

# Immaculate Conception

A Full Stewardship Parish - Partner Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupo, IL 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236 | 618-281-5105 | Fax 281-6848

February 2, 2025

The Presentation of the Lord

www.icc-columbia-il.us



# RESURRECTION VOCATION PROJECT



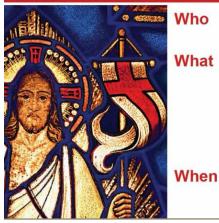
In our baptism, God calls all Christians to be holy. That call extends to our regular, frequent reception of the sacraments, and ultimately into our whole lives.

To respond generously to God's call, each new generation of the baptized needs various habits and forms of support. Regular prayer – both personal and within a Church community – is crucial. A formative, recollective environment is another must. Personal, direct guidance coupled with support from the community of the Church also prove key. Vocations, fundamentally, come from a culture that fosters discernment of God's will - a vocation culture. To help build a vocation culture in the St. Louis and southern

Illinois region, the Congregation of the Resurrection is piloting a new program: the Resurrection Vocation Project. This project offers programs and opportunities to build skills, habits, and networks aimed at promoting and discerning vocations in the **Church.** The programs offer several levels of clarity and support.

Individuals and families looking to better understand their baptismal vocations may attend the talk series "Catholic Vocations: A (Family) Catechesis Series." Young adults actively discerning God's call might join the "Discerner Dinners & Discussions." And young men 18-35 feeling God's nudge to discern priesthood or religious life (brotherhood) can join the "Come-and-See Weekend."

Join Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R., for upcoming Resurrection Vocation Project events held at Resurrection House St. Louis, 4252 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 RSVP to vocationoffice.usa.cr@gmail.com (see notes for reservation deadlines)



Who

What

families, esp. with pre-teens, teens, and young adults **CATHOLIC VOCATIONS: A** (FAMILY) CATECHESIS SERIES

Faith education on our Catholic tradition's teaching about the baptismal call to holiness. Includes exploration of marriage. priesthood and religious life in a relaxed, household setting. March 21, March 28, April 4 6:30-8:30pm

Individual Catholics and Catholic

RSVP no later than noon, day prior

Catholic discerners, ages 18-35

#### **DISCERNER DINNER & DISCUSSIONS**

An opportunity to prayerfully explore and discuss God's personal call for you in a relaxed, household setting. Light meal provided.

> February 7, 14, 21, 28 May 2, 9, 16

RSVP by noon day of event

Catholic men. ages 18-35

#### **COME-AND-SEE** WEEKEND

A weekend-long, discerneroriented gathering for young men considering a vocation to religious life or the priesthood. Accommodations and meals provided.

Weekend stay: March 14-16, 2025 RSVP by March 12

ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND IN THE TRADITION OF CATHOLICISM AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF MARY IMMACULATE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH, Worshipping with Generations of Believers and Serving God in All People.

### Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish and reside within the parish boundaries, and would like to be members, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105, and our secretary will be happy to help make that happen!

Hola, Bienvenidos – a la iglesia Catolica en Immaculata Concepcion. ¡Que tengas una bendita semana!

We livestream! To participate, please use this link: https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmaculateConceptionCatholicChurchColumbiaIL



Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R. ext. 358 or 805-670-3541 frsteve@iccmail.org

Business Manager, Kara Dell-Hunt ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmail.org

Director of Liturgy & Music, Theresa Flores ext. 312, tflores@iccmail.org

Director of Faith Formation, Lizanne Young ext. 354, lyoung@iccmail.org

IC-PSR Coordinator, Rebecca Husman ext. 353, rhusman@iccmail.org

Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby ext. 351, shoglesby@iccmail.org

Secretary, Michelle Muckensturm ext. 300, iccmail@iccmail.org

Spiritual and Mental Health Advocate, Shea Christensen ext. 352, schristensen@icsmail.org

ICS Principal,
Dave Gregson
281-5353, ext. 202
dgregson@icsmail.org

Pastoral Council Chair, Tammy Hoeflinger parishcouncil@iccmail.org

School Board President, Jolene Sasser boardpresident@icsmail.org

### Sacramental Information

**Baptisms:** Parents/guardians are asked to attend a Preparation Seminar scheduled on the second Sunday of the month after 9:00 a.m. Mass (approximately 10:00 a.m.) in the lower-level library. We celebrate Baptisms on the first Sunday of the month during any Mass, and the third Sunday of the month after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. (No Baptisms are scheduled during Lent.) Please call the office to schedule at 281-5105.

Weddings: The parish is happy to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony with adults who are currently registered members of Immaculate Conception Church (bride or groom). If you are one of many who would like to "come home" to celebrate the Sacrament with family and friends, please provide the name of the parish where you are now a member, along with contact information. We ask that you contact the IC Parish Office a minimum of four months prior to Marriage, but in most cases couples will need to allow time for Pre-Cana formation, and we suggest beginning to plan your Sacrament 12 or 18 months prior to Marriage.

Anointing of the Sick & Funerals: Since individual needs differ, please contact the Parish Office at 281-5105 for pastoral care. Do not hesitate to call; we are grateful for the opportunity to open our hearts to you and your family and offer these sacramental services.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) is for everyone who has been drawn by God to form a deeper relationship. Wherever you are in your faith practice – baptized in another Christian faith, starting from the beginning, or simply enriching your Catholic practice – consider the OCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. Individuals will meet with our director of faith formation (Lizanne Young) to discuss the process. We meet as a group on Sundays (from Autumn through the Triduum just before Easter), starting with "Breaking Open the Word" dismissal from 9:00 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Contact Lizanne at the Parish Office, 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyoung@iccmail.org.

**Reconciliation:** Reconciliation is offered from 4:00-4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment.

#### **IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER INFO!**

Anyone who wishes to volunteer at school or church when there are children present MUST be compliant with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy. Please be proactive! \*EVERYONE must have an IL state background check, as well as doing the online refresher and filling out CANTS forms. \*Coaches and employees will need to be fingerprinted in addition to the usual Child Protection paperwork. \*The initial course is now available online. Please contact Michelle at the Parish Office for directions. \*The refresher course for 2024-2025 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE! Follow the link on our website! If you can't find it there, it is also on the Diocesan website at https://diobelle.safeenvironment.org/login/index.php. Not sure if you are compliant, or have additional questions? Contact Michelle at the Parish Office at 281-5105. \*Sexual Abuse Hotline: Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a Priest or other Diocesan personnel, please call the hotline at 800-640-3044.

Purchase Scrip Gift Cards from all of your favorite stores, restaurants, etc... in the Parish Office!

### This Week's Liturgical Celebrations

Masses - Saturday, 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 3 8:05 a.m. We Remember Betty Lang Tuesday, February 4 8.05 a.m. We Remember Margie Pautler & Betty Kish Wednesday, February 5 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mary Jane Frey Thursday, February 6 8:05 a.m. We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad 8:05 a.m. Friday, February 7 We Remember Harold Netemeyer We Remember Harold Stemler Saturday, February 8 5:00 p.m. Sunday, February 9 7:00 a.m. We Remember Marlene Augustine 9:00 a.m. We Remember Helen Marquardt 11:00 a.m. We Remember Ralph Herrmann



### Please Pray For

Adam Brandt	Trace Ahrens
Shane Martin	Molly Blevins
Jacob Nelson	Curtis Sievers
Bob Beckert	Craig Greer
John Kirk	Janet Michael
Amanda Boitano	Patricia Pulcher

K. Myers

Jim Grau

Jane Menner

Maryanne Klosterman

Margie Kolaz

Barbara Kendall

Patricia Gober

Jim Grau

Delores G.

Nicole Pennington

Harold Lutman

Jackie Lutman

Troops in Service... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, United States Air Force; Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force

Prayer List Guidelines: Please be mindful if your loved one no longer needs to be on the Prayer List and call the Parish Office at 281-5105.



February 2, 2025

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

### Bur Sympathies...

To Lori Hennes and her family on the death of her father, Albert "Al" Lehr, 89, of Millstadt.

To Betty Schmieder and her family on the death of her husband, Alan Schmieder, 86, of Columbia.

To Geri Vogt and her family on the death of her husband, Jim Vogt, 88, of Columbia.



#### **OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, You have created us in Your own image, to love, serve and honor You with our lives. You have tasked us with building Your Church, and passing from one generation to the next the treasure trove of our faith. Bless the work of our hands as we undertake our next phase in serving You. Keep us strong in faith, hope, and love, so that all we do may bring glory and honor to You, forever and ever. AMEN.



## **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Spend some quiet time with the Lord.

### Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

January 26, 2025			
Actual	\$	20,922.93	
Budget	\$	22,000.00	
Actual YTD	\$	1,289,989.53	
Budget YTD	\$	1,336,575.00	
Over (under)	\$	(46,585.47)	
Prior YTD	\$	1,230,331.82	
Over (under)	\$	59,657.71	
Guatemala	\$	240.00	
Votive	\$	124.00	
Capital Improvements	\$	105.00	
Gibault	\$	300.00	
Phase 3	\$	5,978.00	



## From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$5.81

Time and Talent: I put my clothes away; I picked up my room; I took the dogs out.

## WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK TO CHARITY?

Giving stock instead of cash as a charitable donation can greatly benefit the donor as well as the recipient. You will find that many charities, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations will accept stock as a gift.

#### Tax Benefits of Donating Stock to Charity

If the stock has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying capital gains tax by donating the security to a qualified charitable organization. When an appreciated security held for at least a year is donated to a charitable organization, its fair market value may be itemized as an income tax deduction. The resulting tax savings could be factored in to make a larger donation. For publicly traded shares, the fair market value is the average of the high and low price on the transfer date.

#### Considerations:

- Many nonprofits, such as hospitals, schools, and various other organizations, will accept stock as a gift or donation.
- Giving stock often results in a larger donation to the organization, as the gift is tax-deductible and there are no capital gains taxes to pay.
- If your stock has risen in value since purchase, donating it directly is preferable, but if it has lost value, it may be more advantageous to sell it first and then donate the proceeds, so the giver can take the tax loss.
- Most organizations will immediately liquidate the donation, converting the stock to cash.
- Depending on the organization you donate to and your adjusted gross income, a varying amount of your donation may be able to be deducted on your taxes.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

#### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we begin a new year, we are excited to provide this capital campaign update. We are currently at \$3,615,000 in pledges or 80.3% of our goal. 470 families have made a pledge, thus far. We are so close to the

goal of \$4,500,000 thanks to the generosity of so many families. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so today. Through your generous contributions and prayers, we can make the campus enhancement phase a reality and ensure that Immaculate Conception Parish continues to grow strong into the future. Let's work together to make 2025 a year of growth, impact, and blessings! Thank you for your continued support and generosity!



# Parish Events & News...

PARISH WORK DAYS! February 8, March 8

## SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

How's this for a Plan: Come to Mass on Sunday ready to engage in the Gospel, Old and New Testament Readings and even the homily by spending an hour praying with them in advance, with friends!

- Women's Bible Study meets every week in the Library on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Pathfinders Men's Group meets every week in the Knights of Columbus Room on Saturday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Just show up; you're more than welcome!

#### **BULLETIN DEADLINE...**

All submissions for the bulletin will need to be in to the Parish Office two Thursdays before you need it in the bulletin. Submissions will need to be sent to iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.



# D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be February 15 and 16. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

# Ministry News & Happenings

# THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and Topics are below. All dates are at Sunset Overlook in Columbia, IL unless otherwise noted. All at 7:00 p.m.

- February 10 Trivia!
  - o Prize for winner!
- February 24 Guest Speaker Sr. Mary Flick, CSJ on Ignatian Spirituality
- March 9 Family Gym Night at ICS, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
  - o Open to all young adults (ages 18-35) with children
  - o Come for fun games like Dodgeball, Spikeball, Cornhole and much more!
- March 24 Adoration & Board Games
  - Will attend Adoration at Immaculate Conception Church starting at 7:00 p.m., then head down to the Garden Level gathering space for board games and snacks

#### ICY ODD SUNDAYS

Every Sunday with an odd date is an Odd Sunday ICY Meeting. Check out the QR code for more details.



#### **NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS**

We want to thank you for purchasing hams.



### Pope Francis Prays...

"Ecological education takes place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere." (Laudato Si #213)

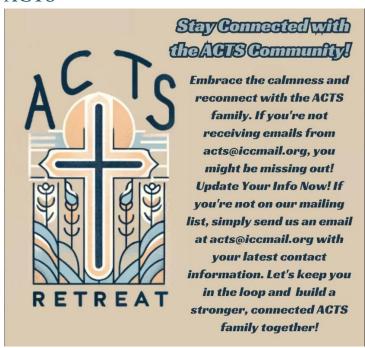
What can I do? Think of one way in which you might help educate someone you know about ecology. Take hikes with your children. Have playdates at the park. Support organizations like Audubon Society, Wild Ones, or join Cornell Lab to track the birds in your back yard.

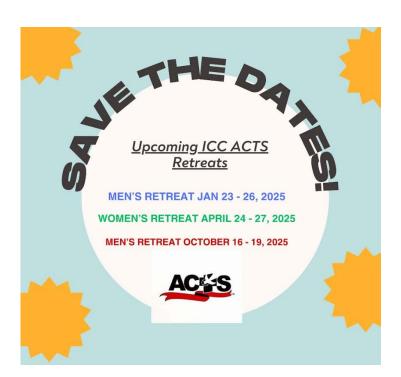
# THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Serve the Lord with gladness - Psalm 100

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-in Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

#### **ACTS**





#### COMFORT WITH A PRAYER SHAWL

If you, or someone you know, needs comfort and prayers, consider bringing them a Prayer Shawl, handmade by Immaculate Conception parishioners. Each crocheted or knitted shawl is unique, and prayers are said throughout the process of the creation. The goal is to provide comfort to the recipient, knowing that they are wrapped in the prayers of the parish. The Prayer Shawl can be delivered to you, or you may stop in the Parish Office during business hours and pick up what you need. Prayer Shawls are available for children as well. Call Helen Csik at 314-651-5033 or the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

#### **ICCCW NEWS:**

Come join us for the first meeting of 2025 on Thursday, February 6th. We are looking for donations of lottery tickets or money to purchase tickets for the spring raffle lottery board.

#### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

"Happy New Year" with Families Who Are Grieving

It's not easy to find hope or joy in the middle of grief. And oftentimes, well-meaning friends and loved ones wouldn't know what to say or do to ease the pain one is experiencing. That's why in these moments, it can be helpful to turn to words from others who have also experienced grief during the holidays. Here are a few comforting words to share when you feel you don't know what to say:

"You shared an unspeakable love, and it's okay if you don't have words for those you still have in your life. Your voice will come back when you need it."

"Remembering our loved ones who are no longer here brings both joy and pain. The only cure to grief is holding onto the memories that make us smile and find peace in knowing we were loved deeply."

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."

– Washington Irving

"The pain of grief is the price we pay for love."

- Queen Elizabeth II

"Grief changes shape over time, but it never ends."

- Keanu Reeves

"The journey of grief is not a linear path. There will be ups and downs, good days and bad days. Don't feel guilty for having moments of joy or happiness."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

For more information, see website: Home Faith Family, 45 Quotes to Help Conquer Grief by Micah Klug, a Hospice Chaplain

Happy New Year from the Bereavement Ministry. May your year be filled with comfort and hope!

#### **QUILTERS' CORNER**

Join our super-fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: Dave Gregson, ext. 202 - dgregson@icsmail.org School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 - bepplin@icsmail.org Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh - ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE





Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings: February 10, March 10

#### Chicken Wing, Toasted Ravioli & Pizza Fundraiser Immaculate Conception School Fathers' Club



Jumbo Cut Chicken Wings
20 pieces for just \$30
Deep Fried, light dash of seasoning salt

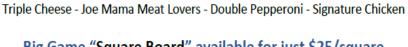
Deep Fried, light dash of seasoning salt. Your choice of sauce on the side: Syberg's & Hot



Toasted Ravioli Local Made
20 pieces for just \$15
Deep Fried, light dash parmesan with
Marinara







Syberg's Signature Frozen 12" Pizzas

Big Game "Square Board" available for just \$25/square

<u>Drive Thru Pick up from Noon to 4 pm, Sunday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> ICS</u> Lower Level North of ICS Gymnasium. Please use the same route as the KC fish fry.

To Order, scan the QR code or text icswings to 41444

Questions? Email: <a href="mailto:icsfathers@gmail.com">icsfathers@gmail.com</a>
Thank you for your support!



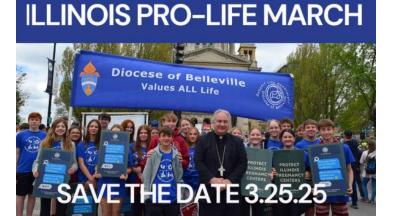
\$12/each

# What's Happening at Gibault?





# Diocesan and Area Interests...



Join the Diocese of Belleville at the Illinois Pro-Life March in Springfield, Illinois, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025!

The day will include Mass with Bishop Michael McGovern as homilist, followed by the Rally and March around the Illinois State Capitol building.

Parishes, schools, & individuals are encouraged to attend!

Registration coming soon!



#### ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH HECKER, ILLINOIS

(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

#### SUPER BOWL SUNDAY







### **QUILT/CASH BINGO**

FEBRUARY 9th, 2025

Hecker Community Center
230 E. Washington Street, Hecker, Illinois
Smoke Free Facility

Lightning Round Prior to Bingo

BINGO 1:30 P.M.

No one under 18 allowed in hall during bingo. BL #50884

Attendance Prizes - Raffle - Pot of Gold

Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Plates

Serving 10:00 am-1:00 pm



#### DOCTORS OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose assisted suicide. The AMA says "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer." Physicians are entrusted with saving lives, not ending them, and assisted suicide violates the Hippocratic Oath. Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 – assisted suicide. Visit www.ilcatholic. org for additional information and resources.

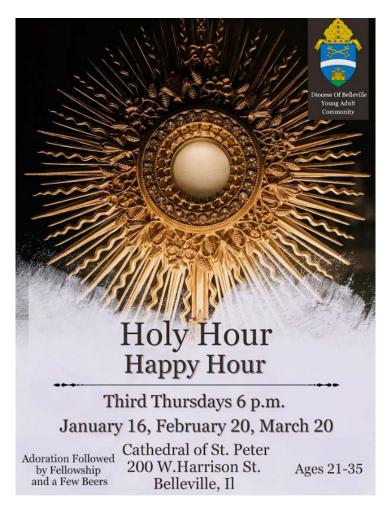


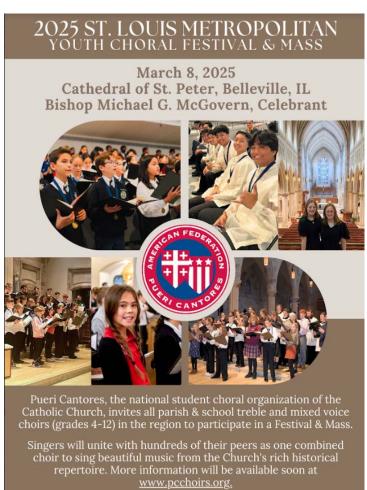
# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS COATS!

Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much.

# CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States, including in our own Belleville Diocese. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.





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Year C: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

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"Don't close the deal 'til Su

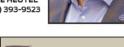
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