

Holy Cross Catholic Community

Pastor, Father Jose Issac

Deacon Joe Haggarty

Deacon Herbert Melendez

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Parish Phone | 775-358-2544

Parish Fax | 775-626-8281

Parish Email | hccchurch@sbcglobal.net

Website | www.HolyCrossSparks.com

December 17, 2023



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

3ER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

"Yo bautizo con agua, pero en medio de ustedes hay uno, al que ustedes no conocen, alguien que viene detrás de mí, a quien yo no soy digno de desatarle las correas de sus sandalias". - Jn 1, 26-27

December 24, 2023



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

4º DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

"Por eso, el Santo, que va a nacer de ti, será llamado Hijo de Dios". - Lc 1, 35

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil | 5 pm Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am, 4:30pm (English) 12:15pm (Spanish)

Daily Mass | Tuesday—Friday 12:00pm Noon Reconciliation | Saturday 4:00pm

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday:

9:00am to 5:30pm

Lunch 12:30 to 1:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am–5:00pm

Sundays: 9:00am–5:00pm

Office Closed Fridays

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary:

Elizabeth Martinez

Associate Assistants:

Maria Ayala

Dulce Infante

Building & Grounds:

Randy Roberts

Janitorial Services:

Eduardo Chavez



Marry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!

Sunday December 24th
Christmas Eve Mass Times: 4:00pm, 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Monday December 25th
Christmas Day Mass Times: 8:00am, 10:00am in English
12:15pm in Spanish

Sunday December 31st: New Years Eve 4:30pm Mass
Monday January 1st: New Years Day 9:00am Mass

Upcoming Events

December

- Sun 17 Fr. Norm King
- 35th Ordination Anniversary
Mon 18 Baptism Class at 6pm in English
Sat 30 Fr. Jose Issac's
- 48th Ordination Anniversary

Fr. Jose, will be on vacation beginning December 28th to February 1st.

During this time, we will have Priests from around the Diocese helping with daily Mass and Sunday Mass. Fr. Justin, Fr. Bobin and Fr. Rodol will be celebrating Masses here at Holy Cross, along with Fr. Norm, Deacon Herbert & Deacon Joe. Please help us give them a warm welcome and Thank them for their willingness to help.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- For your safety, when exiting the parking lot, please consider turning right & going towards Raley's. Use the stoplight to turn left and go to the roundabout. This will save you time, is safer & eases up the traffic at the entrance of Holy Cross.
- When writing a check for Holy Cross, whether it be for Sunday offering, CSA, WTSA, Second Collections, etc. Please make the check payable to Holy Cross Catholic Community and in the memo line note the intended purpose.

GOOD TO KNOW....

- The local hospitals in town have a priest that is available to visit you or family members that are ill and in the hospital.
- At Renown Regional Medical Center & the VA Hospital, Fr. Joseph Infante is able to be contacted by the hospital's staff to visit you.
- At St. Mary's Hospital, Fr. Conrado Lomibao is the chaplain available to all who are admitted to the hospital— Fr. Conrado can be contacted by the nursing staff for a visit.



There will be Family Catechesis class schedule:

Family Catechesis; Come & See
December 17
Family Catechesis : Mondays
December 18
Family Catechesis; Confirmation
December 20
OCIA (RCIA)
December 21



All Family Catechesis Programs will be on break for Christmas beginning Sunday December 24th, All Programs will resume from Sunday January 7th.

Upcoming Feasts to Remember

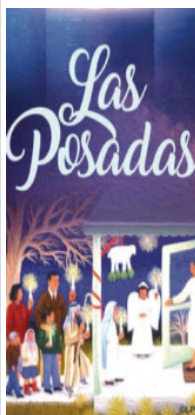
December

- 12/21 St. Peter Canisius,
Priest & Doctor of the Church
12/25 The Nativity of the Lord
12/26 St. Stephen, The First Martyr
12/27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
12/28 The Holy Innocents
12/31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Posadas

We invite you to join us for the posadas— they began on December 15th and will continue until December 23rd at 7:00pm each day. "Las Posadas" are a beautiful tradition that celebrates the 9 days before Christmas. The Posadas attempt to represent or relive Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to Bethlehem as they try to find a place to stay, with a celebration at the end when they finally find their lodging and Jesus is born.



Te invitamos a unirte a nosotros para las posadas, empezaron el 15 de diciembre y irán hasta el 23 de diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. todos los días.

"Las Posadas" son una hermosa tradición que celebra los 9 días antes de la Navidad.

Los Posada intentan representar o revivir la peregrinación de María y José a Belén mientras tratan de encontrar un lugar para quedarse, con una celebración al final cuando finalmente encuentran su alojamiento y nace Jesús.

We're Hiring

Holy Cross Catholic Community is looking to fill a full-time building & Grounds/Janitorial position.

Are you good with landscaping, know your way around a tool-box, and looking to put your talents and gifts to good use? If so, please submit your resume to the Parish office.

Pay is negotiable and will rely on experience. This position is full-time, with medical & dental benefits.



Sunday, December 17

- 8:00am** Parish Family
10:00am Jackie Neu† by Mary Neuhoff
12:15pm Maria de Carmen Hurtado de Moreno†
 by Moreno Family
4:30pm Ray & Rith Olivera† by Olivera Family

Tues., December 19

- 12:00pm** Macario Carrillo† by Family

Weds., December 20

- 12:00pm** Jose Luis Marquez Alonso† by Family

Thurs., December 21

- 12:00pm** Uldarico Tongson† by Elsa Tongson

Friday, December 22

- 12:00pm** Jose Dolores Lozano Solorio† by Family

Sat., December 23

- 5:00pm** John Kulak† by Kulak Family

Sunday, December 24—4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:00am** Parish Family
10:00am Jack Ermatinger† by Mary Neuhoff
12:15pm Raul Antonio Aguirre† by Family

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 4:00pm** Joseph Fournier† & Michael Fournier†
 by Fournier Family
6:00pm Edgar Garcia S.I. by Lydia Garcia
8:00pm Parish Family

Mon., December 25—Christmas Day

- 8:00am** Parish Family
10:00am Elizabeth Purdy† by Family
12:15pm Bertha Alvarez S.I. by Family

Tues., December 26

- 12:00pm** Ryan Morales† by Family

Weds., December 27

- 12:00pm** Marciano Ramirez† by Family

Thursday, December 28

- 12:00pm** Kathleen Fralick S.I. by Holy Cross

Friday, December 29

- 12:00pm** Richard Aufiero† by Family

Saturday, December 15

- 5:00pm** Rosemary Bertschinger†
 by Bob Bertschinger

Team for Dec.16 &17

Sat., Dec. 16 5:00pm

- G:** Patricia Liddick
L: Morgan Liddick
 Marcia McClain
EM: Earlene Rummel
 Ron McClain
 Bob Bertschinger
 Jim Shaw

U: Earlene Rummel

GP: Danelisa Garon

Sun., Dec. 17 8:00am

- G:** Rita Rollings
L: Mike Morris
 Helen Martin
EM: Lisa Holleman
 Bob Holleman
 Cathie Bundesen
 Helen Martin

U: John Bell

GP: Gonzalez Family

R: JoAnn Jones

10:00am

- G:** Grace McCloskey
L: Carla McCloskey
 Jeannette Troise
EM: Mae Doreza
 Shelly Register
 Sonia Deleon

U: Derek Moore

GP: Maria Macias

R: Sanchez Family

12:15pm

- B:** Valeria Acosta
L: Lisangela Guerra
 Cecilio Urias
ME: Bertha Alvares
 Manuel Alvarez
 Lucila Martinez

U: Jorge Rodriguez

GP: Veronica Mendoza

R: Seidy Mendez

4:30pm

- G:** Travers Family
L: Theresa Choman
 Gene Seidlitz
EM: Kathleen Fralick
 Doug Parry
 Noreen Parry
U: Kathleen Fralick
GP: Doukakis Family

Team for Dec. 30 & 31

Sat., Dec. 30 5:00pm

- G:** Frybarger Family
L: Vilia Natchez
 Mary Diebel
EM: Earlene Rummel
 Kathy Wegner
 Marcia McClain
 John Kadlic

U: Earlene Rummel

GP: Turley Family

Sun., Dec. 31 8:00am

- G:** Mike & Carla Morris
L: Bob Holleman
 Lisa Holleman
EM: John Bell
 Kathie Geipel
 Allegra Welton
 Helen Martin

U: Mike Morris

GP: Nuti Family

R: Rita Rollings

10:00am

- G:** Jamila Casar
L: Terry Jenkins
 Carla McCloskey
EM: Mae Doreza
 Shelly Register
 Sonia Deleon

U: Derek Moore

GP: Hensen Family

R: Martina Lopez

12:15pm

- B:** Enedina Guzman
L: Rosy Chavez
 Yolanda Velasquez
ME: Martha Flores
 Arnoldo Olivares
 Sandra Ortiz

U: Abel Guzman

GP: Angela Martinez

R: Leticia Zavala

4:30pm

- G:** Kathleen Fralick
L: Doug Parry
 Dave Joyce
EM: Gene Seidlitz
 Sarah Naegle
 Noreen Parry
U: Gene Seidlitz
GP: Sinsay Family

DONATE POINSETTIAS

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white center represent his purity. We invite the community to bring in a Poinsettia or two to help us prepare for the Nativity of the Lord.

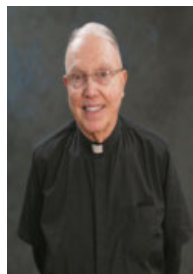


HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY !

Fr. Jose is celebrating his 48th Ordination Anniversary on 12/30/2023
Fr. Norm is celebrating his 35th Ordination Anniversary on 12/17/2023



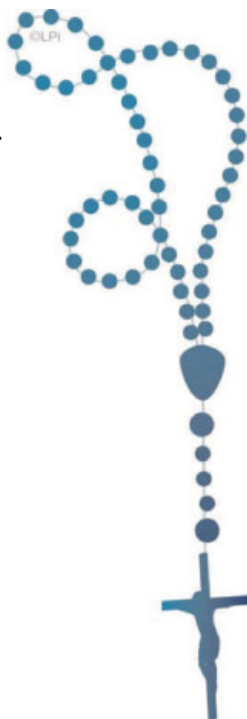
On this special occasion of your ordination anniversary, may God's divine light shine upon you and illuminate your path. May He grant you unwavering faith, boundless strength, and profound wisdom as you continue to carry out the sacred duties entrusted to you.



Holy Cross Catholic Community is ever so grateful and truly blessed to be a part of your journey. Congratulations and blessings on your ordination anniversary, Father Jose and Father Norm!

A Tapestry of Devotion

Beneath the arch of sacred vows,
A priest's journey, with grace endows.
On this ordination anniversary, we gather near,
To honor a soul, faithful and sincere.
In vestments adorned, a holy sight,
You stand, a beacon in the sacred light.
Happy anniversary, with blessings bestowed,
For the priest whose heart forever glowed.
Through sacraments and blessings shared,
You've shown compassion, always cared.
In every baptism's cleansing stream,
Happy anniversary, to a priest's sacred dream.
With oil and chrism, anointing hands,
Guiding the flock to heavenly lands.
Happy anniversary, in the holy rite,
For the priest who brings divine light.
In confessional's quiet, whispered space,
You've offered mercy, a saving grace.
Happy anniversary, to forgiveness' art,
For the priest who mends each broken heart.
Through homilies that touch the soul,
You've played a part in making whole.
Happy anniversary, in words divine,
For the priest who helps hearts align.
In the Eucharist, a sacred feast,
You break the bread, the grace increased.
Happy anniversary, in the chalice's gleam,
For the priest who fulfills a sacred dream.
In hospital halls and homes distressed,
You've brought solace, where hearts are pressed.
Happy anniversary, to a shepherd's care,
For the priest who answers every prayer.
As candles flicker, casting gentle light,
Happy anniversary, in reverence bright.
For the priest whose journey, a sacred song,
A melody of faith, forever strong.



@Heartfelt Catholic

Prayer REQUESTS

Joshua Alarcon	Rosario Lund
Sandra Askins	Judy Medek
Scott Anderson	Joyce Montgomery
Consuelo Barboza	Majorie Ann Myers
Nicholas Bushgens	Shawnee McGraw
Richard Chase	Lori O'Connor
Benjamin Chavez	Alejandra Ortiz
Jackie DaMichele	Alan Ortiz
Sandi DaSilveora	Edlyn Ortiz
Patsy Dearing	Bob Patterson
Heather Deason	Berta Perez
Jim Ellis	Remi Plummer
Mercy Escobar	Travis Porter
Jeannette Franklin	Steve Podhurst
Susan Fanchar	Becky Prevost
Edward Fulton	Maria Rodriguez
Mary Gardenas	Sam Salisbury
Rosemary Geis	Rene Salomon
Mauricio Guillen	Erick Smith
Dan Gustafson	Nanette Smith
Katie Histing	Carey Snyder
Jeanette Jesch	Brianna Stuart
Kenneth Jones	Vincent Stuart
Richard Kihs	Angela Teague
Jennifer Krush	Isaac Vargas
Richard Kunold	James Vonderhaar
Sebastian Laird	Bill Wehinger
Maria Larsen	Bob Wolf
Desiree Lintz	Sean Wolff
Zachary Lintz	Steve Woods
Rebekah Lucey	



New Scripture Class to begin on January 4th

All adults are welcome. Teacher is John Bell, Holy Cross parishioner since 1988. If interested come join us on Thursday January 4th in the evening. Bring a Catholic Bible with you.

2023 Year-End Campaign

Dear Friends in Christ,

Prayerful greetings to you from Holy Cross Catholic Community. Hope and pray that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and doing well. Please be assured of my humble prayers.

Let me begin by saying how grateful I am for the blessing of Holy Cross Catholic Community. I have watched it for the last 15 years, growing and becoming a 'Sacrament of Jesus' kind and compassionate presence. I am thankful.

The year 2023 has been one of many great Blessings to us. Requests for sacramental and pastoral services are unending. A well-organized faith formation for children, youth and parents has become a great Testimony of Commitment. C.S.A. 2023 (Bishop's Appeal) goal was met. Mass attendance and Sacrificial giving are on the increase. Ministry of the ordained has grown with the addition of Rev. Herbert Melendez, Rev. Joe Haggarty, and Rev. Fr. Norm King.

On October 31, 2023, Holy Cross Catholic Community has started "Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund" with an initial deposit of \$300,000.00 with the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Reno. I ask you to keep Fr. George Wolf in your prayers.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your generous participation and prayerful support. I pray psalm 116: "What shall I return to the Lord, for all his bounty to me... I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people." I ask all parishioners to make a gift to our **2023 Year-End Campaign** – payable to **Holy Cross Catholic Community**. You may mark your gift towards **Christmas offering, Pastor's Charity** or **"Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship"**. Thank you and best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Advent. With love and prayers,

Fr. Jose Issac
Pastor

Dear Liturgical Ministers,

Wish you a very fruitful season of advent. Hope and pray that you and your loved ones are doing well.

I am writing this letter to humbly ask you to read the "Liturgical Ministers Guidelines" I have prepared them after deep study, reflection and very careful observation. They are not new! They have been discussed in the Training sessions.

These guidelines are important and urgent. Holy Cross Catholic Community is growing. Many new parishioners are joining the Community. Many more are returning to the Catholic faith after having been away for years.

The liturgical ministers are our front-line leaders. They are the face of Holy Cross Catholic Community. So, it is important to present a united and welcoming face at all times, especially during the Liturgical Celebrations.

Thank you for being a leader! Your gift of time and talent are well appreciated. May Jesus continue to Bless you and reward you. Please be assured of my prayers.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jose Issac
Pastor

The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is great visual reminder of our faith in action—by the many hands that come together to help make everything happen. We thank the community for the generous support and all the efforts that go into making the celebration a success.

- To Iovana Robles & Maricela Lopez, who helped organize las Mananitas for our Lady of Guadalupe on Monday night.
- To Rosalina Noriega, Dulce Infante & Yrma Plascencia, who led the dances.
- To Benjamin & Martha Duran, who prepared the food for the dinner.
- To all the confirmation youth, who helped in serving the food & drinks.



La celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es un gran recordatorio visual de nuestra fe en acción, por las muchas manos que se unen para ayudar a que todo suceda. Agradecemos a la

- A Iovana Robles y Maricela López, quienes ayudaron a organizar las Mañanitas para Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el lunes por la noche.
- A Rosalina Noriega, Dulce Infante-Silva e Yrma Plascencia, quienes dijeron las danzas para Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- A Benjamín y Martha Durán, quienes prepararon la comida para la cena.
- A todos los jóvenes de el programa de confirmación, que ayudaron a servir la comida y las bebidas.

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

Father John Muir ©LPi

December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her.

An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

Father John Muir ©LPi

Eucharistic Prayer #4 – The Eucharistic Actions

“ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘ Take and eat; this is my body.’ - Matthew 26:26 NIV

At the Last Supper, Christ did four things: He took the bread, He blessed it/gave thanks, He broke it, and He gave it to His disciples. The Priest will say these words at every Mass right before the Words of Institution—a reminder that Christ is the one acting. However, while the words are said, these actions are also done: in the offertory the bread is taken by Christ, in the Eucharistic Prayer He blesses it and changes it into His own body, in the fraction rite He breaks the host in two reminding us of His death, and during the distribution of communion gives His body to us. As such, the entirety of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is a recapitulation of the actions of Christ at the Last Supper.

Some commentators also argue that what happens to the bread that is offered also happens to the congregation. How are you taken, blessed, broken, and given?





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1. Visit holycrosssparks.com and click Give Online.
2. Select the collection or event of your choice.
3. Set up your donation or payment. That's it!

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

QUESTIONS?

Contact the parish office at
775-358-2544

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Your donations are automatically transferred to our parish so it's safer and more secure.
4. Support our parish consistently, even if you are unable to attend Mass.
5. Give on-the-go! Access the site from your mobile phone or tablet.

Weekly Offering November 26, 2023

Sunday Offering	\$	7,948.52
Catholic University of America	\$	10.00
Capital Campaign for Human Development	\$	31.00
Pastor's Charity	\$	50.00
Gift Cabinet (Women's Group)	\$	55.00
Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$	250.00
Guadalupano Group Raffle	\$	505.00
WTSA Event	\$	280.00
All Souls	\$	60.00
Mass Intentions	\$	830.00
Total	\$	10,019.52



Weekly Offering December 3, 2023

Sunday Offering	\$	9,664.91
Solemnity of Mary	\$	30.00
Capital Campaign for Human Development	\$	10.00
Christmas	\$	30.00
Women's Gift Cabinet	\$	834.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$	65.00
Retirement fund for the Religious	\$	80.00
Mass Intentions	\$	1,030.00
Total	\$	11,743.91

Special 2nd Collection for St. Peter Canisius Church in Sun Valley

St. Peter Canisius Parish in Sun Valley will be the beneficiary of the 2023 Diocesan Annual Special Christmas Collection.

A short history of St. Peter Canisius: Father Edgar Villanueva was appointed Pastor of St. Peter's. Since then, he has worked very hard hand-in-hand with the parishioners to raise the funds to increase the much-needed church space, so parishioners don't have to worship in the dirt parking lot outside the church. At the present time, St. Peter's serves more than 2,500 parishioners each Sunday, of which 98% are Hispanic. Their current worship space occupancy is less than 300 people. In addition to their need for increased worship space, the church expansion project will not only provide a safe and modern structure but most importantly, it will provide more areas for children's religious instruction and sacramental preparation.

St. Peter's currently has 875 students between the ages of 7 and 17 enrolled in faith formation classes... and at the present time, they only have 2 classrooms for instruction. With this addition, the worship space will increase to a capacity of 800 people and more classroom space.

Please be generous with your donation and keep this project and the community of St. Peter Canisius in your prayers.

Parish Registration Form

Names of your Family Members: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alt Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Mass Time: _____ Contribution envelopes: _____ or Online Giving: _____

Ministry you/your family would like to be involved in: _____

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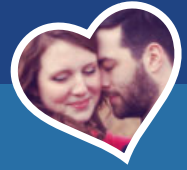
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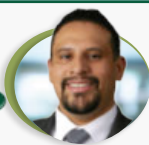
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