



ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH

**20141 DETROIT ROAD
ROCKY RIVER, OHIO 44116**

PARISH OFFICE: 440-331-4255

FAX: 440-331-3885

SCHOOL : 440-331-3075

RELIGIOUS ED.: 440-331-6226

EMAIL: info@stchrisparish.com

WEBSITE: www.stchrisparish.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 am– 4:00 pm

Summer Fridays: 8:00 am -1:00 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am

Monday- Friday: 11:00 am

Confessions: Saturday 4:00 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church, a Eucharistic community of faith dedicated to Welcome, Celebrate, Care, & Grow ... in the image and likeness of Jesus

Catholic Diocese
Of Cleveland



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD)

©LPI

September 8, 2024

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John C. Chlebo.....Pastor

Rev. Joselito M. Clemen.....Parochial Vicar

Rev. Timothy M. Daw.....Retired

Deacon Michael Hayes.....Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Melissa DiFini.....Pastoral Associate

Ms. Gayle Cilimburg.....Pastoral Associate

Mr. Logan Feldkamp.....Pastoral Associate

Ms. Mayumi Naramura.....Music Ministry Director

Mrs. Sharon Armstrong.....Director of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Mary Meler.....School Principal

Mrs. Michelle Federico.....Preschool Director

Mrs. Colleen McKenna.....Communications Coordinator

Sr. Jeanne Cmolik C.S.J.....RCIA Coordinator

Mr. Joe Williams.....Business Manager

Ms. Dawn Bloom.....Office Manager

Fr. John's Column

PSR Classes begin next Sunday, September 15th during the 8:30 and 10:00 Masses. If your family has not yet registered, please contact the Religious Education Office (440-331-6226).

As PSR begins, please keep in mind the drop off and pick up procedure for our PSR students. The main parking lot will be the point of entrance and exit as students use the main school doors only. This helps assure safety and security for our students and staff. We will have an adult presence in the building during PSR to assist us with safety and security. If you need to visit the office during class time the security person will assist you. We remind you that the only entrance that is to be used during PSR is the entrance off the main parking lot marked "School". **We remind all parishioners to be careful when using the parking lot for Mass and other reasons on Sunday mornings.**

This is also a good opportunity to remind everyone to **please be careful using our parking lot during our day school hours** and observe any parking restrictions. This is especially true for those who attend our 11:00 daily Mass or attend funerals during the week. Please be careful of our students who may be out for recess or walking back and forth between the school and gymnasium.

The **RCIA Program** will begin with an information night on Monday evening, September 16th. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. John at the Parish Office.

As I wrote a few weeks ago, you may have noticed that a few pews have been taped off and are not available for use. They are located at the cross aisle on the baptismal font side of the church. This is being done for precaution due to some loose plaster that has fallen. This, in turn, is the result of a leak problem in the downspout that runs in that outside wall. The leak has been fixed in the past but, unfortunately, time has weakened the plaster, and it needs to be replaced and the area painted. This will require scaffolding and will take some time to complete. A similar, less serious, situation exists in the same area at the cross aisle on the other side. We plan to take care of both areas at the same time. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience while we work to correct the situation. We expect this work to be completed during September. Talk to you next week...

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 9, 2024

11:00 am Elias Ghazal

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

11:00 am Donna Rusyniak

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

11:00 am Ken Fink

Thursday, September 12, 2024

11:00 am Moriah Lydon

Friday, September 13, 2024

11:00 am Matthew Baepler

Saturday, September 14, 2024

5:00 pm Rita Szy

Sunday, September 15, 2024

8:30 am Michael Norman

10:00 am Kathy & Jim Marquard

11:30 am Mike Norman

Prayers for the Sick This Month

Jim Sweeney, Lucy Zelesnik, Greg Evans,
Jerry Yarcusko, Gina Christoffers, Barbara Heffernan,
Mary Alice McCafferty, Robert Hess, Natalie Hallis,
Jim Vande Velde, Almerinda Giampaolo, Fred Nickels,
Tom F. Johnson,

Thank you for supporting our parish.

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www.stchrisparish.com and click on "Donate Now"

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Matthew Previts, Patrick J. Bergen, Audry Harte,
Frank Conroy, Trent Hunton, Christopher Nastal,
Sean McClaren, Matthew P. Schroer, Mark Pullar,
Jake Young, Joseph Conroy, Tim Mayer, Jason Ward,
Alec J. Schuerger, Vanessa Armstrong, Kevin Spellacy

ENTRANCE HYMN 611

All Creatures of Our God and King

GLORIA MASS OF ST. FRANCES CABRINI

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men. A - men.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS 1159

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 146

Praise the Lord, my soul! Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS 828

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATIONS 181

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

Text: The Roman Missal
Music: The Roman Missal
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AMEN

A - men. A - men. A - men.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, 1, 2, Final
1, 2. mi-se-ré-re no - bis. Mi-se-ré-re no - bis.
3. do-na no-bis pa - cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

COMMUNION HYMN 942

Come and Eat This Living Bread

CLOSING HYMN 803

For the Healing of the Nations

BITS AND PIECES OF OUR FAITH

The Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8, honoring the birth of the one chosen to be the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are invited to look back on God's preparation for the coming of the Savior, showing His providence and love. Mary's birth marks a turning point in salvation history, for she was chosen from all eternity to be the pure vessel through which God would enter the world.

The birth of Mary signifies hope and the dawning of the fulfillment of God's promises. In her, we see the beginning of the Church, for she is the first to welcome Jesus and the first disciple who followed Him perfectly.

As we reflect on Mary's birth, we are reminded of our own spiritual birth and journey. Just as Mary was prepared by God to receive and bear Christ, we too are called to prepare our hearts to receive Him. Her life of humility, obedience, and unwavering faith serves as a model for our Christian journey. We are encouraged to imitate her virtues, trusting in God's plan for our lives even when we do not see the full picture.

Pope Paul VI, in "Marialis Cultus", emphasized Mary's role as our spiritual mother and model of faith: "She is given as mother to every single individual and all together, so that by her motherly love all may be born again to the life of grace" (MC, 56). By celebrating Mary's birth, we renew our commitment to say "yes" to God, as she did, allowing Christ to be born in our hearts and our lives.

Let us, therefore, honor Mary's birth by seeking to grow in holiness and by opening our hearts to God's grace, just as Mary did. May her life inspire us to follow Christ with love, faith, and fidelity, making her birthday a joyful occasion that deepens our own commitment to God's will. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER!!!

~Fr. Lito



WEDDING BANNS

- II Elizabeth Demers & Michael Rambo
- II Leah Krompecher & Evan Pounder
- II Montel Martin & Hannah Lowe
- I Hannah Lowe & Alex Zander

Rest in Peace



In your prayers, please remember:
 Pauline Hanzel, John Going, Louis Gobeille
 & Alice Harrison
 who recently entered into eternal life.

Readings for the Week of September 8, 2024



- Sunday:** Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
- Monday:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
- Tuesday:** 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday:** 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26
- Thursday:** 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38
- Friday:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42
- Saturday:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-3



We welcome these individuals and families who have recently joined St. Christopher Parish:

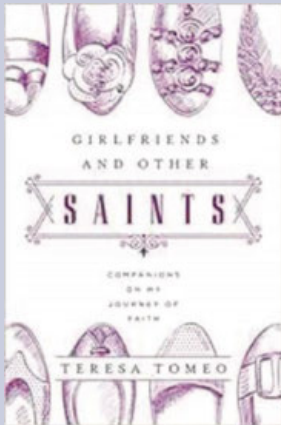
Katie & Peter Miles and family

Chris & Jayme Leonard and family

Sharon Laws

Yannick Ciaccio & Yun Jung Lee and family

Lee Bachouros & Steve Carpinello



LADIES GUILD BOOK CLUB

***Girlfriends And Other Saints*, by Teresa Tomeo
Wednesday, September 18 @ 7 pm in the Atrium**

Please RSVP with your name and phone number by September 16 to ladiesguild@stchrisparish.com

Join the Ladies Guild for our next book club discussion on *Girlfriends and Other Saints*, by EWTN Radio host, Teresa Tomeo. Teresa shares her personal stories about her "girlfriend" saints and others as she shows us that the saints are alive and well in heaven and are always ready to listen to us and intercede on our behalf. This book is available at local libraries and online retailers.



St. Christopher Parish Grief Support Ministry

**7-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM
- Registration Required -**

Thursdays, Oct. 3 - Nov. 14 from 2-3 pm in the Prayer Room

St. Christopher Parish is offering a seven-session grief support program on Thursdays from 2:00 until 3:00 in the Prayer Room, beginning October 3 and ending November 14. This group is intended for adults who have lost a spouse, significant other, parent, sibling, adult child, adult relative, or friend through death. Individuals meet in a small group to share stories of their loved one(s) and how they have struggled with their grief, pray and reflect on Scripture, and discuss helpful information on the grieving process. Participants appreciate that it helps them feel less alone.

We build a sense of community and request a commitment to attend all seven sessions. You will learn coping strategies from a helpful book and from other participants to begin healing and moving forward in your life.

There is a registration fee of \$15. Space is limited to 8 people. To register, please call Melissa DiFini at the parish office at 440-331-4255 x105 or email mdifini@stchrisparish.com.

We also offer a MONTHLY DROP-IN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month from 2:00 until 3:00** in the Prayer Room. Our next meeting is September 10. **No registration is required for this group.**

To find out more call Melissa DiFini at 440-331-4255 X 105 or email mdifini@stchrisparish.com

ST. CHRISTOPHER - ST. COLMAN CHURCH-IN-THE -CITY PROGRAM

I recently discovered that one of the objectives outlined in our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2021 was to "Enhance the visibility and level of engagement in our Church in the City partnership with St. Colman." On Thursday, July 11th, I visited St. Colman to tour the church and parish office. I had the pleasure of meeting their friendly office manager, Elena Latorre, the sole full-time employee who performs many roles. She kindly allowed me to take photos of the empty pantry. **The pantry is urgently in need of cereal, jelly, tuna, hearty soups, canned vegetables, fruit, rice, macaroni and cheese, juices, bottled water, granola bars, raisins, cookies, breakfast bars, pop tarts, fruit roll-ups, fruit snacks, peanut butter, and cheese crackers.** Please make sure the items you donate aren't expired. Unfortunately, Elena often has to turn away individuals seeking packed lunches. She mentioned a need for plastic and reusable grocery bags to pack their lunches. There is an important need for bus tickets as well. Additionally, the outreach ministry requires **laundry soap, dish soap, cleaning detergents, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, razors, shampoo, and deodorant** for their outreach program. These items are not covered under food stamps.

On July 31st, I had a meeting with the Social Outreach Team from St. Angela Merici to understand how they run the St. Colman Neighborhood Meal. We are currently planning the 2025 calendar to determine the Saturdays when we can provide meals. They typically serve between 80 and 100 guests, and the meals are served in a restaurant-style manner at the tables. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for any updates. They are excited about the opportunity to work together with us as we have in the past.

As I was reflecting on this, my mind immediately went to the scripture verse Matthew 25: 35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." It's time to act and help those in need in our backyard. Jesus goes on to tell us in verse 40, "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." What are you willing to do for Jesus? Pope Francis asks us: "Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us to everyone. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some. Do not be afraid to go and to bring Christ into every area of life, to fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. The Lord seeks all, he wants everyone to feel the warmth of his mercy and his love."

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- If you are a leader in a ministry in our parish, you can volunteer your group to plan, organize, and serve a meal.
- Drop off the pantry items listed above in the bin in our church's Upper Gathering Area. (please make sure items are not expired)
- Deliver the items to St. Colman when the bin is full.
- Volunteer to lead a team to serve a meal.
- Volunteer to cook and serve a meal with your family.
- Make a monetary donation by writing a check to St. Christopher Parish, writing St. Colman on the memo, and placing it in the collection basket.

If you have ideas or questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at the parish office at 440.331.4255 X105 or by email at mdifini@stchrisparish.com

Blessings,
Melissa DiFini

*Empty cupboards at St Colman
Food Pantry this summer*



AVILA PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Please join us as we pray for vocations on **Wednesday, September 11** in the Prayer Room following the 11:00 Mass. Our prayers make a difference to those in formation, and to our existing priests, sisters and brothers. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. If there is a funeral that day, we will meet the following Wednesday. Prayer books are provided. All are welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

Confirmation Class starts this Sunday, September 8th at 12:30 in the Parish Center. Students in 8th grade need to be registered before class. PSR students need to be registered for Confirmation AND PSR. We look forward to an exciting new year!

PSR grades K-5 starts on Sunday, September 15th at either 8:30 OR 10:00. Registration is required BEFORE the first class.

"The Way" PSR (grades 6-8) begins on Sunday, September 15th at 10:00 on Mary's Room OR Tuesday, September 17th in the Atrium. Registration is required BEFORE the first class.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) begins during 10:00 Mass on Sunday, September 15th. No registration required.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please call the Religious Education Office at 440 331-6226 or e-mail sarmstrong@stchrisparish.com. A great year is on the horizon!!

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL FIRESIDE CHAT NIGHT

Sunday, September 8
7:45- 9:00p in Centennial Park

Topic: Sacrament

What is a sacrament? We probably know there are seven sacraments, but what makes something a sacrament? Do you realize that we are, in some ways, "sacraments" too? Join us for s'mores, snacks, and conversation about sacraments!



J+WALKERS (7th & 8th Graders)

Sunday, September 15
6:30-7:45p in Mary's Room

Topic: Sacrament

What is a sacrament? We probably know there are seven sacraments, but what makes something a sacrament? Do you realize that we are, in some ways, "sacraments" too? We explore what it means to be a sacrament in the world.



Follow us on Instagram @Jwalkersscp





WALKING WITH PURPOSE
Women's Bible Study



Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm in Mary's Room starting October 3rd

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

For registration and more information please go to stchrisparish.com/wwp

NEXT COFFEE & THE WORD:

Wednesday, September 11 at 9:30 am— Parish Office Conference Room

Join us for coffee and a discussion of the upcoming Sunday Scripture readings.
Bring your own mug and we'll provide the coffee!

Hosted by Melissa DiFini and Carol Yellig. No RSVP required. All are welcome!



CREATION CARE: HOPE

The season of creation begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The season theme for 2024 is "to hope and act with creation". Hope in a biblical context is not passive wishing, but active praying and striving with the expectation of a better future. Small acts, such as reducing our consumption of gasoline and natural gas, are the building blocks of creation care hope. During this season let our prayers and actions be seeds of hope for our children and grandchildren.



~Social Concerns Committee



**THEOLOGY • ON • THE •
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FOR ADULTS 40 & OVER**

FIELD TRIP!
Join us Monday, Sept. 9 as we tour
The Islamic Center of Cleveland
6055 W. 130th St., Parma

We are offering a wonderful ecumenical opportunity to learn about our Muslim neighbors. We will tour the center, observe their evening prayer, ask questions, and discover the common ground we share with Imam Islam Hasan and Isam Zaiem.

Cost will be \$5.00 per person as we will NOT have appetizers or refreshments. Advance tickets highly recommended as space is limited. Register in advance: www.theologyontherockswest.com Doors will open at 5:45pm. Program will begin promptly at 6:15pm to allow for evening prayer.

**Shoes must be removed prior to entering the sanctuary- covers will be available
**Please dress modestly. No shorts, short skirts or sleeveless attire. Women are asked to wear a scarf to cover their hair but it is not required.



The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know is having a mental health crisis and/or contemplating suicide, please call or text 988 for help - available 24/7 in English and Spanish.

THE WEEK AHEAD

For the most up-to-date calendar, go to stchrisparish.com

Monday, September 9

8:15 am First Day of Preschool—SC
2:45 pm Announcement Club—AR
3:00 pm HSPT Class-8th grade—SC
3:00 pm Volleyball—G
7:00 pm RCIA Team Meeting—A

Tuesday, September 10

9:00 am Prayers From Maria Assembly—PC
2:00 pm Monthly Grief Support—PR
3:00 pm Volleyball—G
6:00 pm Women's & Men's AA—M
7:00 pm PATHS Meeting—A
8:00 pm Men's AA Group—M

Wednesday, September 11

9:15 am Healing Prayer Group—PR
9:30 am Coffee & the Word—
10:30 am Rosary—C
11:30 am Avila Prayer—PR
2:45 pm Ecology Club- PC
3:00 pm Volleyball—G
6:00 pm Women's AA Meeting—M
6:30 pm Music Rehearsal—C
7:00 pm Pack 390 Meeting—PC
8:00 pm AA Men's Group—M

Thursday, September 12

8:00 am AA Drop the Rock—M
10:30 am Rosary—C
3:00 pm Volleyball—G

Friday, September 13

3:00 pm Volleyball—G
8:00 pm AA Young Adults' Group —M

Saturday, September 14

7:00 am Men's AA Group—M

Sunday, September 15

8:30 & 10:00 am PSR— Grades K-5—SC
10:00 am The Way PSR - M
6:30 pm J+Walkers Youth Ministry- M

C=Church G=Gym M=Mary's Room CY=Courtyard
GA=Gathering Area RC=Rectory Conference Room
CP=Centennial Park A=Atrium MC=Media Center
PR=Prayer Room PC=Parish Center SC=School
Conference Room P1-4=Parish Center Meeting Rooms
CR=Computer Room L=Library PL= Parking Lot

SACRAMENTS**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday 4:00 PM in the church and any time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Parents should be members of our parish and need to attend a pre-Baptism Class if they have not already done so. Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:30 pm and other times by arrangement. Please call the parish office to arrange all Baptisms.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Available to those in 8th grade or older. Contact the Religious Ed. Office for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: In keeping with Diocesan regulations, arrangements must be made with a parish priest at least 6 months before the date selected to allow for the necessary preparation.

RCIA: Adults interested in the Catholic faith are invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Meetings are Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM beginning in the Fall and continuing through Easter. Call the parish office for details.

MINISTRY WITH THE SICK & AGING: If you or a family member are homebound or have moved to an assisted living or skilled nursing unit, please contact the parish office so we can remain connected and minister to whatever needs might exist, such as anointing, communion or a visit.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are made with the help of a Funeral Director. They will assist in contacting the parish office to arrange a time for a Funeral Mass before any notice is placed online or in the newspaper.



PARISH REGISTRATION: New Parishioners are asked to call 440-331-4255 to set up an appointment for registration. Parishioners who are moving are also asked to notify the parish office.

PSR CLASSES: Grades K- 8: Sundays 8:30 & 10am. Or Tuesdays at 3:30 for grades 6-8. For information/registration call the Religious Ed. Office.

CLOW: Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW), offered during 10:00 AM Mass on Sundays, gives children ages 5 to 10 the opportunity to hear and discuss the Scripture readings at their level. Offered Sept.—April.



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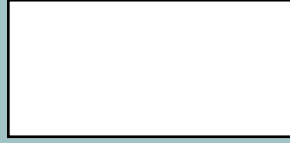


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