or email us - cwlstmatthewssurrey@gmail.com.

Share the Word



32. Mentorship: Mentorship includes guidance, inspiration and encouragement. The Catholic Women's League is a sisterhood of mentors willing to walk with you. Come be part of the journey.

ST. MATTHEW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



New Family Applications 2024-2025

For any families wishing to have their child attend our school for the 2024-2025 school year, application forms will be available at the school office beginning **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 9:00AM.** Application forms are only available at the school office. If you have any questions please contact the office at 604-589-7545 or office@stmatthewselementary.ca Thank you.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL & OUT OF SCHOOL CARE



Job Opportunity: St. Matthew's Preschool & Out-of-School Care is hiring a licensed ECE / ECE Assistant Teacher. Please email pre-school@stmatthewselementary.ca for the full job description and details.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL SPRING BREAK BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP



Who and When:

January 2nd—5th 9am-11am Boys and Girls currently in Gr 4-7

Where: St Matthew's Elementary Gymnasium 16065 88 Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 1G3

Why: To improve overall basketball skills, meet future classmates and have fun.
How: Email Head Coach/Teacher Matthew LeChasseur hchoysbasketball@gmail.com to **confirm your child's spot** in the camp. It is limited space and first come first serve. Download and fill out a registration form at www.hchoysbasketball.com and bring a cheque/cash and completed registration form on the first day of the camp.
Cost: \$100.00 includes daily Gatorade and prizes.

Life without End Workshop

Join an Engaging 3-part workshop with Catholic resources on eternal life, meaningful funerals, and sacred burial.

Friday January 19th St. Matthews Parish 9:00am - 11:00am

- I Hope and Positive Vision
- II Mystery of Death
- III Spiritual and Practical Preparation

Workshop Leader: Peter Nobes
Director of Catholic Cemeteries

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HEATING

- Mid-efficiency Boiler
- High-efficiency Boiler
- Furnace High-efficiency
- Hot water Tank
- (Mid-efficiency, Hot water on Demand, Power Vent)

Air Conditioning

- Split Type
- Multi Zone
- Centralize
- Heat Pump

778.593.1090



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