



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

January 2, 2022 Epiphany of our Lord

WWW.ICC-COLUMBIA-IL.US

Happy Anticipation...

Think back to when you were younger, can you remember times of great excitement and anticipation?? I am sure you can! Christmastime, for most, is one of those times!

I often write about growing up in a big family. I guess you could say that is where all my good stories have their foundation! I have never had the chance to write an article about the Epiphany (when the Magi finally find Jesus), but now I do...so indulge me once more as I take you back to the 1970's and give you another peek at what was going on in my world!

One of my favorite things to do at Christmastime was to help set up the Christmas tree and the nativity scene underneath! We had some *COOL* Wise Men! They were about a foot tall, very colorful...and had been glued back together more times than I could count, especially the one with the purple hat and robe (pictured below in blue). I will not confess as to why that was, but you could say a certain someone liked to play with Nativity scene. My poor mom just wanted a nice Nativity scene, and every chance I got I would play with those Wise Men, sending them on adventures to the manger, while my all-knowing mother would be warning me from the kitchen: "You'd better not be playing with the Nativity set again!" If only those figures could talk!

I catch myself giggling as I think about those Christmases, for two reasons: 1.) I remember how it felt as a child to be so excited about everything including those Wise Men; and 2.) now that I am older I can only imagine what frustration my mom was going through trying keep her Nativity set in order and unbroken! Sorry Mom!

I am sure there is a child in each of us that harkens back to the wonder and magic of Christmas each year as we wait with happy anticipation for the arrival of Jesus in the manger! And if you are like me you can look back and smile on all the memories you have of Christmases past!



Those Wise Men sure took a beating under our tree, not purposefully, but just from the wear and tear of being played with—something they were not meant for. They were there to remind us of the importance of Jesus and how the Magi came from hundreds of miles away to see the Messiah that the scriptures had foretold! They started looking and watching for the star possibly years before He was born! To me that is amazing, and just another thing to add to the wonder of Christmas! But, the seeking did not stop with the Wise Men. The Bible is full of stories of people seeking Gods grace, longing for his comfort, and giving God praise!

On this the feast of the Epiphany, let's not just look *back* with wonder on that first Christmas, but also *forward* with hope as we continue to seek Jesus in our daily lives. And smile with happy anticipation for the adventures that await us in our own journeys to Christ! Happy Epiphany!!

~Angie Bueltemann, Parish Secretary

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.

Pandemic Protocol

Due to the uptick in COVID cases and the new mask mandate from the Governor we now require all parishioners, vaccinated and unvaccinated to wear a mask while inside the building. We will still live stream Mass as long as needed.

To participate please use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Qrck7-IpPOOcA9UQ2qRqQ/>

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

**Parish Staff
618-281-5105**

Pastor:

Fr. Carl E. Scherrer

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Pastoral Council Chair,

John Adams:

John.ADAMS@ampf.com

School Board President,

Jason Moore

Jasonmoore79
@gmail.com

Office Hours

**Monday– Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**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 281-5105, and Angie will be happy to help make that happen!

Fr. Carl's Little Reservior...

Several years ago in my homily for New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God), I spoke about making "7-ups" as a New Year's Resolution. I have kept those "7-ups" taped on my bedroom dresser ever since, and thought I'd focus on them again at the beginning of 2022:

1) WAKE-UP; 2) LOOK-UP; 3) DRESS-UP; 4) SHUT-UP; 5) STAND-UP; 6) REACH-UP; AND 7) LIFT-UP.

WAKE-UP – Don't be on cruise control; be attentive and intentional in all your words and deeds.

LOOK-UP – Keep focused upon the things of heaven, and always look up to God for guidance and support.

DRESS-UP – Clothe yourself in the spiritual garments of patience, kindness, gentleness & compassion.

SHUT-UP – Remember, God gave us two ears and only one mouth for a reason; listen to others with your ears and your heart.

STAND-UP – Moral excellence is the key to character; stand up for truth, justice and righteousness. No one rises to low expectations.

REACH-UP – Be humble, and look up to others, not down on them. Walk humbly before your God.

LIFT-UP – People are like balloons, they are made to be lifted up. Lift up others with your words and deeds; don't tear them down. Always be affirming to everyone.

Happy New Year!

~Fr. Carl

Our Sympathies...

To **Angie Kesler and her family** on the death of her dad, Stanley Timmermann, of Breese who died on Dec 20, at the age of 89; and to **Art Lehr and all his family** on the death of his wife, Janet, who died on Dec 20 at the age of 71.

Christmas Gift...

Once again this Christmas season we are giving out copies of a Matthew Kelly book, "Life Is Messy," as a Christmas gift to all parishioners & visitors, compliments of Braun Funeral Homes in Cahokia and Columbia.

Memorial Mass...

For **Donna M. Huebner** of Georgia, formerly of Columbia, here at Immaculate Conception on Saturday, January 8, at 11:00 am. Donna is the daughter of Carol Huebner and sister of Rob & Tim Huebner of our parish.

2022 Calendars...

We still have 2022 church Calendars available in the gathering space, compliments of Bob Brockland Buick, GMC.

**It Won't Be Complete Without
YOU!**

Our Pictorial Directory is now outdated. We need all families to have their picture taken so that it will be as accurate as possible!

Every family photographed for the directory will receive a copy of the directory and an 8x10 portrait at no cost. Photography dates will be **February 15-19 and 22-25 2022.** Sign-up information will be coming soon!

Help Wanted!

Cafeteria worker 2 days/week - W, TH 10:30-2:30. Duties include: preparing the cafeteria for lunch, monitoring students during lunch, running the dishwasher, helping to serve lunches, taking out trash, and mopping the kitchen floor. Great work environment, brand new facility, free lunch. Please contact Connie Huebner at mrshuebner@icsmail.org or call the school office 618-281-5353 for more information.
PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.

Parish Office Closures...

The Parish Office will be closed for the New Year holiday, January 3. We will re-open at 8 a.m. on Jan 4.

Blood Drive...

January 9, Garden level 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Florida...

Fr. Carl will be away from the parish Jan. 10 – 24, searching Southwest Florida for the best palm branches available.

Volunteers Needed...

On Sunday, January 9, after the 11:00 am Mass to help down the Christmas decorations in church. Many hands make for light work!

**There will be NO parish work day on
Saturday, January 8.**



The Sanctity of Life Committee is collecting new, unwrapped baby items for Life Network in Waterloo. Please take a tag from the giving tree and bring back an item next week.

Collection will end on Monday, January 3, 2022.

The most needed items are:

Infant Towels	Baby Carriers
Socks for babies	Potty Chairs
Socks for kids	Diaper Bags
Flushable Wipes	Infant & Children Ibuprofen &
Aveeno Lotion	Tylenol
Twin size Blankets	Amazon Gift Cards
Car Seat Covers	



Quilter's Corner

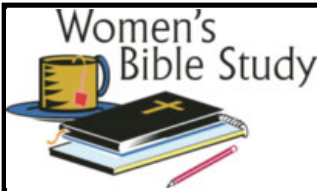
We are now averaging 8-10 quilters on Tues, but only 2-4 on Thursdays. More quilters would be greatly appreciated. We will gladly accept donations of finished queen size quilts (either hand or machine quilted) or cash to purchase supplies. Quilting hours are 8:30 to 11:30 on Tues and Thurs.

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School Cash Mega Raffle & Early Bird Drawing...

Ticket Cost? \$100.00. Buy 1 Ticket – Get 1 Free. Buy 2 Tickets – Get 3 Free. Buy 3 Tickets – Get 5 Free. **Prizes??** \$10,000 Grand Prize - \$1,000 Second Prize - \$500 Third Prize. Winners will be announced when 300 tickets are sold or May 22, 2022 – whichever comes first. **In addition, there are at least Six Early Bird Drawings**-\$100 each - starting in October. To purchase a ticket on line: go to www.stbcs.com and click on Donate Now. Mail check to: 8213 Church Lane, East St. Louis, IL 62203. Or contact Karen Waide at kwaide@srthea.org or call 618-281-4715.

Through the Doorway is Coming!

Through the Doorway, the annual RCIA workshop co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Belleville is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 1 to 6 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2620 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL. Our topic will be “What Key Beliefs Need to be Addressed in the Period of the Catechumenate: The Creed and the Catechumenate?” Our workshop presenter is Eliot Kapitan. Contact Sue Huett at shuett@diobelle.org or at 722-5038 for more information. Registration will be available soon.



Women's Tuesday Bible Study Has Returned!

To fill our minds and hearts with holy anticipation and enjoy the Spirit stirring in community, Women's Tuesday Bible Study has returned to the Fr. Steve Library on Tuesday evenings, at 6:30pm. We spend an hour reflecting on upcoming Sunday readings and accompanying Advent reflections, and this community will meet and grow throughout the liturgical year. Start the new church year with friends old and new, and join us for an hour on Tuesday evenings. Questions? Contact Lizanne: lyoung@iccmil.org

Full Stewardship Spirituality...

By our Baptism, we are all called to discipleship. Full Stewardship Spirituality is about making a full response to the Lord's call to live out that Baptismal commitment. Please prayerfully return your annual stewardship commitment form of time, talent and treasure as soon as possible. Thanks to all who have already returned their commitment form. Teamwork makes the dream work. No one of us, nor no one group of us, can be Church by ourselves.

ICCCW News...

* **Our Next Meeting is Thursday, January 6 at 6:30 pm.** Garden Level at Church.

* **What a great Christmas celebration.** ICCCW ladies! 23 members attended! You are all such a bright light to each of us!

* **Life Network and Birthright** were so appreciative of the baby items you so graciously gave! Thank you all for your generous gifts!

* **Dear Women of the Parish:** We are so grateful for your support this last year, especially during this pandemic. You have helped us continue our mission of supporting our Church in supplying the needs of our Holy Masses, supporting our college students in some way, donating to Our Brothers Keepers, remembering our grieving families, remembering our retired priests, supporting The Newman Center, getting The Messenger to nursing homes, and best of all, being able to donate \$3,000 this year to the Church. Thank you wonderfully! ~The officers of your ICCCW: Kathy Ritter, Glenda Sexauer, Mary Anne Farley, and Mary Wilson

* **Thanks to all of you early birds who have paid your 2022 dues!** Our annual dues are due the month of January.

* **Happy New Year to all! May a multitude of blessings and joy come your way!**

* **Help us begin planning the Spring Bunco Fund-raiser!** We are looking for volunteers to donate baskets for our basket raffle, gift cards for our Popsicle Pick (20 \$5, 15 \$10, 5 \$20, and 2 \$25), teams to fill the work schedule, snack donators, and a decorating team.

* **Watch for our announcements** about a day trip to The Sisters of St. Joseph Convent and Museum in February! We look forward to an interesting tour and luncheon!

A Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land..

Co-Sponsored by Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Belleville and The Messenger November 28 to December 9, 2022

Pilgrimage Director: Fr. Steve Beatty

This pilgrimage will include important sites in Jesus' life as well as visits to places in the Holy Land where CRS is carrying on the work of Jesus today. Pricing, complete itinerary, and registration will be available after Feb. 28, 2022. To be placed on the priority mailing list to receive a full itinerary and registration information, contact Cheryl Sommer, CRS Animator for the Diocese of Belleville at crsdiobelle@gmail.com or 618-624-2838.



Adeodatus Says:

“You learn how to recover from falling by falling!”

Stewardship... Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

December 19, 2021:

Actual.....	\$14,928.00
Budget.....	\$24,300.00
Actual YTD.....	\$853,388.34
Budget YTD.....	\$944,100.00
Over (under).....	\$ (90,711.66)
Gibault.....	.\$170.00
Guatemala.....	.\$290.00
CEAC.....	.\$5,656.00
Retired Religious.....	.\$670.00
Capital Improvements.....	.\$20.00
SVdP.....	.\$100.00
Christmas Flowers.....	.\$190.00
Needy.....	.\$30.00
Christmas Offering.....	.\$610.00
Retired Belleville Priests.....	.\$20.00

Due to an early bulletin deadline, financials for Dec 26 & Jan 2 will appear in the Jan 9 2022, bulletin. Thank you for your understanding!

CEAC Debt Status...

There is \$4.723 million as of 12/15/2021.

- If you have an outstanding pledge from the 7 year campaign, you should have received an updated letter statement with your status. Thanks for continuing to honor your pledge commitment.
- If you have already fulfilled your campaign pledge commitment, I thank you and ask that you consider making a new pledge or continuing to donate on an ongoing basis until the debt is retired.
- If you have not yet made a pledge, I ask you to please consider doing so. We are focusing on paying down the remaining debt as quickly as possible to avoid paying interest. Thanks for your continued support of the parish.

~Fr. Carl

Save taxes on IRA Required Minimum Distributions...

Many Americans have taken advantage of tax incentives provided by Congress to encourage saving for retirement through contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k)s and similar plans. In addition to income tax savings at the time contributions are made to such plans, the assets in the plans then build tax free over time for future enjoyment.

After age 70 1/2, when required minimum distributions (RMDs) can begin, up to \$100k/year from the IRA can be donated to charity tax free. (RMD's are not required now until age 72 if you were not 70 1/2 by 12/31/2019.)

Tax deductions for charitable contributions have been impacted by higher standard deductions for federal tax. If you are going to donate to charity anyway, why not take advantage of this tax savings opportunity? Fr. Carl does it! Contact your tax advisor or Keith Huels in the parish office for more information.

~ IC Planned Giving Council

Prayer List Guidelines: Please be kind and call the office when someone needs to come off of the prayer list. Please **only put troops on the list that are on active duty in harms way.** Thank you!

From Our Young Stewards...

Children's Collection: \$4.00

Time & Talent:

Emptied the dishwasher; Helped take out recycling; emptied dishwasher; My good deed was to not sin, to be nice!



Online Giving Right Now!



Use this QR code to visit ICC's online giving page. Update your monthly offerings, check your pledge balance OR make a one-time gift to a special cause. *Thank you for sharing your blessings!*

The 2021 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do

~John 14:12

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED!!

We have made our parish goal!!!

If you have not donated to the CSMA and would like to, you still can!! The CSMA funds all types of ministry's in the Diocese of Belleville! More help is needed, especially during the holidays! Stop by the parish office if you need more info!

Please Pray For...

Connie Luechtefeld
Danielle Dorlac
Donna Archambault-Kania
Arlin Stechmesser
Jan Hoffman
Jane Frey
M. Brown
Donna Marlo Wirz
Jack Finney
Sherri Kay Bradley-Whitehouse
Bill Huss
Catherine Marlo
Mary Consolino
Nicole Pennington
Gerri Griffin
Margaret Ann
Conrad
Dolores G.
Joy Bretz
Alan Mattingly
Ellen Dietz
A. Moore
S. Wright
S. Brown
Fr. Paul Gallagher, OFM
Joe Hubbard
Sabo Family
Geneva Lambert

Angela Krupp
Robyn Henry
Richard Sambo
Rose Reichert
Carolyn Beatty
John Stonis
Donald Nicoloff
Gary Pinson
Carole Paris
Paul Kjosa
Michael Robinson
Norman Knight
Debbie Murphy
Art Carle
Kate Beck
Margaret Wallace
Ron Wallace
Brian Kreher
Special Intention
Derek Hoppe
Bill Kutz
Kelsey Christisen
Theresa Dorshorst
Mike Conrad
Rowan Mueth
Donald Mehrmann
Diane Maxson
Stephen A. Marlo
Christine and baby boy
Gossett
Tootie May

Super Special Intention
Janice McDermott
Chandler Moore
Dennis Krupp
Troops in Service...
Army Ranger Joseph Pope
Katherine Gilbreth *EM2 USN*
COL Brian Schoellhorn, *US Army*
OSSN Seth Spencer
Brandon Molner *USMC*,
SPC Dylan Stern *US Army*
Capt. Benjamin Thoma *USAF*
LTC Matthew A. Greb, *US Army*
Kristopher Castellanos, *US Marines*
Andrew J. Gilbreth, *USAF*
2nd Lt. Justin Habiger, *US Army*
Master Sgt Eve Dorshorst, *USAF*
Capt Aaron Toenjes *USAF*
Chase Mansfield, *USMC*
Tanner Autry, *USMC*

This Week's Liturgical Celebrations

Monday Jan 3, 8:05 a.m..... We Pray For All Parishioners
 Tuesday Jan 4, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Bill Leingang
 Wednesday Jan 5, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Herb & Betty Lehr
 Thursday Jan 6, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Bill Kilian
 Friday, Jan 7, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Our Sister Parish of St. Raymond's
 and all Impacted by Cancer
 Saturday Jan 8, 5:00 p.m..... We Remember John, Catherine & Jane Mallett
 Sunday Jan 9, 7:00 a.m..... (Park & Pray) We Remember Special Intentions
 9:00 a.m..... We Pray For Catherine Linnemann As She Celebrates
 Her 95th Birthday
 11:00 a.m..... We Remember Joan Johns

Discipleship Corner...

As we all know, Santa is trapped on a container ship somewhere on the oceans. As a result, there may be some post-Christmas remorse over the slight scarcity of gifts we found beneath our Christmas trees. All the more reason to acknowledge God's ever abundant presence in our lives. "...And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:20). Our desire to be with God cannot exceed God's desire to be with us. Indeed, the reason for the season is to commemorate God's humility to be with us as man. **Thank God!!**

Vocations Corner...

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night”, the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

Pro-life Resources...

Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support:

- Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo & Red Bud)
618-939-4224 mylifenet.org and Birthright Counseling STL (on Lemay Ferry Rd in Dierberg's Plaza) 314-962-3653
birthrightstl.org Free and confidential hope and healing-counseling for anyone hurt by abortion
- Project Rachel 618-722-5068 hopeafterabortion.com
- Fontebella Maternity Home-A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness. 618/406-4355
caritasfamilysolutions.org/fontebella-maternity-home
- If you, or someone you know, have an unborn baby diagnosed with “fetal abnormalities” or an “adverse prenatal diagnosis”, please refer to: **BeNotAfraid.net** and **PrenatalPartnersforLife.org** Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis.

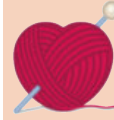
Weekly Reflections

January 9, 2022

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-4, 8-12

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



Prayer Shawls Available!

Do you know someone who needs prayers?? Why not bring them some comfort with a hand made prayer shawl, from our Prayer Shawl Ministry?? Each Shawl will wrap your loved one in the prayers of our parish! Even during this vastly different time with COVID, we can get your loved one a prayer shawl. We deliver in sanitized bags and will leave on a porch or you can still pick up at the office during office hours. Call Marsha Narzinski at 314-517-4927 or Angie at the parish office 281-5105.

Need gift cards??

Stop by the Parish Office and buy Scrip! A percentage of each card will go to the CEAC!



A Simple Way to Help Out Our School!

ICS is still collecting the Box Tops for Education. This is FREE money for the school. You can still cut them off the actual boxes and you can also simply scan your receipt using the app. (see link)). NOW - you can turn in your receipts to the school office and we will do all the work for you. Again, this is FREE money to ICS!!!! https://www.boxtops4education.com/-/media/gmi/boxtopsforeducation/crc-downloads/2020/2020-08/site_download_btfeoverview2020.ashx?la=en





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

~ School Principal: Dave Gregson Ext. 202 ~dgregson@icsmail.org

School Secretary: Beverly Epplin Ext. 200 bepplin@icsmail.org

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Visit ICS on the web:
www.icscolumbia.org

Want to receive the good news about ICS? Send an email to: Mrs. Bev Epplin: bepplin@icsmail.org & she will add you to our distribution list.



Holiday Memories: By ICS!

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. Contact Angie at the Parish office if you have questions. ***The initial course is now available online. Please contact Angie at the parish office for directions.** Not sure if you are compliant?? **Contact Angie at the parish office.** ***The online refresher course for the 2021-2022 IS NOW AVAILABLE! Follow the link on our website!** If you can't find it there, it is also on the diocesan website: <http://diobelle.org/b.aspx>

Questions? Contact Angie at the parish office 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: 800-640-3044.

Sacramental Preparation...

Baptisms: Parents/guardians are asked to attend a preparation seminar (which happens on the 2nd Sunday of the month after 9am Mass—approximately 10am—in the lower-level library). Please contact the parish office to schedule your baptism or for more info.

Weddings: Please contact the Parish office a minimum of four 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.

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) The RCIA is for everyone who has been drawn by God to form 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 RCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. We meet in the Parish Office on Sundays, starting with "Breaking Open the Word" dismissal from 9 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact **Lizanne Young**: at the Parish Office, 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyoung@icmail.org.

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Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing, Salon Owner

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John Adams, CFP®
Financial Advisor

314-720-2167

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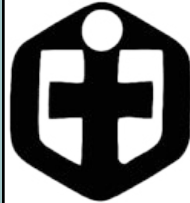
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