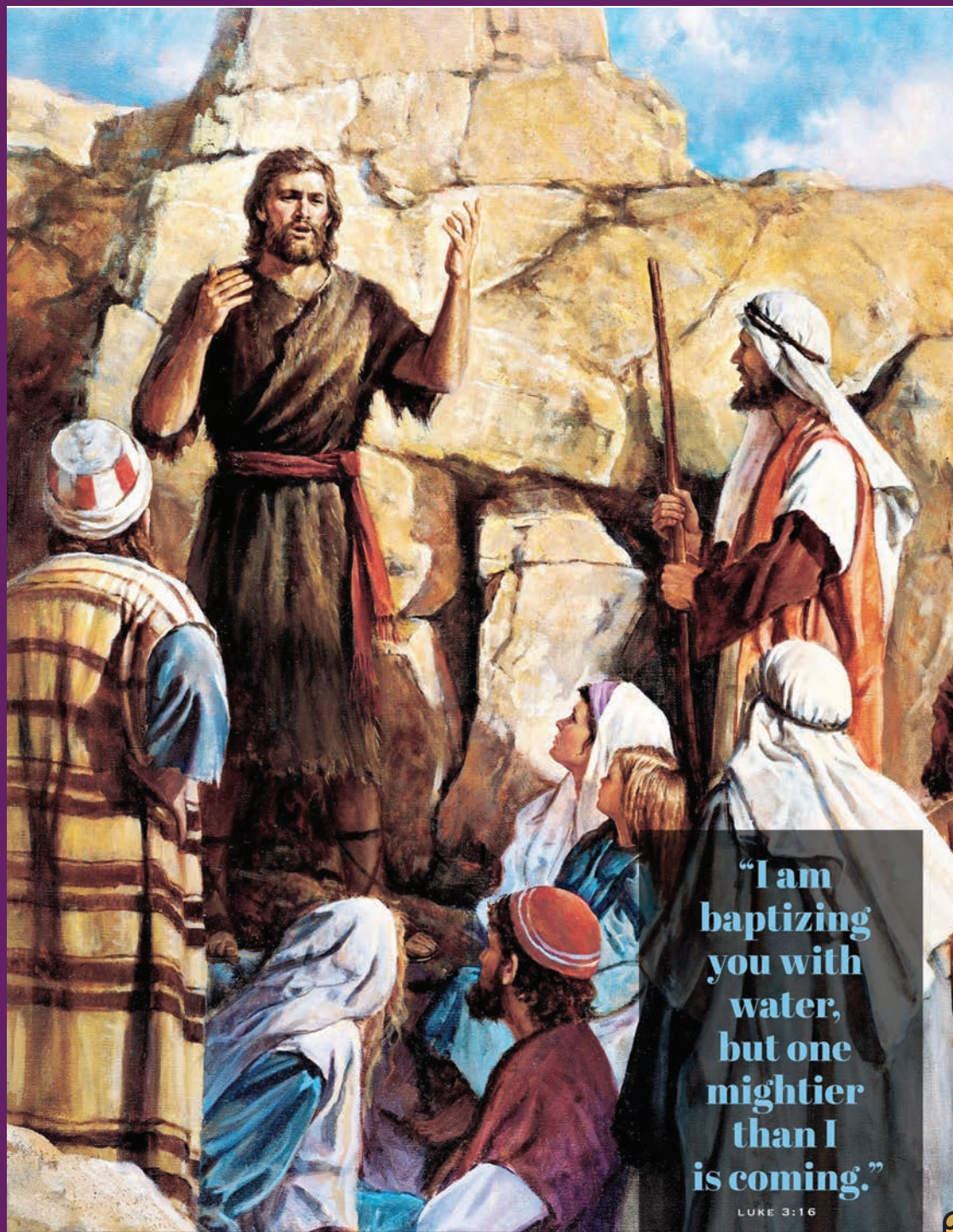


3rd Sunday of Advent - December 12th, 2021

The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.”

LUKE 3:16

MISSION STATEMENT

“We reach out to all through prayer and service, as we live our Catholic faith in Christ with Mary.”



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 Rev. Robert Kunze: Weekend Assistant
 Deacon Jack Lynch
 Katie Wills: Director of Music Ministry
 Mary Clinton: Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

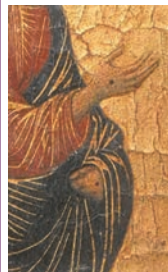


Mass will continue to Live Stream on Facebook and our website:
www.ihmparish.net

A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

Zephaniah tells us that God rejoices over us. It seems hard to imagine that the Infinite, the Divine, the Creator would rejoice over us, yet He indeed does because of His love for us. Therefore we respond with Paul in rejoicing in the Lord ourselves. This season of Advent is a time when we search for a closer union with God, we long for and wait for an experience of intimacy with Him. Unfortunately it is very easy to let our daily concerns and preoccupations distract us. We are called to actively set aside these distractions and concerns, if only for a little while, to allow ourselves to seek out the Lord, to grow closer to Him, to rejoice in Him as He rejoices in us. Then, engulfed in God's Love, the daily concerns and preoccupations no longer become obstacles to our relationship with Christ, rather they become opportunities to share His love with others.

Peace, Fr. Mike



EUCHARIST SPIRITUALITY: A JOURNEY

From the stable of the manger in Bethlehem, to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the stories of the Eucharist are foundational and permeate the New Testament and our lives today. We shall use the text: *With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharist Life* By Henri Nouwen.

This is a very easy read but can stir the spirit profoundly. I have some articles to supplement the text. We shall meet via Zoom every Tuesday at 7:15 for one hour. This is a reflection group. If you are interested, please contact me FrRob@IHMParish.net I shall have books available, but I need to know the number of participants. May our hearts burn within us as we journey through Advent to Christmas.



Introduction: Given the reinstatement by the Bishops of New Jersey of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the lessening of restrictions from the state, the following is provided as an update to the May 25 COVID-19 directives.

STILL IN EFFECT: Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated persons. If not fully vaccinated, persons are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidance and wear a face mask in public settings. Masks are still required on public transit and in health care settings, prisons, child-care facilities and schools, among other places. People will no longer be required to socially distance indoors or outdoors, although unvaccinated persons should continue to maintain a safe distance from others. These directives apply to all indoor and outdoor events.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: All ministries may return to full service – altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Masks are no longer required for all vaccinated ministers, including those distributing Communion (Priests, Deacons, and EMS). However, masks may be worn for those who prefer to wear one during the liturgy.

COMMUNION: While Communion on the tongue is now permitted, for the safety of the priests, ministers and other communicants, we encourage continued reception of communion in the hand. At this time, Communion from the cup should not be distributed to the assembly.

SANITIZING: The cleaning and sanitizing of churches and common spaces should be done regularly. It is not required after every liturgy.

SIGN OF PEACE: The invitation to share the Sign of Peace should continue. Parishioners could be reminded that it is not required to touch during the sign of peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Ushers may take up the collection at the proper time or baskets may be placed at the entrance of the church for the collection. (Beginning July 17, 2021)

BAPTISMAL FONTS: Baptismal fonts and holy water receptacles may be filled.

MUSIC: Vaccinated music ministers (cantors, choirs, etc.) do not require masks or shields. Music ministers who are not vaccinated should wear a mask. All musical instruments are permitted. Hymnals are now permitted.

PARISH MEETINGS: Parish meetings in person may resume. Those vaccinated are not required to wear masks for indoor meetings nor are they required to maintain social distancing. The same recommendations for Mass apply to those not vaccinated.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: The procession to present the gifts of bread and wine and the collection can be resumed. (Beginning July 17, 2021)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Schedule for Mass & Worship (schedules are subject to change)

Saturday (Anticipated) 5:00 pm
 Sundays - 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon
 Weekdays & Saturdays - 7:00 am and 8:30 am
 National Holidays - 9:00 am
 Holy Days - 7:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm

Morning Prayer - Monday - Saturday at 8:15 am
 Rosary: Monday - Saturday after 8:30 am
 Mass
 Novena to the Miraculous Medal & St. Jude:
 Saturdays after 8:30 am
 Mass
 Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15 - 4:45 pm

Mass Intentions

For the week of December 12th - December 19th, 2021

Saturday December 11	7:00 am	Gail A. Gurry+	By Patricia & James Feeley
	8:30 am	Marie Farrell+	By Mary & Peter Zazzarino
	5:00 pm	John "Jack" Foulks	By Arlene Knox
Sunday December 12	8:00 am	Juliette Lewis+	By Maureen Pecoraro
	10:00 am	Donald F. Reeves Sr.+	By His Family
	12:00 pm	Madeline C. Pravata+	By Mitch & Kimberly Taraschi
Monday December 13	7:00 am	Dino Velez+	By Olive Velez
	8:30 am	Dominick Verdic Sr.+	By The Verdic Family
Tuesday December 14	7:00 am	George Hammel+	By Bernie Beck
	8:30 am	Geri Smith+	By Al Smith
Wednesday December 15	7:00 am	Connie Prato+	By Brendan & Dolores Keegal
	12:00 pm	The Werthwein Family+	By Helen & Bob Piasecki
Thursday December 16	7:00 am	August Branna+	By Ron Katims
	8:30 am	Jack Neiss (living)	By Tracey Foley
Friday December 17	7:00 am	Madeline Pravata+	By Jennifer Mongold & John Capeci
	8:30 am	James R. Kennedy+	By Kerry Caspersen
Saturday December 18	7:00 am	For the People	By The Parish
	8:30 am	Robert L. Scully+	By His loving Wife Bea
	5:00 pm	Aurora Lioanag+	By The Lioanag Family
Sunday December 19	8:00 am	Gary F. Tackas+	By Barbara & Bill Apgar
	10:00 am	Claire Rita Lewis+	By The Lewis Family
	12:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the Knox & Gorski Families	By Arlene Knox

<i>Remember Our Sick</i>	John Burkert	Albert Fischer, Jr.	Bill Malone	Dolores Rust	Sr. Elizabeth
John Allen	Mary Calabrese	Emily Fleming	Owen Mike McCabe	Diana Scariati	Vermaelen
Rose Badala	Anna Cassella	Mary Foster	June McManus	Elisa Silversey	Stephen Voorhees
George Becker	Paul Cassidy	Nicole Griffin	Christine Morris	Bernard Slaza	Christy Ward
Larry Biunno	Matthew Cassio	Kathleen Herron	Thomas Moore	Beverly Sopp	
Fran Boglioli	Frank Chimento	Juliann Junio	Marlene Mosko	Ryder Francis Spillane	
Erin Brennan	Edward Clark	Anna Koch	Hilda Pizza	Paul Szeker	
Samantha Bridge	William Consovoy	Jillian Lapidus	Diane Pricken	Phyllis Szeker	
James Brown	Colm Cosgrove	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Carole Ventre	
Kevin Brown	Ray Clark	Maureen Lynch	Susan Rozborski	Daniel Ventura	

Special Intentions for the week of December 12th - December 19th



Sanctuary Light
For the intention of:
The Seery Family (living)
Requested by
Bob & Betty Seery



The Altar Bread & Wine
For the intention of:
Roy Savoca+
Requested by
His Family



Flowers for the Blessed Mother
In gratitude & thanksgiving
to our Blessed Mother
Requested by
Peter & Marlene Mosko

Remember Our Departed



Bernadette Chemidlin
Edward Clancy



Hospital Privacy / Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the IHM office at (908) 889-2100.

IHM Women's Prayer Group

The IHM Women's Prayer Group will meet via **Zoom** on **Thursday, January 6 at 7:30PM**. Our theme will be "In the Beginning." We will examine the creation stories in Scripture and the many influences that yielded the "final" edit. All women are welcome to join! Please email Tracey Foley at tefolevihm@gmail.com if you would like to participate. Prayer connects us all!

IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group

(Virtual) Thursday December 30, 2021 - 7:30pm @ Zoom
(Live) Saturday January 8, 2022 - 7:30am @ IHM Basement

Coffee & Donuts served during live meetings. Please contact David Diken at dndiken@aol.com for more details.



Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Meetings will resume every Thursday on Zoom

Centering prayer is a contemplative method of prayer which helps you deepen your personal relationship with the Lord, using Lectio Divina, Reflection and Meditation. This prayer is also known as "The Prayer of Quiet" or "The Prayer of the Heart". It's talking less and listening more, as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. The words you pray do not matter as much as in the spirit you pray them. It's a way of reading and listening and discerning with the "eyes of your heart."

"BE STILL, KNOW, I AM GOD" If you would like to experience this prayer method which helps to deepen your spiritual journey with the Lord **we meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30am on Zoom**. Please call Phyllis at **908-264-7456** for further information and to receive the Zoom link.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday December 19 @ 7pm
IHM Church + Facebook Live
Take time away from the hectic holiday season to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas while singing or listening to some of your favorite carols! Join the IHM Adult Choir live at church or view our live stream for the beautiful music of Christmas.



We Need Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) for all the Masses and Special Events

Men and women, young and not so young are encouraged to volunteer! Responsibilities would be:

- Welcoming and assisting our parishioners and guests when they come to worship.
- Finding a family or an individual to bring up the Offertory Gifts during Mass especially if there is no one from the family for whom the Mass is being celebrated.
- Assist in the distribution of flyers or bulletins before or after Mass, hopefully when we get back to normal.
- Assist the presiding Priest as may be required.

There is no long term commitment. If you cannot come to the same Mass each week but are willing to substitute when the need arises – we can use your assistance! If you are interested, please leave a message for Maureen Pecoraro or myself at the office and we will contact you. Please leave a phone number and/or e-mail address and we will call back to set up a meeting. If possible, please indicate what mass would be good for you. Once we have a list of candidates, Fr. Mike will have a training session. Thank you for your consideration! - Emil

8th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2022

Mon. January 10: Session 3 | 7 - 8:30 pm
Mon. February 7: Session 4 | 7 - 8:30 pm



9th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2022

Sat. January 8: Christmas Gathering | 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Sat. February 12: Pre-Lent Gathering | 4:30 - 7:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday February 13, 2022

Bus Trip to Cathedral | Bus leaves IHM Parking Lot 11:00am

Mother Seton Virtual Gala & Silent Auction

Saturday January 15, 2022
From 6:30 - 10:30pm
Both virtual or in-person! Limited tickets available for live party. 2021 Awards & Silent Auction Bidding starts January 1st. Visit MSRGala.org for more info.



The IHM Food Pantry Needs Donations!



Items needed include non-perishable food items, personal toiletry items and baby products. Please bring your donations to the back of the church. Place the items in the red bins near the backdoors. You may also drop donations off at the Nazareth Center. For a list of acceptable items visit ihmparish.net/food-pantry.

DO OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE..
FAMILY, HEALTH, FINANCES, EDUCATION
LEAVE VERY LITTLE TIME TO DEDICATE
TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD?



SAVE THE DATE
March 11+ March 12

MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT 2022

Starts on Friday evening - Ends Saturday evening. Located at St. Bart's in Scotch Plains, NJ. Contact David Diken: dndiken@aol.com or Colm Keogh: ckeogh925@yahoo.com

Minister Assignments - December 18 - 19

Saturday /Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00pm	Janice Good Piga	- Alice Schaffernoth - Dan Kelly	Fr. Val
8:00am	Jim Brennan	- Rich Banasiak - Ed Sullivan	Fr. Mike
10:00am	Andy Davis	- Deacon Jack - Lou Zappo	Fr. Val
12:00pm	Diana Briante	- Eileen Wagner - Diane McGuinness	Fr. Rob



Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 9:00pm
Saturday - 9:00am - 2:00pm
Closed on Sundays, Holy Days & Holidays

For more information contact Erin Miller at:
erins310@gmail.com | 908-531-0128

IHM PARISH INFORMATION

► **IHM Office is closed to the public until further notice...**

Mass Intention Reservations: Call or leave a message at the office (908)889-2100 or email office@ihmparish.net

Religious Education: faithformation@ihmparish.net

Baptisms: Please call the office at (908) 889-2100

Marriage: Appointments should be made at least one year in advance. Contact the priest about a date and Pre-Cana information.

New Parishioners: Registration forms available at www.ihmparish.net or in the Nazareth Center office.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound: Please notify the parish office of those who are sick or homebound, in hospitals or are unable to worship. For urgent calls, contact (908) 889-2100

RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: Religious education for adults who are either not Baptized or who are Catholic, but have not received all of their sacraments and would like to be Confirmed or receive Communion. We have flexible hours. Call (908) 889-2100. All are welcome!

Reconciliation: Saturdays: 4:15 - 4:45 pm
Arrangements can be made at any time for private confession. Please call the office at (908) 889-2100

Parish Schools: St. Bartholomew Academy (908) 322-4265
Union Catholic Regional High School (908) 889-1600

Website: www.ihmparish.net

Like us on Facebook: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**
Follow us on Instagram: **ihmparish_sp**



Rosary Altar Society News

This week's quote is from Mother Teresa's book, "Do Something Beautiful for God". "At Christmas, we see Jesus as a little babe—helpless and poor. And He came to love and be loved. How can we love Jesus in the world today?"
Something to think about as we prepare for the Lord!



It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

— Mother Teresa —

AZ QUOTES

1. I want to thank all who participated and help with the Rosary Christmas Celebration, special thanks to Fr. Mike who generously gave of his time and patience in setting up and providing us with his technology skills. Special thanks to Erin Miller, my co-chair, who with Kathleen Lynch and others, transformed the gym into a wonderful place with their creative decorations. Many thanks to Alice Mansfield-Smith and Margaret Lewis who saved me many steps.

And thanks to Phyllis Manno, and MaryAnne Sopko who were there at 9AM to begin arranging and fixing the tables. Many thanks to all who baked the delicious desserts, who helped cleaning up and who are washing and ironing the table clothes! Anyone wishing to borrow the DVD on St. Joseph, please call me! Now for the great news we were able to raise through the raffles and the donation basket for the Missionaries of Charity, \$1,870+. Thank you all for coming and for your generosity!

2. Reminder to all Executive Board Members that we have a meeting on Tuesday, December 14th, at 11:30AM in the Nazareth Center Meeting Room. Please RSVP to me by December 11th at 908-753-2161. Looking forward to seeing you there! Thank you.

3. Rosarians and parishioners, we will need your help with the Altar linens. So Please Help by calling/texting Erin Miller at 908-531-0128 or email Erins310@gmail.com, as she is helping Betty Swisher with scheduling and typing. Thank you.

4. Can you commit an hour of your time to Jesus? Please come and visit with Our Lord at the IHM Adoration Chapel, He is waiting for you! There are still some open hours during the week where He is alone! Please contact Erin Miller if you can help at 908-531-0128. Remember we can only keep the Chapel open with your help!

Final quote from Mother Teresa, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

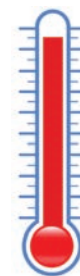
We are still praying for you, our parish, and the world! Thank you and God Bless!
- MaryJane

Collection Report		December 5, 2021
Weekly Budget Need:		\$11,300.00
Collection:		\$6,278.00
Parish Giving:		\$3,993.46
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,028.54)
Fiscal Year to Date:		
Budget		\$259,900.00
Actual:		\$239,373.20
Surplus/(Deficit)		(20,526.80)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:		
Average Collection:		\$9,707.88
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,592.12)

Archbishop's Annual Appeal Update

91.5%

The 2021 Annual Appeal is now underway. We have \$63,770.46 already pledged. **Our goal is \$69,693.00 = 91.5%**. The outpouring of support from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge form at the back of the church or visit www.rcan.org/sharing. Thank you for your prayers and support.



THE GIVING TREE RETURNS!

*** Gifts are due no later than 12/19 ***
Please visit www.ihmparish.net to view the "Wish List" on Sign-Up Genius. Gifts should be NEW and UNWRAPPED. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you & Merry Christmas!



BOLD is the name of our vibrant Youth Ministry program at Immaculate Heart of Mary, led by IHM high school teens on the Peer Servant Team and members of our Adult Team; coordinated by Rachael Flanagan (Youth Minister). Our BOLD events are for IHM teens and their friends, whether or not they attend our parish! All in high school are invited, and all 8th graders are invited to our 8th Grade Service nights!



~ Snapshot from our 8th Grade Service Night 12/5 ~
IHM Teens handmade 50 FLEECE HATS for children in FOSTER CARE!

COMING UP NEXT FOR IHM BOLD YOUTH MINISTRY:

IHM BOLD Youth Ministry Christmas Party
Sunday, December 12 from 7-8:30pm ~ For ALL in high school! Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (\$10) and wear your CHRISTMAS JAMMIES!! Come for festivities and jolly surprises as we await Jesus at Christmas!

Please text Rachael Flanagan to RSVP: (908) 280-2893

IHM EVENT CALENDER

Sunday December 12

- 10:00 am Sunday Food Pantry
- 10:00 am 8th Grade Confirmation Rite of Names
- 11:00 am Living Rosary
- 7:00 pm BOLD: Christmas Party

Monday December 13

- 7:30 pm Alpha 16

Tuesday December 14

- 11:30 am Rosary Executive Board Meeting
- 7:15 pm Eucharist Spirituality: Advent to Easter

Wednesday December 15

- 10:00 am Food Pantry
- 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday December 16

- 9:30 am Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Zoom

Friday December 17

Saturday December 18

Sunday December 19

- 7:00 pm Lessons & Carols



Want to donate but don't have any cash on hand?


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