



Holy Redeemer (HR) 106 3rd St. SE, PO Box 401 • Renville, MN 56284 • holyredeemer@heartofjesusafc.org

St. Mary (SM) 220 S. 10th St., PO Box 500 • Bird Island, MN 55310 • stmary@heartofjesusafc.org

St. Aloysius (SA) 302 S. 10th St. • Olivia, MN 56277 • staloyusius@heartofjesusafc.org

Area Faith Staff Listing:

- Fr. Joe SteinbeisserPastor**
.....frjoe@heartofjesusafc.org
- Fr. George Schmit .. Sen. Associate**
.....frgeorge@heartofjesusafc.org
- Sara Anderson AFC Bus. Mgr.**
.....saraa@heartofjesusafc.org
- Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson..Principal**
.....tbertrand@stmarysbi.com
- Sue Klinghagen... AFC Bookkeeper**
.....suek@heartofjesusafc.org
- Sue O'Halloran.... AFC Admin Assist**
.....sueo@heartofjesusafc.org
- Doug Olinger.....AFC Fac. Mgr.**
.....dolinger@stmarysbi.com
- Summer O'Neill.... AFC Bookkeeper**
.....summero@heartofjesusafc.org
- Michelle Peppel.....AFC DFF**
.....michellep@heartofjesusafc.org
- Lynn SchuellerFF Coordinator**
.....lynns@heartofjesusafc.org
- Karen SmithSchool Secretary**
.....ksmith@stmarysbi.com
- Sandy Zens.... AFC Parish Secretary**
.....sandyz@heartofjesusafc.org

AFC Office Hours:
M- Th: 9:00 am -4:00 pm,
F: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm (noon)

All AFC offices are located in the parish home at St. Aloysius - 302 South 10th Street, Olivia
Phone: (320)365-3593 or (320)523-2030

St. Mary's School:
Phone: (320) 365-3693

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Yesterday we celebrated God's greatest gift to the world, the birth of his Son. Jesus was born into the world in a family. Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

In being born into a family, God wanted to point out to us the importance of a family as a child is growing up. The family can help the child develop a good self-image of him/herself. Within the family the child can fail at something and still feel loved and supportive.

In honoring family life today, it is good to reflect on what words we say to our children. For our children want to always please us. They don't want to disappoint us. They want us to be proud of them. So does your child hear from your lips positive or negative re-enforcement? You did your best. I am proud of you. Or do we find ourselves using the words "never" or "always" when we are talking to our children? You will never amount to anything. You are always letting me down.

I remember back in the early 80's when I was part of Bishop Licker's staff and living at the Pastoral Center in New Ulm. One winter, Community Education offered adult swimming lesson. Since I can hardly swim I decided to take swimming lesson.

One day there was a mother at the Vogel Area with her daughter who was about 3 or 4 years old and taking swimming lessons. The mother was yelling at her daughter, "You will never be able to do anything right; you can't even keep your head under water. You are an embarrassment to your dad and me."

As she was saying those words to her daughter, I was thinking how glad I was that she was not my mother because I have a hard time keeping my head under water. How often do we find ourselves yelling at our kids when they have done something wrong? They probably need to be yelled at but do we also stop to compliment them when they do something good?

Years ago I saw a plague or poster that contained some very good words of wisdom. It was a poem written by a Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph. D. and is entitled, *Children Learn What They Live*. The poem contains nineteen lines but I have chosen these lines to give you a sense of what she says. "If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn; with hostility, they learn to fight; with shame, they feel guilty; with encouragement, learn confidence; with praise, learn appreciation; with approval, learn to like themselves; with acceptance, learn to love." To check out the entire poem go to the Internet and type in her name or the words "If children live with...."

Cont. on Pg. 3

Welcome to all those who celebrate with us, whether life long parishioners, new arrivals in the area, or visitors! **If you have not registered, or if you have moved, please complete this form and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.**

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- New Parishioner Update/Changed Info St. Mary St. Aloysius Holy Redeemer

This Week in the Area Faith Community

AFC MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

*Amplifier aids available for the hearing impaired are located at the entrances of the church at SM & SA.
Please ask the ushers for assistance.*

| Date & Time | Location | Intention |
|----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Sun., December 26 | | |
| 8:00 am | SA | Rosary |
| 8:30 am | SA | + Joyce O'Halloran |
| 10:00 am | SM | Sacr. of Reconciliation |
| 10:30 am | SM | For the People |
| 10:00 am | HR | Sacr. of Reconciliation |
| 10:30 am | HR | + Charles Molenaar |
| Mon., December 27 | | |
| 8:30 am | SM | + Mary Jane Baechler |
| Tues., December 28 | | |
| 8:30 am | SA | + Pat Townley |
| Wed., December 29 | | |
| 8:30 am | SM | Safe & Healthy Holiday Season |
| Thurs., December 30 | | |
| 8:30 am | SM | + Milt Lundberg |
| Fri., December 31 | | |
| 8:30 am | SA | + Moran & Leona O'Halloran |
| 5:00 pm | SM | New Year's Eve Mass For the People |
| Sat., January 1 | | |
| 4:30 pm | SA | Sacr. of Reconciliation |
| 4:30 pm | SA | Rosary |
| 5:00 pm | SA | For the People |
| Sun., January 2 | | |
| 8:00 am | HR | Sacr. of Reconciliation |
| 8:30 am | HR | + Bill Johnson Family |
| 10:00 am | SM | Sacr. of Reconciliation |
| 10:30 am | SM | + Walt & Til Welsh |

Daily readings can be found at www.usccb.org. Readings are also listed in the free devotional books provided at our AFC churches: *The Word Among Us* and *Living Faith*.

Rosary is offered at 4:30 pm on Saturday and 8:00 am Sunday before the Mass at St Aloysius Church.

All Masses held in the church are open to parishioners and public.

Masses at health care facilities are for residents only until further notice.

One Priest Weekend Schedule for AFC:

Starting **January 1, 2022** until Fr. George returns late March 2022 the Mass schedule is
 Saturday:
 5:00 pm @ St Aloysius
 Sunday:
 8:30 am @ Holy Redeemer
 10:30 am @ St Mary's

***Our AFC parish office will be closed -Dec. 31
and plan to reopen on Monday, Jan. 3.***

Calendar of Events December 27, 2021-January 2, 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Nothing schedule | Nothing scheduled | 7:00 am Men's Group Meeting SA/JC | NO AFC Faith Form Classes 6:30 pm Parish Choir Prac. SM |
| No School @ St Mary's, BOLD, RCW & BLHS | | | |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| Nothing scheduled | AFC Parish Office Closed 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Mass @ SM | New Year's Day | Coffee & Rolls SA/JC |
| No School @ St Mary's, BOLD, RCW & BLHS | | | |

PASTORAL MESSAGE

I hope you and your family had a great Christmas celebration. Hopefully you will continue to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and enjoy this wonderful season of the year!

Next weekend we begin our One Priest Weekend schedule: Saturday Mass at 5:00pm at St Aloysius and Sunday Mass at 8:30am at Holy Redeemer and 10:30am at St Mary's.

The Solemnity of Mary on January 1st falls on a Saturday this year, so the obligation to attend the Holy Day Mass is dispensed. We will have a vigil Mass for the Solemnity on Friday December 31st at 5:00pm at the Church of St Mary for our Area Faith Community.

As we come to the end of this calendar year I want to thank everyone for your support and participation in our area parishes. Your gift of your time, talent and treasure makes it possible for us to continue the ministry of Jesus our Savior! May you have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Fr Joseph Steibeisser

Reflections continued from page 1.....

As we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we honor our families as well. By being born into a family, Jesus made holy family life. However, Jesus' family was not a perfect family even though we think it is the one family that got it right; that's why we call it the Holy Family.

Think for a moment what we know. Two of the three never sinned. There was no sibling rivalry. This family seemingly had it made. Yet Scripture tells us even the Holy Family was not as holy as we have images of it. Mary was an unwed mother-to-be and surely no less a struggle and social problem in the first century as it is today. Scripture does not name Mary's parents, much less give us an account of their response to Mary's good news.

The Holy Family's struggles are unmistakably present in the three-year cycle of Gospels for this feast. One year we hear Luke's account of Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus to God in the temple. The good news that Jesus was God's promised salvation to the entire world was quickly followed by Simeon's terrifying words to Mary: "This child is to be a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce."

Another year we hear the account of the Holy Family fleeing into Egypt. Exiled, they were refugees in a strange land, as are many families today.

This year we hear the Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old. Jesus became separated from Joseph and Mary for three days before they finally found him in the temple listening to the teachers and wowing them with his answers. We don't hear Mary as a proud parent say, "That's our boy!" when they finally find him safe and sound. Rather, the first words of Mary are, "Why have you done this to us?" Any parent who has been filled with great anxiety over a child coming home late knows the question was not whispered gently.

In many ways, the life of the Holy Family was just like ours, ordinary and messy at times. That life was blessed and holy, and so too is our family lives. Granted we all fall short but we learn and grow. May your family be blessed this day.

On Monday I will be leaving to drive to Florida for the winter. My sister, Karen, will be driving with me and I will fly her home once we get to Panama City Beach. I ask for your prayers for safe travels going and coming. See you at the end of March. Please stay safe and healthy.

Have a good week.

Fr. George Schmit

AFC PRAYER CHAIN

Do you or someone you know need prayer?

Contact Duane or Julie Remer @ 507-430-9485 for confidential prayers or if you are interested in serving on our prayer chain.

AFC PRAYER CORNER

In order to keep the prayer corner current, names will be kept on the prayer corner until **January 1, 2022** unless requested to come off earlier. In order for names to be on our prayers corner, the **INDIVIDUAL or a FAMILY MEMBER** must inform the parish office for your parish. Due to the Privacy Act we are unable to put names on our prayer list without their permission.

Please Pray For:

Bailey, Kim SA
Buesing, Shirley HR
Carmody, Dana SM
Dietz, Krystle SA
Dolezal, Joann SM
Lestrud Leif SM
Lykken, Chase SM
Minkel, Joyce SM
Nelson, Samuel T. SM
Sullivan Family, HR
Tersteeg, Kim SM

SA VIGIL LIGHTS

Vigil Lights for these special intentions will burn at the SA Shrine the week of December 25

- 1) Don & Mary Lou Dobmeier
- 2) Jennifer Beecham
- 3) Craten Knisley
- 4) Bernadine Knisley
- 5) Josh Schultz 6) Larry Amberg
- 7) Batis & Gladys Amberg
- 8) Ed & Stella Serbus
- 9) Ted & Mayne Serbus
- 10) Joyce O'Halloran
- 11) Carter Bremseth

Candles are \$4.00 Each.

Please place your single intention and money in the collection or bring it to the parish office no later than 12:00 noon on Monday. The candles are lit on Sat. and will burn throughout the week.

Parish, Area Faith Community and School News

AFC NEWS

2021 Contributions: To receive tax credit for the 2020 tax year donations must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. The parish offices will recognize donations dated in 2020 as 2020 contributions as long as they are delivered to the office no later than noon, **Monday, January 3, 2022**. This cut off will allow us to process all parishioner contribution statements in a timely manner.

There are Catholic calendars available at the entrances of our churches. Please take one if you have not done so already. Thank you to our sponsors: **Dirks – Blem Funeral Services, Knights of Columbus 2000, St. Mary’s Catholic United Financial Council, Councils of Catholic Women from our three parishes**, for providing these 2022 Catholic calendars.

ST. MARY’S NEWS

Fall Collection: Our goal for this years Fall Collection is **\$65,000**. An envelope was included in your stewardship packet on November 14. You may also donate online or place your donation in an envelope labelled “Fall Collection”. This collection replaces a parish dinner and festival/bazaar that many parishes have for a major fundraiser. Please be generous in your giving! So far we have received \$46,528.64 towards this collection, which is 71.58 % of our goal. Because of the bulletin deadline, we do not have the collection for Dec. 19 weekend included in this amount.

ST. MARY’S SCHOOL NEWS

\$25,000 Matching Grant: Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation \$25,000 Challenge Matching Grant

St. Mary’s School has been presented with an incredible opportunity to receive a \$25,000 matching grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. This Challenge Matching Grant requires our school to raise \$25,000 by December 31, 2021. If we were to raise \$25,000, the Schulz Foundation would match the \$25,000, which then totals \$50,000 back to our school!

Donations from either first-time donors or an “increased” monetary donation from current donors can contribute to this challenge. To clarify, gifts from first-time donors will count towards the challenge or if current donors raise their donation amount from their last gift, only the increased dollar amount will count towards the challenge. This is an “all-or-nothing” challenge. So if we don’t raise \$25,000 by December 31st, we do not receive any matching grant money.

All 13 Catholic schools in the New Ulm Diocese have been presented with this Challenge Matching Grant. In addition, the Diocese of New Ulm’s Office of Catholic Schools has also been presented with a \$50,000 Challenge Matching Grant with the same conditions. If all of the 13 Catholic schools and the diocese meet their goal, the diocese, as a whole, would receive \$750,000 in matching grant money. Dr. Michelle Kramer, director of the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of New Ulm states, “the money would support marketing and enrollment initiatives and would also allow for ongoing training for teachers, particularly in assisting them to adapt instruction to meet the needs of individual students be working with standardized test data and through the use of instructional technology.”

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation was created in 2004 by Dick Schulze, who is a Minnesota native and also the founder of Best Buy. He and his family want to give back to the communities where he and his family grew up. “Schulze and his family believe that a good education, a supportive family and a strong work ethic prepare children for a successful future.”

On the St. Mary’s School website: (www.stmarysschoolbirdisland.com), you can find more information about this challenge along with a video.

How can I contribute? Send a check or cash to St. Mary’s School with a memo stating Schulze Challenge Matching Grant Thrivent Financial members can designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Mary’s School. Over the age of 72 and have an IRA? IRA withdrawals to charitable donations, like this Matching Grant, are tax free. Give a gift of “grain/crop” to St. Mary’s School.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p><u>ST. MARY’S SCHOOL</u></p> <p>St. Mary’s SCHOOL WEBSITE! <u>stmarysschoolbirdisland.com</u></p> <p>Find us on FACEBOOK: <u>www.facebook.com/stmarysbi</u></p> |  |
|--|---|---|

| <u>ST. MARY’S CASH CALENDAR WINNERS</u> | | |
|--|----------------|---------|
| 12/12/2021 | Joanne Reinert | \$50.00 |
| 12/13/2021 | Kasey Athmann | \$25.00 |
| 12/14/2021 | Ryan Zupke | \$25.00 |
| 12/15/2021 | Jeremy Fifield | \$25.00 |
| 12/16/2021 | Nancy Russell | \$25.00 |
| 12/17/2021 | Jason Mitchell | \$25.00 |
| 12/18/2021 | Janice Marble | \$25.00 |

AFC Ministry Schedules

Ministry Schedules for the weekend of January 1/2, 2022

5:00 pm Sat., January 1 @ St. Aloysius

Sacristan: Sharon Chandler
Minister of the Word: Katie Haney
Plate: Father & Mary Kosak
Altar Servers: **Need 1**
Music: Linda, Dianne & Anita
Ushers: Terry & Kathy Kohout
Depositor: Duane Remer
Rosary Leader: Jim Kosak

10:30 am Sun., January 2 @ St. Mary's

Minister of the Word: Luke Tersteeg
Plate: Father & Nancy Aaseth
Altar Servers: Jason Amberg
Music: Amy Hollan & Judy Schindler
Ushers: Matt Jahnke & Henry Gartner

8:30 am Sun., January 2 @ Holy Redeemer

Minister of the Word: Mark Chan
Plate: Father, Emily Filzen
Altar Servers: Annabell Wertish
Music: TBD
Ushers: Bill Schafer & Gene Frank

AFC Money Counters: Monday, December 27: AFC parish office staff

Heart of Jesus AFC Youth Faith Formation News

HR Faith Formation: Reminder no class on Wed., Dec. 29 and we will resume on Jan. 5, 2022.

SM/SA Faith Formation: Reminder no class on Wed., Dec. 29 and we will resume on Jan. 5, 2022.

W.I.S.E: Our next meeting date will be January 19, 2022.

HEART OF JESUS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY **ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

RCIA: Are you someone who is wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith? Maybe you have been feeling a tug on your heart to become Catholic. We begin the journey of RCIA for people just like you to explore the richness of the Catholic faith. For more information please contact Michelle Peppel at the parish office (523-2030) or contact her via email at michellep@heartofjesusafc.org.

FORMED is a great source!

Be sure to register and use this resource!

To log in and use FORMED: Go to: heartofjesusafc.formed.org Click register and enter your name, email address, and desired password You're all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED! Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 26, 2021

WATCH

FORGIVEN—SESSION 1: WHERE ARE YOU?

As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Through our Forgiven series, you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Stewardship December 11/12, 2021

| | Holy Redeemer | St. Aloysius | St. Mary |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Adult | \$ 923.00 | \$ 3,011.00 | \$ 5,216.63 |
| Plate | \$ 100.00 | \$ 181.00 | \$ 135.00 |
| Total | \$ 1,023.00 | \$ 3,192.00 | \$ 5,351.63 |
| Weekly Budget | \$ 1,739.00 | \$ 4,091.88 | \$ 5,342.02 |
| Difference | \$ (716.00) | \$ (899.88) | \$ 9.61 |
| | | | |
| YTD Collection | \$ 42,181.48 | \$ 96,419.85 | \$ 151,503.21 |
| YTD Budget | \$ 41,736.00 | \$ 98,205.12 | \$ 128,208.48 |
| YTD Difference | \$ (445.48) | \$ (1,785.27) | \$ 23,294.73 |
| | | | |
| DMA Goal * 2021-22' | \$ 5,809.80 | \$ 17,071.86 | \$ 22,792.28 |
| Cash received | \$ 6,965.00 | \$ 12,113.65 | \$ 16,460.00 |
| Cash pledged | \$ 7,215.00 | \$ 12,428.65 | \$ 16,710.00 |

*Diocesan Ministry Appeal: Remember that 20% of our donations come back to each parish.

Sunday Offering Considerations

During these uncertain times, we need to ask all of our parishioners, if you are able, please continue your financial support of your parish to help us make up for our loss of Sunday offering. Your Adult Sunday Offerings are vital to the core ministries of our parishes. During this time, please consider one of these options one for your stewardship of treasure:

- online at www.heartofjesusafc.org.com, to make a recurring or one time donation. You will have complete control over your contribution amount and frequency of payments.
- an electronic contribution through ACH (Automatic Clearing House) for an amount to be transferred from your checking or savings account on the 1st and/or the 15th of every month. The ACH form can be found on the Area Faith Community website at www.heartofjesusafc.org.com.
- special collections are available with online donations at www.heartofjesusafc.org.com, or ACH donations with the form found on the website.
- mail your donation to your parish office.

And as always, thank you for your investment and continued support of our parishes. We need your support to continue to do God's work.

GIVE ONLINE



Click on the symbol at
www.heartofjesusafc.org.com
**if questions, call the parish

AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

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cost to our AFC.

Diocesan News & Area Community News

Blood Drive will be held on Mon., Jan 3, 1:00-7:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bird Island. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: BirdIslandMN to schedule an appointment.

Sexual Abuse Victim Notice: Anyone who has suffered sexual abuse by a priest or another person involved in Church ministry is encouraged to immediately report such abuse to local law enforcement, regardless of when it occurred, if it has not yet been reported. A listing of all county law enforcement and child protection agencies within the 15 counties of the Diocese of New Ulm is posted on the diocesan Web site at <https://www.dnu.org/report-abuse>.

Victims and survivors of abuse by clergy are also encouraged to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator or the bishop's delegate in matters pertaining to sexual misconduct at 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, or by phone at 507-233-5313, for counseling or other assistance in healing.

Toda persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un miembro del clero u otra persona en el ministerio de la Iglesia debe reportar dicha mala conducta a las autoridades policiales inmediatamente, independientemente de cuando haya sucedido, si aún no ha sido reportado. Un listado de todas las entidades policiales y los servicios de protección al menor dentro de los quince condados de la Diócesis de New Ulm se encuentra en nuestra página de internet, <https://www.dnu.org/report-abuse>.

También se exhorta a las víctimas y sobrevivientes de abuso por parte del clero ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de asistencia para víctimas o el delegado del Obispo en cuestiones sobre el mal comportamiento sexual 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, o al 507-233-5313 para consejería u otra ayuda de sanación.

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the New Year, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are Feb 18-20, 2022 in Windom, and Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo. For more information, call Miki Schultz at 507-227-8229 or visit them at southmnwwme.org.

Diocese of New Ulm Catholic Charities offers individual, family, and marriage counseling.
1-866-670-5163. All calls are confidential. Se habla Español

Don't miss your chance to WIN an Ice Castle Fish House or Golf Cart! The 8th Annual St. Mary's School Winter Raffle has 5 awesome prizes and only 600 tickets sold! The Raffle will be held on January 14 at 2pm Live on our Facebook page.

*Grand Prize: 2022 Ice Castle Fish House, 6.5' x 8' "V front" Scout *Grand Prize: 2021 Golfer Setup 48 Volt Electric Golf Cart *3rd Prize: \$500 Cash *4th Prize: \$250 Cash *5th Prize: \$250 Cash

Tickets are \$50 each. How to purchase a ticket? - Get in touch with any St. Mary's School family OR - contact Karen Smith at St. Mary's School at 320-365-3693 OR - Email us at raffletickets@stmarysbi.com

You do NOT need to be present to win! *Winners to pay sales tax. This is your chance to WIN your DREAM Fish House or a Golf Cart, plus help St. Mary's!



Café Juan Anna-San Lucas Mission Coffee

Coffee is available at the AFC church office.

\$10 per bag— ground & whole bean available.

Bulletin Notice Deadline: All items for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office by **Thursday, 10 days prior, by 12:00pm.**

Registration: We welcome you to one of our communities in our Area Faith Community and invite you to register in one of our parishes. Stop by or call the parish office.

Baptism: Please contact the parish office to schedule baptism preparation class and baptism.

Matrimony: All Catholics need to call the pastoral leader at the parish office at least 6 months before getting married, even if the wedding is going to be in a non-Catholic church.

Anointing of the Sick: Call the parish office if you or someone you know is in the hospital, is ill, or faces serious surgery and wishes to be anointed.

Quinceañera (15th Birthday) Celebrations: Contact the parish office at least 6 months before desired date to complete application, attend Sunday Mass regularly, be part of a Faith Formation program, and attend a required retreat.

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Laurie Schmitz, CPA
Dawn Mertens, RAP
320-365-4620 Bird Island, MN

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