



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

## JANUARY 4, 2026

### CONNECT WITH US

- 208 East Jefferson Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
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- [office@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@holycomforterparish.org)
- [holycomforterparish.org](http://holycomforterparish.org)

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM + 11 AM + 2 PM
Monday + Friday	12 PM
Tuesday + Wednesday	8 AM
Thursday	6 PM
Saturday	8 AM

#### ADORATION

Wednesday	6—8 PM
Thursday	7—8 PM
Friday	1—3PM

#### CONFESSION

Sunday	1 PM
Mon + Wed + Fri	6:30—7:30 PM
Thursday	7—8 PM

#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM—4 PM

**Please Send Bulletin Submissions  
by 1:30PM Monday  
[dre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:dre@holycomforterparish.org)**



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

#### Pastor

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi  
[jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org)

#### Administrative Business Manager

Mary Frances Lilly  
[office@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@holycomforterparish.org)

#### Receptionist/Office Assistant

Melinda Crews  
[reception@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:reception@holycomforterparish.org)

#### Liturgy Coordinator

Alicia Vinklarek  
[liturgy@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:liturgy@holycomforterparish.org)

#### Music Coordinator

Querida Hills  
[music@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:music@holycomforterparish.org)

#### Director of Religious Education

Melinda Wells (434) 295-6559  
[dre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:dre@holycomforterparish.org)

#### Outreach (434) 293-8989

Bridget Davis + Jack Engler + Heather Burns  
[outreach@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:outreach@holycomforterparish.org)  
Food Pantry: Mon, Tue & Wed  
10:30AM -12:30PM  
Soup Kitchen: Thurs 12PM-1PM

#### MINISTRIES CHAIRS

##### FINANCE COUNCIL Gary Krutul

[gkrutul55@gmail.com](mailto:gkrutul55@gmail.com)

Offertory Counters—Lee Faust

##### PASTORAL COUNCIL Maria-Andrea Gerling Ospina

[maria.ospina@gmail.com](mailto:maria.ospina@gmail.com)

##### LITURGY AND WORSHIP Alicia Vinklarek

##### MUSIC MINISTRY Querida Hill

Lectors – Matt Freeman

Sacristans – Suzanne Bailey [slank@ntelos.net](mailto:slank@ntelos.net)

Altar Servers — Jackson Kulick

[Jackson@brgtshirts.com](mailto:Jackson@brgtshirts.com)

Ushers – Dennis Dougherty

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Heather Burns [heather@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:heather@holycomforterparish.org)

Funerals and Works of Mercy Ministry

[mercy@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mercy@holycomforterparish.org)

Homebound Eucharistic Ministry

[communionvisit@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:communionvisit@holycomforterparish.org)

Weddings [weddings@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:weddings@holycomforterparish.org)

Altar Flower Guild – Jeanne Mickiewicz

[Jean4greens@yahoo.com](mailto:Jean4greens@yahoo.com)

##### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Melinda Wells

Religious Education Committee—

Suzanne Bailey [slank@ntelos.net](mailto:slank@ntelos.net)

Christian Initiation of Adults (CIA)

Diane Auger Smith

[dianeaugersmith@gmail.com](mailto:dianeaugersmith@gmail.com)

THIY (Band of Brothers) Steven Sisman

[mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org)

Youth Group—Anna Sisman/Tristan Majewski

[youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org)

##### SOCIAL MINISTRIES Chuck McCurdy

[cwm@virginia.edu](mailto:cwm@virginia.edu)

Outreach-Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry

Bridget Davis [bridget@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:bridget@holycomforterparish.org)

Walking with Moms in Need –

Garrett Smith [gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com](mailto:gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com)

Haiti— Robert O'Brien [raobfpc@gmail.com](mailto:raobfpc@gmail.com)

Uganda-Gregory Lannon [gregnbuk@gmail.com](mailto:gregnbuk@gmail.com)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Trinity

Conference – [info@svdp-ht.org](mailto:info@svdp-ht.org) 434-226-8022

K of C—Nicholas Pierson [gk3670@vakofc.org](mailto:gk3670@vakofc.org)

##### PARISH COMMUNITY LIFE Elizabeth Gilbert

[parishlife@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:parishlife@holycomforterparish.org)

##### BUILDING AND GROUNDS Greg Gerling

[ggerling1@netscape.net](mailto:ggerling1@netscape.net)

##### MAINTENANCE Ed Mickiewicz

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** We, the members of Holy Comforter Parish, united in faith by God, nourished by Jesus through the Word and the Eucharist, and guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believe that we are called to worship, formation, service, and evangelization within our parish, our local communities, and all those in need.

# PRAYER & WORSHIP



## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### SATURDAY (1/3)

8AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

### SUNDAY (1/4)

Christmas Flowers provided by  
Many Generous Donors

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30 PM Christian Initiation of  
Adults - CIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM Gregorian Mass

### MONDAY (1/5)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

### TUESDAY (1/6)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

### WEDNESDAY (1/7)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

### THURSDAY (1/8)

6 PM Mass followed by Adoration

7 PM Confession

### FRIDAY (1/9)

12 PM Mass followed by Adoration

### SATURDAY (1/10)

8AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

### SUNDAY (1/11)

Christmas Flowers provided by  
Many Generous Donors

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30 PM Christian Initiation of  
Adults - CIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM Mass

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

*Andrew and Tahlia Caldwell*

We welcome you to join  
our Holy Comforter Parish  
Family. Registration Forms  
are in the Office and on the  
Commons Credenza.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE EUCHARIST

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament  
of the Eucharist You left us the  
outstanding manifestation of your  
limitless love for us. Thank You for  
giving us the opportunity to  
experience this love in receiving  
the Sacrament at this Mass. May  
Your Eucharistic presence keep us  
ever free from sin, fortified in faith,  
pervaded by love for God and  
neighbor, and fruitful in virtue, that  
we may continue to receive You  
throughout life and attain final  
union with You at death.  
Amen

## MASS INTENTIONS

TO REQUEST MASS INTENTIONS:

Contact the Parish Office

434-295-7185

[Reception@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:Reception@holycomforterparish.org)

### SATURDAY (1/3)

8AM Personal Intentions of Maximus  
(Silvia Di Paolo)

† Douglas McAdams

(Patricia McAdams)

5PM † Pam Heron (Cindy Reedy)

### SUNDAY (1/4)

8:30AM † Pam Heron (Cindy Reedy)  
Sisman Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

11AM Members of the Parish

2PM † Elaine Cone (Mel Crews)

Van Dyke Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### MONDAY (1/5)

12PM Hermann & Gertrud Weis and  
Petra (Schemmel Family)

Dominique Faust (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### TUESDAY (1/6)

8AM Hermann & Gertrud Weis and  
Petra (Schemmel Family)

Ed Welendowski (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### WEDNESDAY (1/7)

8AM † Bob Schiefer (Lucille Schiefer)

### THURSDAY (1/8)

6PM Kulick Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### FRIDAY (1/9)

12PM Gilbert Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### SATURDAY (1/10)

8AM Stelow Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

5PM Gerling Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)  
Heather Burns (Fr. Joseph Mary)

### SUNDAY (1/11)

8:30AM Members of the Parish

11AM Steve & Carol Ham and Family  
(Fr. Joseph Mary)

2PM Lia Thoms Price and Family  
(Melinda Wells)

## SAINTS OF GOD

11/3 Most Holy Name of Jesus

1/4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

1/5 Saint John Neumann

1/6 Saint Andre Bessette

1/7 Saint Raymond of Penafort

1/8 Saint Angela of Foligno

1/9 Saint Adrian of Canterbury

1/10 Saint Gregory of Nyssa

1/11 Blessed William Carter

# PARISH NEWS



## PARISH SUPPORT

**"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."** (Proverbs 3:9-10)

### Week Ending December 21, 2025

#### Offertory Contributions

- In Pew and By Mail \$5,615
  - Online Giving \$2,690
- Weekly Offertory Budget (\$9,500)  
Below Weekly Budget \$1,195

Due to a publication deadline, the Offertory Report for **Week Ending December 28, 2025** will appear in next week's bulletin.

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY BUDGET

Our parish operating budget for the new fiscal year is \$494,000 which requires us to receive offertory contributions of **\$9,500 per week**. In order to meet our obligations, it is necessary for our families to contribute \$2,200 per year, or about \$42 per week. Thank you for your support

### MONEY MINUTE



It is our top priority to provide a reverent and meaningful setting for worship. To that end, the Liturgy and Music ministries spent \$87,000 last year which was primarily supported by offertory

contributions. The **Liturgy Ministry** budget provides for the altar and Mass supplies, worship aids and flowers, while the **Music Ministry** provided salaries, honorariums, and the maintenance of our musical instruments. Thank you for your generosity!

### SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY

**ALL MONTH** Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation + Justice and Peace

- 1/11/2025** Outreach
- 1/18/2025** Respect Life
- 1/25/2025** Maintenance Fund

SCAN HERE to support  
Holy Comforter!  
Thank You!!



## PARISH COUNCIL

### To the Parishioners of Holy Comforter Church,

We look back with immense gratitude and profound joy on the success of our **"A Meal, A Blessing"** Thanksgiving Outreach Campaign. Through your extraordinary generosity, prayer, and support, we did not just meet our goal—we **surpassed it**, creating a true "Harvest of Hope" for our neighbors in need.

Our initial goal was to raise \$30,000 by Thanksgiving 2025 to sustain our Outreach Ministry's soup kitchen and food pantry. Thanks to the Holy Comforter parish family, we achieved this and so much more. **We raised a total of \$45,303 with a generous match by a parishioner of about \$15,000.**

### Impact of Your Generosity

The \$45,303 raised will ensure the continued operation of our ministry, providing vital nourishment, compassion, and hope to hundreds of households in our community.

- **The Soup Kitchen:** Our soup kitchen currently serves approximately **350–375 hot, home-cooked meals** each month. The funds raised will cover **over 1,500 meals**—sustaining the ministry for an entire quarter.
- **The Food Pantry:** Our food pantry supports around **160 households** monthly with groceries and essential hygiene items. Your support will allow us to purchase food at reduced costs through our partnership with the **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank**, enabling us to provide **groceries for over 500 households**.

When a generous parishioner pledged a **\$15,000 matching challenge**, the campaign gained incredible momentum. We witnessed the Holy Comforter community rally together, embracing the opportunity to **"Double Your Blessing"** and multiply the impact of every gift given through the gold envelopes and online.

As we look toward Advent, the success of **"A Meal, A Blessing"** allows the Outreach Ministry to plan for 2026 with confidence, knowing we can continue to be a beacon of hope and a vital resource in Charlottesville.

Thank you for living Christ's love through service. Together, we have ensured that every family in our reach has a meal to share and a blessing to celebrate.

*Holy Comforter Pastoral Council*

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**First Reading** *Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7*

The servant of the Lord shall bring justice to all.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Psalms 29:1-2,3-4,9-10*

The Lord will give peace to the people.

**Second Reading** *Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 3:13-17*

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.

# PARISH NEWS



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### **PARISHIONERS**

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers) Eileen Bracuti, Ann Carothers, Teresa Cook, Connie Flamm, Kelton Flinn, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Jim and Bobbie Hoskins, Ann Jackson, Patricia McAdams, Mae Trentanove, Mary Wheeler, and Mary Ann Ziminski.

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Alex Ahn, Leroy and Felicia Anderson, Blandine Attey, Ben and Katherine Barahona, Christine Bentejac, Ken Brunk, Max and Hadley Burch, Stephen Crews, Kaylee Carter, Petra Vera Chavez, Lauren Rundall, Elaine Cone, Stephanie Crews, Roxanne Crittenden, Nancy Joan Debiese, Jimmy Dominguez, Linda Doyle, Gene Flamm, Fr. Gerald Fogarty, Charlie Foster, Brad and Debbie Ferguson, Sue Gilbert, Paula Goodburn, Dan Grogan, Fr. Theodore J. Haag, OFM, Genevieve Halfen, Liana Haseltine, Margaret Heritage, Maddie Hermack, Wilem Hommel Mark Rowland Huckabe, Betty Kapeluch, Kelly Lembo and Family, Joan Lincks, Mike & Sibylle Llewellyn, Shannon and Coty Lockett, Chelsea Massey, Dot McAllister, Michael McNeil, Fr. Richard Mooney, Robert Maute, Vince Newton, Mary Nguyen, Lia Thoms Price and Family, Hank and Barbara Rainville, Lawrence Randolph, Saathoff Family, Maya Sanchez, Coby Savona, Kathryn Savona, Schrank Family, Tara Singh, Aiden Smith, Christopher Tomaselli, Brendan and Maria Walsh, Residents and Staff of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, Williams Family and Napier Family

### **MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY**

Matthew Mickiewicz, Elijah & Jonathan Schrank, and Joey Smith.

*If you would like your family member or fellow parishioner added or removed from the lists, contact the Works of Mercy Ministry [mercy@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mercy@holycomforterparish.org) or church office 434-295-7185.*

**To request Holy Communion or a visit from Father Joseph Mary, please call the office 434-295-7185 or email [reception@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:reception@holycomforterparish.org)**


**Diocesan Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services** Outreach Staff from the Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services (OCFS), a Ministry of the Diocese of Richmond will be holding a Regional Outreach at the Church of the Incarnation in Charlottesville, on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon and 6:30pm to inform you by explaining the spiritual and practical reasons for learning about Catholic funeral planning & the Order of Christian Funeral Rites, practices and traditions. There will be a short presentation along with a question-and-answer session in the hall. Please take advantage of this opportunity to better understand the importance of a Catholic funeral rites and the benefits to pre-planning your funeral arrangements. Lunch at noon and Dinner at 6:30 will be served during the presentation. Please **RSVP to [rwash@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:rwash@richmonddiocese.org)**.

## MINISTRIES

**OUTREACH:** Thank you for your donations, contributions, and time that you give. It is very much appreciated. For the month of January, donations of any kind of canned soup would be wonderful. Thank you for your generous giving all year! God Bless and Happy New Year! USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**ADVENT COLLECTION:** This Advent we collected needed items for the LifeSpring Pregnancy Centers and the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to everyone who donated items! Thank you for your generosity and have a Happy New Year!

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, HOLY TRINITY CONFERENCE:**

 Our next meeting will be held on Jan 6th at 7pm at Incarnation's conference room. Please consider donating the Christmas Lights campaign this holiday season. Donations are used to help our friends in need with utility bills. Thank you, wishing you a Happy New Year!

**HOLY COMFORTER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!** All youth in grades 6 through 8 are invited to *Middle School Youth Group on Fridays from 7-8:30pm*. There will be fun, fellowship, and faith-building! For more information, registration, and a calendar, please email [youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org) to contact Anna Sisman and Tristan Majewski.

**THAT MAN IS YOU:** Band of Brothers men's ministry is running a 90-day Men's Exodus challenge starting January 5th and continuing through the end of Lent. We will be using the paper version, so no purchase is necessary. The challenge will be led by our fellow parishioner, Salva Sierra. For more info, please email Steven Sisman at [mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org)

**TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE:** If you've considered starting a Troops of St George Apostolate for priests, men, and young men, please reach out to Steven Sisman at [mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mensgroup@holycomforterparish.org)

**HAITI:** *Dear Parishioners, St. Michel Sponsors, and Generous Donors,* As we look back on this past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that has been accomplished through your generosity. Your generosity has enabled upgrades to water systems, renovations at the rectory, the creation of a state of the art computer lab, provided food and medical supplies and reopened the St. Michel Clinic. Today, all three of our sites enjoy continuous power and internet, strengthening our ministry's reach. We will share updates on bulletin boards, financial and accomplishments, and St. Michel will offer prayers & Mass in thanksgiving for our Tri-Parish Ministry, sponsors, and donors. **God Bless, Bob & the Haiti Ministry.**

## Announcements

**Wishing our parish families a blessed and joyful New Year!** May 2026 be filled with God's grace, good health, and continued community. With gratitude for your support of Charlottesville Catholic School—Happy New Year!

**Interested in learning about Catholic Social Justice Teaching?** The Flocknote company is giving us an opportunity to read Pope Leo XIII's encyclical "Rerum Novarum" in a year through free weekly emails with encyclical and reflective excerpts starting 1/6/2026. For info & signup, go to <https://flocknote.com/catholic-social-teaching-in-a-year/>. If you would like to participate in parish level discussion on this important document, contact Suzanne Bailey ([slank@ntelos.net](mailto:slank@ntelos.net)); (434) 326-3166

# FROM THE LITURGY COORDINATOR

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Or, should I say Happy Epiphany of the Lord? Wow! A new year and the Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord.

Why do we celebrate the Epiphany? The 12 Days of Christmas are the 12 days between Christmas Day and Epiphany. Tradition also holds that the Three Kings' journey to meet the baby Jesus was twelve days. The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century. This Solemnity is a movable feast day; as such, it falls on a Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

Have you ever had an Epiphany? Like a light came on in your head. The word Epiphany means manifestation. This is the day we celebrate the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. In Advent, we prepared for the Birth of the Lord, Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birth. We kept talking about the joyous birth of Jesus. So, here we are! We celebrate that manifestation of what was to come. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent.

The 12 Days of Christmas are the 12 days between Christmas Day and Epiphany. The "12 Days" likely had pre-Christian roots, though the term was likely adapted to fit the Church calendar in celebration of the Nativity. Tradition also holds that the Three Kings' journey to meet the baby Jesus was twelve days.

What is Epiphany? Epiphany is the celebration of the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God – here on earth with us. The feast is also known as "Three Kings Day," the day the Magi visited Jesus in Bethlehem.

Epiphany is a significant feast in the Catholic Church, rich with traditions that celebrate the revelation of Christ to the world. These customs not only honor the biblical events associated with the feast but also foster a sense of community and family during the Christmas season. Here are a few:

- **Blessing of Chalk:** A common tradition involves blessing chalk, which is then used to mark the doorways of homes with the initials of the Magi (C, M, B) and the current year 2026 (MMXXVI). This practice invokes blessings on the household and its visitors.
- **Home Blessings:** It is customary for families to have their homes blessed on Epiphany. This can be done by a priest or, if unavailable, by the head of the household. The blessing often includes the use of blessed chalk to mark the entrance.
- **Epiphany Water:** In some traditions, water is blessed on Epiphany, symbolizing Jesus' baptism. This water is considered more spiritually potent than regular holy water and is used throughout the year.
- **Three Kings Day Celebrations:** In many cultures, especially in Spain and Latin America, Epiphany is celebrated with parades and festivities, including the "Rosca de Reyes," a sweet bread shaped like a crown, which contains a figurine of the Christ Child.
- **Family Traditions:** Families may engage in activities such as moving the Magi figurines in their nativity sets to symbolize their journey to find Jesus, culminating on Epiphany.
- **And, my favorite is from where I grew up...** Epiphany, is the official end of the Christmas season, but it also kicks off Carnival season in New Orleans. Although some people use Carnival and Mardi Gras interchangeably, they are actually different things. Carnival is a time to eat, drink and be merry before the rigorous fasting and sacrifice during Lent. It is filled with parades, balls and other celebrations leading up to Mardi Gras, which is French for "Fat Tuesday." Mardi Gras is always the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Carnival officially ends at midnight on Fat Tuesday and Lent begins.

So... going back to my New Orleans roots... Happy Epiphany and Hello Carnival Season! God bless!

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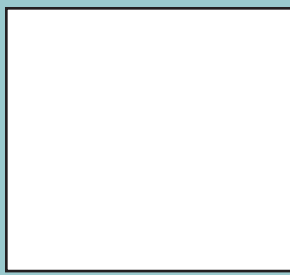
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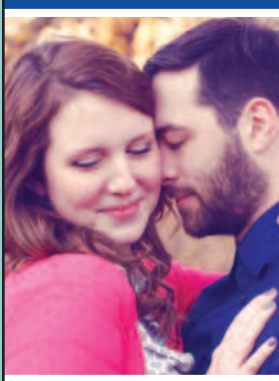
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