

May 11, 2025

Our Lady of the Woods Parish

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MARY IS
THE MOTHER
WHO WATCHES
OVER US,
HER CHILDREN,
ON OUR
JOURNEY
THROUGH LIFE,
OFTEN WEARY
AND IN NEED,
ANXIOUS THAT
THE LIGHT OF
HOPE NOT FAIL.

CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48



Notes from the Pastor

There has been a lot going on this past week in our church and our world, especially in our parish! Firstly, I have to begin by wishing a Happy Mothers' Day to all the women in our parish! Mothers' Day isn't just about honoring the physical mothers in our lives, it is about acknowledging all those women who have provided and cared for us throughout our lives. I am so grateful for the many women in my life whose example of faith, dedication, and service to others fostered my faith and brought me to my vocation of priesthood. Of course I am first and foremost thankful for the gift of my mom, but I also think of women I have encountered along the way who have been a gift to me and helped me learn what it is to be a disciple of Christ. Thank you to all of you and if you haven't done so yet and are still fortunate to be able to do so, call your mother!

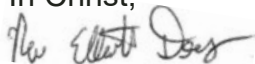


Secondly, we have been celebrating a lot of sacraments here at Our Lady of the Woods. As I mentioned last week, we had our confirmation mass last Sunday and it was wonderful to see our young people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to live their faith each and every day. Bishop Kane reminded all of us that our faith is lived not just on Sunday but in every moment. Just yesterday we also had the joy of celebrating first communions. It has been a while since my own first communion but I remember how special it was to finally be able to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. Our first communicants remind us all of how special the gift of the Eucharist is and how we can often take it for granted. The smiles and excitement they displayed yesterday reminded me that I should have that same anticipation and joy every time I receive our Lord! Thank you to our first communicants and their families for sharing that moment with our parish. We look forward to gathering around the altar with you every Sunday!

With all these celebrations has come a great deal of planning and organizing. I want to thank our Religious Education Program and our Youth Ministry for the work that they put into preparing our young people for these moments. Formation and faith begin in the home but they are fostered in our parish through the hard work and dedication of those who serve as catechists and leaders in our ministries geared toward education and faith formation. Without their time and effort, we could not do the amazing work that we do here at OLW. Thank you to all of you for your dedication to our young people.

Finally, by the time you're reading this on Saturday or Sunday, we could have a new pope! Beginning on Wednesday, May 7th, the cardinals of the church who are eligible to vote went into conclave to pray and elect a new pope. In the conclaves of my lifetime this has been a relatively quick process; no more than a few days. Many are predicting a short conclave so it is possible we have a new Holy Father; if we do have one I'll write about him next week. If we get to next week's bulletin and we still don't have a new pope then we have a situation we haven't seen in a long time with a long conclave. Whatever the case, may the cardinals listen to the Holy Spirit and may God bless the ministry of our new Holy Father, whoever that may be!

In Christ,



Father Elliott
Pastor

LECTORS

Saturday, May 17

5:00 PM—Ann Lipuma, Steve Kahn

Sunday, May 18

8:00 AM—Al Wagner, Judy Nocek

9:30 AM—Adam Kaufmann, Becky Bosack

11:00 AM—Debbie Calandriello, Brian Goebel

6:00 PM—Kevin Czarnecki, Steve Barstatis

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, May 17

5:00 PM—Finnegn Loughry

Sunday, May 18

8:00 AM—Kroplewski

9:30 AM—Swiatkowski, Alex Akroush

11:00 AM—Simon Krysiak, Lucy Cryns

6:00 PM—Czarnecki



Please consider continuing your weekly donations via online giving by visiting ourladyoffthewoods.org.

Look for the little gift box or scan the **QR Code below**.

You can easily set up an account to make recurring gifts, or you can make a one-time donation through GiveCentral. Under payment type, you can choose either a Debit/Credit Card or Bank Account.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity!



Are You or Someone You Know in Need of Assistance?

If you are in need of assistance, contact us at (708) 606-5360.

A representative will return your call within 48 hours.

Confidentiality and compassion are the cornerstones of our Ministry.

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us.

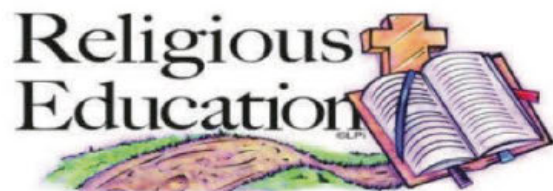
Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.



Weekend of May 4

God Bless All for your continued generosity to our Parish.

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Week	\$17,920	\$22,000	(\$4,080)
Year	\$918,354	\$990,000	(\$71,646)



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

IMPORTANT DATES:



**Congratulations all of
the Confirmandi's**



**Congratulations all First Holy
Communicants**



**Our SPRED Program is
Tuesday at 5:00PM and
Saturday at 10:00 AM.
Celebration—May 17**

**Vacation Bible School
"Pilgrims of Hope"**

June 23—27

**Songs, Lesson, Scripture, Prayer,
Arts/ crafts, snacks**

Cost: \$30.00

**Link: [https://forms.gle/
KcyrkcSmdGTLuSJNA](https://forms.gle/KcyrkcSmdGTLuSJNA)**

****We need Volunteers**

**Calling All
Catechists!**



We are seeking passionate individuals to serve as catechists to share the joy of the faith with our young disciples.

If you are inspired to help guide others in their journey with Christ and deepen their Catholic faith, we invite you to join us in this vital ministry.

The Readings for this Sunday: Jesus shared a new commandment with his disciples: to love one another as he loved them.

What can we do this week?

This week we are invited to help create this new world through acts of love and care.

- 1—How can you show love to others, especially when facing challenges?
- 2—What steps can you take to offer more support to those around you?



**Our Lady of the Woods Church—
Religious Education Program
(708) 361—9435**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

May 10, 2025



Brooke Bender	Sadie Griffin	Daniella O'Connor
Colin Bender	Ashton Hansel	Kayla O'Leary
Reagan Carroll	Walter Haraf	Penelope O'Malley
Parker Chesna	Lucy Hunt	Teagan O'Malley
Kelly Coleman	John Kaufmann	Henry Palmisano
Maeve Coleman	Konnor Kitching	Ava Perkovic
Vincent Cryns, III	Kennedy Krokos	Natalie Placek
Claire Daemicke	Everett Lambrecht	Grace Poore
Olivia Daukszewicz	Rowan Lysaught	Violet Rispin
Charlotte Dorigan	John Macarol	Emerson Schweikert
Kevin Dorigan	Nora MacKinnon	Falyn Simon
Annie Dougherty	Nolan Malczewski	Luke Smith
Riley Duer	Gavin Marshall	Olivia Valencia
Carolina Duzan	Molly Masini	Jayden Villagonzalo
Julia Dwyer	Charlie McGlennon	Julia Vinh
Audrey Enright	Sean Mendoza	Henry Wade
Nicolas Espinoza	Savannah Milkevitch	Colin Watson
Thomas Foley	Teagan Nagle	George Yerkes
Connor Gerretse	Carolyn Nowakowski	Leonardo Zaucha
Brody Gibbs	Liam O'Brien	Nicholas Ziolek
Elizabeth Griffin	Samuel O'Brien	

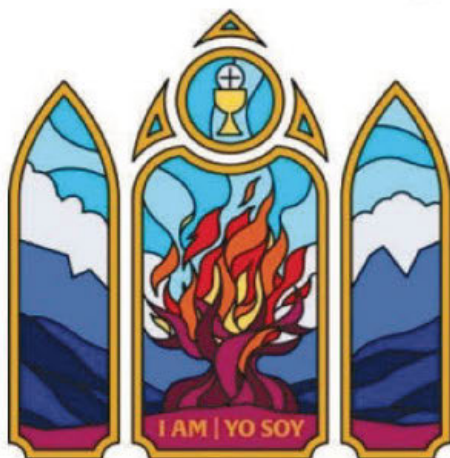
**Our Lady of the Woods Youth,
Young Adult, & Family Ministries**
ourladyofthewoods.org



Youth Ministry
Jr. High School and Older
Drop-In and Open Gym
6-7:30pm on Thursdays!



NCYC Conference!
November 20-22, 2025
Indianapolis
All High School and older are
invited to attend!
Please contact Christine for
details and how to register.



Family Ministry

**Sponsored by Religious
Education!**

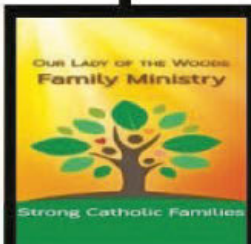


**Vacation Bible
School!**

June 23 - 27, 2025
Registration can be found on
our website
at
Ourladyofthewoods.org



Thought of the Week!
Choosing to follow God is
one decision you will
never regret!



Come join us for lots of fun!
Please Call Christine Collins at (708)269-6315 or
email at ccollins@ourladyofthewoods.org
Weekly updates can be found at
ourladyofthewoods.org or on Facebook's
Our Lady of the Woods Family & Youth Ministries
All are Welcome!





Support Catholic Charities Today!

Your support today can create stability for generations.

Make your gift to the 2025 Mother's Day Appeal today to support mothers and children across Cook and Lake counties. Your generosity helps us serve more than 61,000 moms and families every year with supports that promote long-term growth and well-being.

Read about Kay*, a participant in Catholic Charities' New Hope Apartment program:

Kay's decision to leave an unhealthy relationship was a vital first step on her journey to become the mom she wanted to be. But for months after leaving, she and her children had nowhere to live. That changed when Kay connected with Catholic Charities. We provided rental assistance and other support. Now Kay is a nurse and ready to buy a house. She's proud of the example she's setting for her children. "I'm grateful," Kay says. "This made me a stronger person. My children have seen me do it. I tell them, 'Go to school, get your education. You can do it, too.'"

Please support the Second Collection on Mother's Day, May 11 or anytime at catholiccharities.net/mothers

**Names have been changed to protect privacy*



catholiccharities.net/mothers



**JOIN IN A SIX WEEK STUDY OF
GENESIS
WITH FATHER ELLIOTT**

**FROM MAY 7TH THROUGH
JUNE 11TH AT 6:30 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



THANK YOU TO ALL

This year's Fish Fry reached an exceptional level of socializing with family, friends and food.

Thank you to the **wonderful** volunteers at the event and behind the scenes with event preparation. Thanks also to the dessert makers, parish staff and all the supporters who came to dine. It couldn't be done without each and every one of you.

A special thanks to Pelican Harry's Bar & Grill on Bell Road in Homer Glen for helping us procure the fish at an excellent price.

Spread the word for next year's Fry! It will be March 27th! In the Our Lady of the Woods tradition, **ALL are welcome**. A good relaxing time with friends and family is an experience worth sharing.



The Knights of Columbus Split the Pot winning number was on a blue ticket 220528 which HAS been claimed.

Thanks to all who participated!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



We are in need of your talents. Looking for anyone who would love to provide warmth and comfort to those in need. We are in search of those who love to crochet and/or knit. We meet at Our Lady of the Woods every third Friday of the month at 10:00am until noon. We donate shawls to anyone who is undergoing medical treatments. Some are taken to local hospital chemo wards. We also have them available at church for those in need or if you have a friend or family member who is in need of comfort. All are given gratis. Also, we make hats and scarves which are donated to shelters and the homeless. If you are homebound and would love to contribute to our ministry, we would gratefully arrange to pick up any finished articles. We are having our next meeting on **Friday, May 16, 2025.**

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Carlson at 773-507-0856 or Mary Stringham at 773-213-9301, co-chairs.

M G M MEN'S GROUP MEETING

NEXT MEETING: MAY 13TH @ 7:00PM

LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER

TOPICS VARY BUT ALL ARE INTENDED TO ENRICH YOUR FAITH LIFE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MGM CONTACT EITHER MIKE CALLAHAN, OLOW PASTOR MINISTER, AT mcallahan@ourladyofthewoods.org. OR GORDON SELIN AT gselino7@gmail.com. YOU CAN ALSO REACH MIKE THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 708-361-4754.

Grant Me, O Lord My God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.
Saint Thomas Aquinas



Bible Study/Reflection Meeting with Father Robert will meet
on Thursday, **May 22nd** at 7:00pm.

All are welcome!



Our Veteran Ministry will be having a Memorial Day Ceremony after the 9:30am Mass on May 25th. To honor our deceased Veterans, please submit a photo of any family members or friends for our display. Please be sure to add Name and Rank of service with photo. Drop off photos to the Church Office by May 22nd.





Our Lady of the Woods Children's Athletic Ministry



Sponsor A CHAIR

The Children's Athletic Ministry
would like to replace the gym
benches with padded chairs.
Please help us fund this effort by
sponsoring a chair today.

Only
\$225

**30 CHAIRS AVAILABLE
FOR SPONSORSHIP**

Scan the QR Code to fill
out sponsorship form or
<https://tinyurl.com/olowchair>



FINAL CHANCE - ONLY A FEW CHAIRS LEFT TO SPONSOR!!

If you are interested in sponsoring a chair, please follow the QR Code above or fill out the form and drop it off in the parish office with payment.

Should you have any questions please email athletics@ourladyofthewoods.org

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Each chair will have an engraved plate – please provide the following information:

DONATED BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF (if Applicable): _____

Make Checks Payable to: OUR LADY OF THE WOODS



Once again, the people from Our Lady of the Woods showed the love and compassion for our fellow neighbors by participating in National Rebuilding Day on April 26, 2025. This event was in Maywood, Illinois for a 75-year old lady. The tasks that needed to be completed were placing 7 smoke detectors in the house, placing non-skid pads on steps, putting larger house numbers on the front of the house, cleaned out many items from the house, installed hand rails, planted and cleaned up the grounds and more. We were also assisted by union plumbers, electricians and painters. The home owner was extremely happy and it was a great job by everyone. Thank you!





II. Christine Hurley & Timothy Beltran

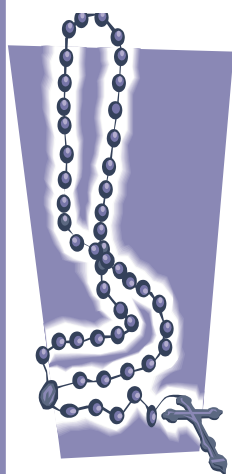
Welcome to our Parish

Jean Quigley
Robert & Linda Bosack



Please pray for our sick:

Macie Bracken, Jim Capuano, Pete Collins,
Paul Dederich, Mary Gibson, Grace Hal-
strom, Kathleen Hennessy, Christopher Hilli-
ard, Jamie Stanko Johnson, Richard Kolasin-
ski, Al Kubicki, Gino Montalbano, Connie
Pinto, Alicia Ramirez, CJ Slomski, Drew
Stanko



*Please join us
every
morning after the
8:30 Mass to say the
Rosary and the
Chaplet of the
Divine Mercy.*

*Every Friday after
8:30 Mass a Holy
Hour for the Sacred
Heart of Jesus with Benediction
is hosted.
Please feel free to join us.*

Let us Pray

*Please join Our Lady of the Woods Parish as we
continue to pray for those who have or are serving in the
military. We pray for those who protect our country,
for their safety, and well-being, especially,*

<i>Adam Rodrigues</i>	<i>Peter Michael Czerwien, USN</i>
<i>Captain John Brooker</i>	<i>Robert Owens</i>
<i>CPL John P. Cherry</i>	<i>Larry Stolinski</i>
<i>CPL Brandon D. Gabry</i>	<i>Major Tom Buller</i>
<i>LCPL Steve Olson</i>	<i>Sgt. Greg Danko</i>
<i>Lt. John Spannuth</i>	<i>Mario Danko</i>
<i>Sgt. David A. Delach</i>	<i>PFC Tim Radcliffe</i>
<i>Brian Allen</i>	<i>Sgt. David Darwent Gavril</i>
<i>Bryan Lampinen</i>	<i>Robert Micham</i>
<i>Sgt. John P. Micham</i>	<i>Danielle Batton</i>
<i>Sgt. Jesus M. Flores</i>	<i>CPT Brendan Girouard</i>
<i>Lt. Dylan Conover</i>	<i>LT Matthew E. Lodwich</i>
<i>Sean Girouard</i>	<i>CSM Joseph Cistaro</i>
<i>CPL Rowen N. Barker</i>	<i>SPC Rebecca Buhs</i>
<i>1Lt. Jack McGuire</i>	<i>LTC Nicholas Kamon</i>
<i>2Lt. Patrick McGuire</i>	<i>LT Christa Kamon</i>
<i>Ian Altieri</i>	<i>AB Kevin Schwenn</i>
<i>Battalion Chief Douglas Mayer</i>	<i>AB Sean Schwenn</i>
<i>LT Garrett Green,</i>	<i>CPT Allen Dagys</i>
<i>PO2 Gabe Duda, USN</i>	<i>CPT Justin T. Halligan</i>
<i>E5-VN Francisco J. Gaytan</i>	<i>Sgt. Gavril</i>
<i>E4-SA Michael A. Gaytan</i>	<i>AJ Pfeiffer</i>
<i>Joe Vanderberg, Army</i>	<i>Sgt. Rafal Hodur</i>
<i>Robert Burns, Army</i>	<i>SFC Rosalinda Jaime</i>
<i>Lt. Anna Loureiro, Army</i>	<i>SO2 John F. Radtke USN</i>
	<i>Cpl. Michael Murphy</i>



Our Deceased:

Eileen Shannon
William Pisano



"Eternal rest grant to her O Lord."

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Our Ministry Team is here to help you
during this difficult time:

Michelle Hilliard—708-361-4754

*"Blessed are they who mourn, for they
shall be comforted."*

Matthew 5:4



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, May 10

8:30 AM—Walter Orlow, Bernice Wojenik

5:00 PM—Michael & Marelyn Gorman, Ann Clair

SUNDAY, May 11

8:00 AM—People of Our Lady of the Woods, Norbert & Bernice Mikolajczyk

9:30 AM—Fred Butalla, Jr., Al Leonard

11:00 AM—Anne Sikon, Betty Leonardo, Felix Jr., Alfonso, Estella, Lupe & Alfredo Ramirez

6:00 PM—Carmelo & Maria Chiaro, Frank & Caterina Mundo

MONDAY, May 12

6:30 AM—Special Intentions of Gregg Kaput

8:30 AM—Fred Butalla, Jr. Robert Ellsworth

TUESDAY, May 13

6:30 AM—Elinor Sullivan

8:30 AM—Carol Eipers, Will, Lorraine & Bill Sullivan

WEDNESDAY, May 14

6:30 AM—Michael Prchal

8:30 AM—Dennis McQueary, Thomas Kewley

THURSDAY, May 15

6:30 AM— Communion Service

8:30 AM—Patricia Spalla, Mindy Favata, Patty Hynes

FRIDAY, May 16

6:30 AM—George W. & George R. Ferrell

8:30 AM—Eileen Grein, Ralph DeFay

SATURDAY, May 17

8:30 AM—Helen Orlow, Raymond Wisinski

5:00 PM—Patricia Rowley, Mary Carmody, Special Intentions of the Guzior Family

SUNDAY, May 18

8:00 AM—People of Our Lady of the Woods, Terry Wall

9:30 AM—Pauline Pracz, Leona Kotora, Lucia Labriola

11:00 AM—Eric Horabik, Janina & Dennis Dobowski

6:00 PM—Ron Dombrowski, Fred Jasinski

Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

Sunday:Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/
Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30**Monday:**

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday:Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn
10:22-30**Wednesday:**Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
7-8/ Jn 15:9-17**Thursday:**Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20**Friday:**Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn
14:1-6**Saturday:**Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14**Next Sunday:**Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see
1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Livestreamed),
11:00 am & 6:00 pm

Daily Masses:

6:30 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
8:30 am Monday through Saturday

6:30 am Communion Service on Thursdays

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass &
4:00 pm to 4:45 pm

ADORATION

Thursday 2:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Friday 9:00—10:00 am

Creation Care Corner

Protecting Creation, "is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological ..." — Pope Francis

Pope Francis' Creation Care Legacy (Part 1)

Pope Francis will be remembered for making all things that live on the earth a pastoral priority. He helped the world to see caring for creation not as a political, social, scientific or ideological battle, but as a moral imperative. This is because the poor and future generations will suffer most from environmental degradation. He taught that abusing the "common home" of the earth, its ecosystems and all forms of life that depend on it "...is a grave sin."

Francis spoke of the growing environmental crises as signaling broader broken relationships between man and God, man and fellow man, and man and nature. Social, economic, political and environmental issues are not separate problems, but are dimensions of one overarching crisis, according to Francis. In his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, Francis spoke of an "integral ecology" and demonstrated that everything is interconnected. To address the environmental crisis, Francis taught that we need to fix our relationship with God, our fellow humans, and be open to an "ecological conversion." As part of his legacy, Pope Francis solidly established ecology and stewardship of creation as a pro-life, pro-marginalized, and pro-family issue.

REV. ELLIOTT DEES, PASTOR
REV. ROBERT MARCHWIANY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
MOST REV. JOHN R. GORMAN, RESIDENT
REV. ED MIKOLAJCZYK, RESIDENT
DEACON JOHN J. AND TERE MACAROL
DEACON DOUG AND CAROLYN SZARZYNSKI
DEACON RICK AND KIM DUDA

SHELLY STANKO
Business/Office Manager

JOHN MACAROL
Facilities Manager

DAN BILEK
Sacristan

MICHELLE HILLIARD
Pastoral Associate

MIKE CALLAHAN
Pastoral Minister

CHRISTINE COLLINS
Youth Minister

ANDY PERZ
Director of Music Ministry

KATHLEEN ERICKSEN
Coordinator of Religious Education

NANCY FREDERICK
Athletic Coordinator

DIANE VANDERPOOL
Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
Bulletin@ourladyofthewoods.org

ERIN KUTA
Religious Education Secretary

BRITTNEY LITTLE
Athletic Administrator

BAPTISMS: Sunday at 12:30 PM. Arrangements must be made in advance at the Parish Office.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Office six months in advance. Pre-Cana required.
REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH: Newcomers are welcome to the Parish and are requested to register at the office.

PARISH BOUNDARIES: East 80th Ave., (west side), North Rte. 83 (south side), West Bell Rd. (east side) to 123rd Street to Parker Road (east side), South 135th Street (north side)

10731 W. 131st Street Orland Park 60462

708-361-4754

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