



OUR LADY OF VICTORY NATIONAL SHRINE AND BASILICA

767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, New York 14218

Phone: (716) 828-9444; FAX: (716) 828-9429

E-mail: olvrectory@olvbasilica.org

Website: www.olvbasilica.org



Sunday, December 1, 2019 - First Sunday of Advent

PASTOR/RECTOR: Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma
IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Msgr. Paul J. E. Burkard
PAROCHIAL VICARS: Rev. Justin J. Steeg
 Rev. Romulus Rosolowski, OFM Conv.
DEACON: Deacon Michael V. Comerford

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday: Closed

SUNDAY MASSES:
 Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Folk Mass),
 Noon (Choir), 4:30 p.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES: Please see bulletin

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)
 8:15 a.m. (Friday when school is in session)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:
 Saturday: 3:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:00-7:30 p.m.
 Eve of Holy Day: 3:00-4:00 p.m.
 Eve of First Friday: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

SCHOOL:
 2760 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna, NY
 Mrs. Carolyn M. Kraus, Principal
 Phone: (716) 828-9434
 E-mail: elementary@olvbasilica.org
 Website: www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE:
 2760 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna, NY
 Ms. Carmelann Zomeri, Director
 Phone: (716) 828-9437
 E-mail: religioused@olvbasilica.org

GIFT SHOP and MUSEUM:
 Dianne Bosinski, Tours & Basilica Programs
 (716) 828-9424/dbosinski@olvbasilica.org
 James Murphy, Gift Shop Manager
 (716) 828-9433/olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org

GIFT SHOP and MUSEUM HOURS;
 Daily 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

ROSARY: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Our Parish offers a special Pre-Baptism preparation program for parents who desire to share their faith with their children. Parents-to-be must attend this class prior to the birth of their child. Baptisms are usually scheduled two times each month. Call the Rectory to register for classes. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics. Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation to serve as a sponsor.

Sacrament of Marriage:

To be married in the Basilica, you must be an active parishioner for at least 9 months prior to setting a date. Engaged couples should contact the pastor before making other wedding arrangements. Couples are required to attend a Pre-Cana Conference, or equivalent pre-marriage preparation program.

Letters of Recommendation:

Recommendations to act as sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation can be issued only to registered members of Our Lady of Victory Parish who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly, have their children attending a Catholic school or Religious Education class. If married, the marriage must be in conformity with the regulations of the Catholic Church.

Devotions:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins immediately after the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the Basilica on Fridays and concludes with Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

First Friday:

On the eve of the First Friday of each month there are confessions from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mass is celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on First Friday.

Care of the Sick:

Please notify the rectory office for a visit to any family member who is sick, in the hospital or confined to home. Regular home Communion visits are usually on the First Friday of the month by a priest, deacon, or minister of the Eucharist.

Tours:

To schedule a tour of Our Lady of Victory Basilica, please contact Dianne Bosinski, Tours & Basilica Programs by email at dbosinski@ourladyofvictory.org or by phone at (716) 828-9424.

Message from the Pastor

Happy Advent! This weekend we begin the Holy Season of Advent and a new liturgical year. The Church provides us with Advent so that we can spiritually prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can very easily become overwhelmed by the pressure and commercialism of secular society with the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas. But let us not forget the real reason for the season...to make room in our hearts and our lives every day for the presence of Jesus. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses the two-fold meaning of Advent: *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming.* (524)

To make the most of Advent, consider some of the following practices: take 10-15 minutes each day for personal prayer and reflection, avail yourself of the Sacrament of Penance and make a good confession, attend daily Mass if possible, encourage someone who has been away from the Church and invite them to join you for Sunday Mass, do random acts of kindness and strive to be more compassionate, understanding and forgiving with all the people God places in your life.

I found the following reflection to be helpful as I strive to enter into this holy season of Advent and to pray for simplicity and all that it entails. (*Adapted from "When True Simplicity is Gained: Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World" by Martin E. Marty*)

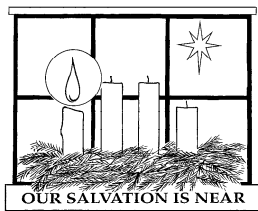
- Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
- Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
- Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
- Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
- Pray for freedom from all that burdens you – past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts others have inflicted, and more.
- Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
- Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust His power to work things out for the best in your life.
- Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
- Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
- Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
- Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

May this Advent season be filled with many graces and blessings for you and your loved ones.

With my grateful prayers,
Fr. David



**Pray for the canonization of our founder,
Venerable Nelson Baker**



Summary of the Readings First Sunday of Advent

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's Word will have instructed all people, radiating God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for his final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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Weekend of December 7-8

Lectors:

Saturday, December 7

4:30 p.m.—D. Ortiz

Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m.—D. West

10:00 a.m.—No Lector—Children's Liturgy

12:00 p.m.—S. Swiech

4:30 p.m.—E. Bednarz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday, December 7

4:30 p.m.—Deb Bush, Jackson, Schaefer, Stenzel

Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m.—M. McCann, Murray

10:00 a.m.—T. McCann, Osborne, Powers, T. Wing

12:00 p.m.—Bonafede, Swan, Trabucco

4:30 p.m.—Rick Grasso, Jackson, Stachowski

Servers:

Saturday, December 7

4:30 p.m.—M. Bush, A. Mateer, A. Pavlovich

Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m.—M. Wietchy, V. Trojanovic, R. Harrington

10:00 a.m.—K. Pietrkiewicz, R. Jackson

12:00 p.m.—T. Sitarek, R. Litwin (MC=C. Carroccia)

4:30 p.m.—M. McNatty, D.N. Clark

(MC= S. Saunders)

Tours: December 8: Marsha Lipke

MassSchedule

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Week of December 1, 2019

Saturday, November 30

4:30 Louis, Ann & Donna Manzo by The Manzo Family

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent

8:00 John Dusza by Grandson, David Sasiadek

10:00 Mary Powers by The Dick Powers Family

12:00 Living & Dec. Members of the Altar & Rosary Society

4:30 Robert & Kathleen Spahn by Family

Monday, December 2

7:30 Our Lady of Victory Spiritual Society Intentions

12:10 Martin Joralemon (Death Ann.) by Rose Joralemon

Josephine Tulimieri by Father David

Tuesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

7:30 Kristin Schwartz (Living) by Matthew Croes

Kathleen Newell by Deacon & Mrs. Michael Comerford

12:10 Julia Opiel by Family

Mary Friend by Mary Anne Jackson

7:30 Mary Jarosz by Pat & Ed Jarosz (in Chapel)

Ron Avery by Mr. & Mrs. Mary Bennett (in Chapel)

Wednesday, December 4—St. John Damascene

7:30 Special Intentions of Nicholas, Hannah & Kristin

Gentile by Family

Sandra Wall by Carol Tokarczyk

12:10 Ronald (Leo) Handzlik by Sister, Linda Klice

Thursday, December 5

7:30 Matty Becker by Paula, Matthew & Meegan Becker

Homes of Charity House Blessing Mass Intentions

12:10 David Rams by Cookie Such & Family

Catherine Machina by Aunt Ruth McCann & Family

Friday, December 6—St. Nicholas

7:30 Our Lady of Victory Golden Treasury Intentions

Lidia Kendrick (living) by Husband, Kable Kendrick

12:10 Patricia Motyka by Family & Friends

Nazzareno P. Gentile by Father David

7:30 Casimir M. Slaski & Family by Estate

Andrew Bouquard by The Cavagnaro Family

Saturday, December 7—St. Ambrose

7:30 Joseph P. Merrick by The Downey Family

12:10 Peggy Cerro by Bill & Mary Ann O'Rourke

4:30 Rita Gallagher (Death Ann.) by Daughter-in-law,

Marilyn Gallagher

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

10:00 Paul, Mary Pat, Sharron & Joe Gannon & Dave Baldwin
by Mary Anne Gannon

12:00 Michael Carey by Rita & Vincent

4:30 Michael Kasperzak & Keith Holmes by Jim & Karen
Dillon



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School News

We begin this season of Advent at Our Lady of Victory School with the familiar tradition of praying around the Advent Wreath. Our students have learned the symbolism behind the Advent Wreaths in our classrooms and in our hallway. Students know that the circular wreath is a sign of God the Father who has no beginning or end. The greenery of the wreath reminds us of life eternal. The four candles are a countdown of four weeks until the celebration of Christmas. They also remind us of the 4,000 years that humanity waited for a Savior. The colors of the candles are our liturgical colors: purple for preparation and rose for joy. As we light the last candle, "The Angel's Candle," on the last Sunday before the celebration of the birth of Christ, it reminds us of the message of the Angels, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

During this special time, we pray that everyone takes time during this busy season of rushing around to plan what we hope will be "The perfect Christmas." That we all take many moments to remember the true meaning of this season, that the Gift of Christ is our Light and that in him there is no darkness.

Important Dates to Note:

- December 2: Advent Prayer Service in the Cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.; Early dismissal for Faculty Meeting; Dress down for a dollar to benefit Catholic Charities
December 5: 11:00 a.m. Dismissal for Report Card Conferences
November 6: No school for students for first trimester report cards

Religious Ed News

The Religious Ed Department will be having a food box drive for the needy families in our parish. If any members of the OLV Parish would like to participate, please follow the list below and return your box to the Religious Ed Office. If you have any questions, please call Carm Zomeri at 828-7494.

Advent Calendar—Food Drive

Each day add an item to a box. On December 22 bring your box to Religion class and we will donate it to the needy in our parish.

- December 1: Box of cereal
December 2: Peanut butter
December 3: Stuffing mix
December 4: Macaroni and cheese
December 5: Jar of applesauce
December 6: Box of potatoes
December 7: Canned tomatoes
December 8: Canned tuna
December 9: Dessert mix
December 10: Canned fruit
December 11: Canned sweet potatoes
December 12: Cranberry sauce
December 13: Canned green beans
December 14: Box of crackers
December 15: Package of rice
December 16: Package of oatmeal
December 17: Package of pasta
December 18: Spaghetti sauce
December 19: Can of soup
December 20: Can of corn
December 21: Can of mixed vegetables
December 22: RETURN YOUR BOX TODAY

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent

- NO Religious Ed Classes
NO Altar & Rosary Society Meeting
1:00 p.m. Altar & Rosary Christmas Party
1:00 p.m. RCIA (Rectory)
7:30 p.m. Messiah (Bas)

Monday, December 2

School Dismissal at 1:00 p.m.; Gift Card Sale Ends
7:00 p.m. Folk Group Practice (Mus R)

Tuesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

- 7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting (R)
7:00 p.m. Rosary for Peace (Bas)
7:30 p.m. Mass, Prayer Group Meeting (SC) (MR)

Wednesday, December 4—St. John Damascene

Thursday, December 5

Report Cards/Parent Conferences; Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
3:00-4:00 p.m. Confessions
6:00 p.m. Legion of Mary Meeting (MR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Mus R)

Friday, December 6—St. Nicholas

Parent-Teacher Conferences; Student Holiday
1:00-5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (Bas)
6:00 p.m. Pre-Baptism Class (MR)
7:30 p.m. First Friday Mass (Bas)

Saturday, December 7—St. Ambrose

Religious Retirement Collection
7:00 a.m. Magnificat Speaker (Bas)
9:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy Practice (MR)
3:00-4:00 & 7:00-7:30 p.m. Confessions
5:30 p.m. Sweepstakes Kickoff & Early Bird Drawings (Caf)

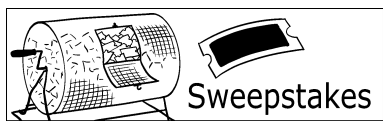
Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

Religious Retirement Collection
Coffee & Donuts after Morning Masses (Mus R)
8:40 a.m. Religious Ed Classes (School)
8:45 a.m. Confessions—Grades 6-9
10:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy (Bas); Reception (MR)
10:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa (Caf)
1:00 p.m. Baptisms (Bas)
1:00 p.m. RCIA (Rectory)



Retirement Fund for Religious

Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.



2020 Sweepstakes Tickets Are Now Available

Sweepstakes tickets are available after weekend Masses at the exit on the lower level of the Basilica or in the Rectory, Gift Shop and School Office during regular business hours. Each ticket is \$50.00 and admits two people (21 and over) to the **Sweepstakes Night on Saturday, March 7, 2020**. We also are running a special that if you buy 5 tickets you get one free. The **Sweeps Kickoff is on Saturday, December 7, 2019, in the school following the 4:30 p.m. Mass**. This is a gift gathering party and is also **our first Early Bird Drawing!** If you are able to help with the Sweepstakes Drawing on March 7, please contact Deniece Diamond at 716-997-8125.

Volunteers Needed for Sweeps 2020!

Our Sweepstakes Grand Prize Drawing will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to assist with major areas of the Sweepstakes process.

_____ Theme Baskets, Donations for Large Raffle Items

Event Day (March 7, 2020)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ Setup | _____ Kitchen |
| _____ Bartender | _____ 50/50 Split |
| _____ Bell Jar | _____ Raffle Sales |
| _____ Ice, Food, Beverages | _____ Take down |

If you are willing to assist in any of these areas, please indicate your preference and fill in the information below:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

Please return to Deniece Diamond or through the OLV School Office or drop in the collection basket as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call Deniece (716-997-8125) or the School Office (828-9434). Thank you.

Giving Tuesday is Coming!

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday, please consider kicking off the holiday giving season on **Giving Tuesday, December 3**. On this day of giving, we are looking to raise funds to provide a safe and sacred space of prayer and worship for pilgrims and parishioners seeking peace, wanting to hear the Word of God and enriching their spiritual life. We are excited to announce that a generous donor has stepped up to match the first \$1,000 raised. Now is your chance to make twice the impact! Please text OLV to 43506 to donate and lock in your gift. Thank you.

**Children’s Liturgy
 Sunday, December 8 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

Advent is the season for preparing for Christ’s birth. Join us as we celebrate the season at **our Children’s Liturgy next Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m.**

This is a very special liturgy for our community. Right after the Mass during our refreshment hour, we will get a visit from Santa! **We are asking every family to bring a new, unwrapped toy to give to Santa.** This is our **Reverse-Gift-Giving**, a more than 25-year tradition for Children’s Liturgy.

Practice for this liturgy will take place on **Saturday, December 7**, in the Marian Room. Singers will practice from 9:00-9:45 a.m. and readers, collectors and gift bearers will practice from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

The Ministers list is:

Readers: Annabelle Czekanski, Madelyn & Kathryn Powers, Elianna Spoonley

Collectors: Nicholas Czekanski

Gift Bearers: (No one yet)

Greeters: Jonathan Ramirez

Singers: Noah Takacs, Hannah Sweeney

All ministers must practice for the Mass unless previously excused by Tina. We need 3 collectors, greeters, gift bearers and more singers! Please call Tina Hatem (826-5075) to volunteer or if your child is a minister and will be unable to attend Mass or practice.

We are always looking to grow as a community. Please consider joining us!

Annual Reverse Gift-Giving

Our next Children’s Liturgy will be held next Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. This will be our annual Advent Liturgy where we invite Santa Claus to join us for our after-Mass celebration. He comes to greet the children and to collect the toys we bring for our **Annual Reverse Gift-Giving**.

The Reverse Gift-Giving works like this. We ask each family to bring a new, unwrapped toy to Mass with them. The toy does not need to be expensive or large. A suggestion for what to bring is to bring something that your own children would like to have. After Mass, Santa arrives to greet the children and to collect the toys. He then gives the toys to the St. Vincent de Paul Society right here at OLV and the Society distributes the toys to needy families in our own parish and community.

Please call Tina Hatem at 826-5075 with questions. This event has become a staple to our community and every year we are overcome with the generosity of the parish. We thank you in advance for participating!

Care for Creation

Suggestion to Help Care for our Common Home

Bring drinking water from home in glass water bottles instead of buying bottled water.



Sunday, November 24th

Due to an early deadline, totals for the November 24th Sunday collection will be listed in an upcoming bulletin.

Pray for the Dead

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Dawn Hauser, Melissa Williams, Paul Fanning, Sophie E. Cisowski, Geraldine M. Haley, Sandra R. Wall, and Patrick J. Callahan.

Pro-Life

We continue to follow the timeline of Mary's pregnancy with Jesus. Week 37: Baby is now about 19 inches long and the belly is about the size of a pomegranate. There are 21 days left in the pregnancy and the baby will now have a firm hand grasp. Baby is now the size of a bunch of Swiss chard.

Angel Tree

Baker Victory Services Angel Tree is here. Snow is falling and we have angels on the tree in the Basilica for you. Please choose a boy or girl and purchase a gift or gifts for them. They provide ideas but you are not obligated to purchase those items. We appreciate what you can give to make our children feel special during this Christmas season. Please attach the angel to the gift and return, unwrapped, to the Rectory by December 9.

Christmas Decorating at OLV Basilica

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season, volunteers are needed to help decorate the Basilica and to water the Christmas flowers during the week and after weekend Masses. If you would like to help decorate, please join us in the Basilica on Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m. (following the 4:30 p.m. Mass). If you are able to assist with watering the flowers throughout the Christmas season, a watering schedule will be posted in the work sacristy where you can sign up for the day(s) of your choice. For questions about volunteering or more information, please contact Gregory Stachowski at 716-949-1085. All are welcome to come and help us prepare our beautiful Basilica for the celebration of Christmas!

Vocation Thought ~ First Sunday of Advent

Christ will come again! This we have been promised. The same Christ has called us all to different vocations, and some of these include Holy Orders and Religious Life. What greater way is there to honor Our Lord and King than by answering his call? If you think God is calling you, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535.



All are welcome! Next Sunday, December 8, 2019. Two seatings: 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. OLV School Cafeteria. Pre-sale tickets \$5.00 / \$7.00 at the door. Includes: French toast sticks, sausage, mini pastries, fruit cocktail, coffee/tea/OJ/apple juice, framed picture with Santa and goodie bag, face painting. For more information, call Carm Zomeri at 828-7494.



AREA HAPPENINGS

Canisius High School congratulates Christopher Heitzhaus, a senior, for making the first marking period Honor Roll.

Mount Mercy Academy is proud to announce that the following students have made the Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year: First Honors: Jenna Eszak, Grace Harrington, Christina Zambron; Second Honors: Madison Baker, Emma Colello; Merit Roll: Tierney Ashe, Kayla Pietrkiewicz, Marlee Ventura.

An Irish Christmas: Our Lady of Charity Parish is hosting an Irish Christmas starring top Irish performer Andy Cooney and his band at Lucarelli's on December 3. Ticket includes dinner, a cocktail and the show. For more information and tickets, please call 822-5962.

Blood Drive at Lake Erie Italian Club Small Hall, 3200 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna, on Tuesday, December 10, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. For an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins welcome!

St. Francis High School Christmas Concerts: Tuesday, December 17 - Instrumental Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall Theatre featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Messengers and K-OS. Thursday, December 19 - Vocal Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall Theatre featuring the Chorus Classes, Men's Choir and Senior Schola. All performances are free of charge.

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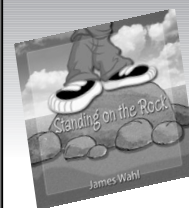
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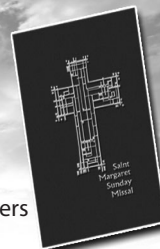
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