



God's Love Released Advent 2020 at The Madeleine

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8

† **5:30 pm** – **IN-PERSON** **LIVESTREAM**

Commemorating Mary's preservation from sin and the grace she received from the first moment of her existence, we join on this feast day to celebrate her ongoing intervention for us and the grace given to her from God, shared through all time and circumstance.

The Madeleine Gift Tree

Return Gifts Sunday, December 13

All the tags are gone, but don't forget to bring your wrapped gift to the church or parish office.

Advent Reflection, Prayer and Music Service

Tuesdays, December 15

† **6:30 pm** – **IN-PERSON** **LIVESTREAM**

A 30-minute contemplative service focused on the weekly themes and Sunday scripture readings from our parish's Reflection Book. Join us in preparing our hearts for Christmas and the precious gift of Jesus among us.



Madeleine School Virtual Christmas Sing-Along

Thursday, December 17

† **6:30 pm** – **LIVESTREAM ONLY**

Join some of The Madeleine School faculty and staff for a livestream sing-along as we celebrate the season. Sing-along with some Advent and Christmas favorites as we prepare to welcome the birth of Jesus!

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 pm (face-to-face)

Also available by appointment. NOTE: Due to COVID-19 concerns, we will not be holding a Communal Reconciliation Service this year.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding Drive

Through Christmas

Bring new twin (not XL) bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, and comforters) in original packaging for local children in need of a simple bed to sleep in. Drop in the blue barrel in the Church or bring to the Rectory.

Advent Devotional Book

Our Advent book is filled with reflections from folks in The Madeleine community. Get your copy at Masses this weekend, or download your digital copy at www.themadeleine.edu/advent



Second Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S READINGS URGE US to prepare for and be open to God's presence in our lives. We have been taught that this presence is ongoing, yet it doesn't always seem so. We need to work to overcome fear and doubt, especially in challenging times, but the task need not be a frantic effort. These readings carry warnings and longings, but the operative words are comfort, tenderness and hope. We wait and prepare because of the promise.

PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Maria Gascon	Mathew Vranizan
David Briggs	Maxine Lucille Gray
Catherine Griffin	Genny Nelson

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

Terry McGraw	Mike Munson
Harry MacArthur	Lee Toth
Bob Glavan	Charlie Phipps
Larry Mason	Russ Clark

WORSHIP & PRAYER

12/08, Tues.	Mary Biewend †
12/09, Weds.	Pete Bencich †
12/10, Thurs.	Elmer J. Lloyd †
12/11, Fri.	Mike Mattison †
12/12, Sat.	David Langevin †
12/13, Sun.	Alan Morrill, Sr. †

IN-PERSON ALL in-person Masses and events require pre-registration at www.themadeleine.edu/mass

LIVESTREAM Livestream events available on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/themadeleineparish

Calendar This Week

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00 am: RCIA—Zoom

10:00 am: Mass—Church

 IN-PERSON  LIVESTREAM

11:30 am: Laudato Si Circle—Zoom

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

► Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am: Adoration—Church

5:30 pm: Mass—Immaculate Conception—Church

 IN-PERSON  LIVESTREAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 am: Mass—Church

5:30 pm: Buildings & Grounds—Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

2:00 pm: School Mass—Church

 IN-PERSON  LIVESTREAM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 am: Mass—Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

► Retirement Fund for Religious

5:00 pm: Mass— IN-PERSON ONLY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

► Retirement Fund for Religious

10:00 am: Mass—Church

 IN-PERSON  LIVESTREAM


CONFIRMATION NOTE

Until further notice, Confirmation Class will be temporarily postponed for COVID-19 safety.

ACCESSING THE MADELEINE IN TIME OF COVID-19

►  IN-PERSON —To sign up, visit www.themadeleine.edu/mass

NOTE: School Masses and Weekday Morning Masses do not require pre-registration. Weekend and Holy Day of Obligation Masses do require pre-registration

►  LIVESTREAM —on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:00 am most Thursdays during the school year, and special events: www.youtube.com/themadeleineparish

► **Confession:** Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm or by appointment

► **Adoration:** Watch bulletin for times

► **Daily Emails:** To sign up, visit www.themadeleine.edu/email

PARISH LIFE

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

During this very unusual time with COVID-19, we have not been able to provide the Holy Eucharist and/or home visits to our parish homebound. If you are in need of this ministry or know of a parishioner who is in need, please let us know. Arrangements will be made for a phone call, note or other support in a socially distanced and protected protocol until it is safe to come together once again. If a parishioner desires Anointing of the Sick, Confession or the Eucharist, contact the parish office and Father Mike will be notified. Please call the parish office for more information at 503-281-5777 or email to homebound@themadeleine.edu

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM MADELEINE BOOK CLUB

Would you enjoy opportunities to meet with others to share in genial discussion/debate over the contents of some very excellent books? If so...

You are most cordially invited to join our group of avid readers!

For more information and/or to be added to our email list, please contact our ministry coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.

HELPING OTHERS THIS SEASON

The Madeleine Knights of Columbus would like to thank the Parish for their support of the recent wool sock and St. Vincent de Paul food drives. Through your generous donations, we received almost 600 pairs of socks and nearly \$2000 for St. Vincent de Paul. We provided socks to St. André Bessette and Transition Projects for use in their ongoing outreach programs.

During these cold winter months, food and wool socks were most appreciated!

If you would still like to contribute to either of these programs, you can make contributions of cash, food cards or socks at the Parish Office.

2020 VIRTUAL SCHOOL AUCTION NETS \$187,103

Thanks to lots of hard work, the 2020 Madeleine School Auction grossed \$215,124 and netted \$187,103. In this special pandemic year, all auction proceeds (including the Paddle Raise) will be allocated straight to the heart of everything The Madeleine does for its students—the school's operating budget.

These totally rad results were made possible by your generous participation in the auction, excellent leadership from the auction chairs, subchairs who worked practically around the clock from multiple time zones, and wonderful community support from our advertisers and sponsors.

The 2020 Auction Team accomplished an amazing feat in the face of tremendous obstacles. Congratulations—and thank you—to everyone who worked so hard on the auction, especially auction chairs Michael Phillips, Michelle Radford, Lisa Rogers, Christin Spagnoli and Michelle Thor. In addition, the entire Madeleine Community should be proud of itself for wholeheartedly supporting its parish school.

Show your
Madeleine Pride!

Hang this “Madeleine Together” sign in a street-facing window so everyone can look for them while walking their neighborhoods enjoying Christmas lights. Send pictures of your sign, or signs you see, to Jenn Langhus, jhanghus@themadeleine.edu, so we can post it on social media.

You can pick a poster up in the church at Mass, or in the Parish Office during business hours. Or, download a printable copy at www.themadeleine.edu/together



A COMMON SONG: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Let's face it. It is just not Advent until we sing or hear the song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Like many Advent hymns, it has a haunting melody and is written in a minor key. The texts and probably the music date from around the time of Pope Gregory the Great,



between the sixth and seventh centuries. The original lyrics, in Latin, seem to have been combined from various antiphons by an unknown author possibly around the 12th century, and first translated into English by John M. Neal in 1851.

is called, "Release Your Love," an adaptation of the 12th century hymn, "Jesus! The Very Thought of Thee." The text for this year's Advent theme song is written by parishioner Marilyn Robb, who is also instrumental in coordinating our Advent reflection booklet.

Everyone knows the chorus, of course, and can belt out the refrain, "Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel," but have you ever wondered what the verses mean? The verses of this ancient hymn are quite significant, and taken from the "O Antiphons" or "Greater Antiphons." These antiphons were commonly recited at Vespers (evening prayer) between December 17 – December 23 leading up to Christmas Eve. Without getting into the weeds, each antiphon, or verse, is based on a different title for Jesus as referred in the Old Testament – such as Emmanuel, Key of David, Dayspring and Wisdom. The common denominator is that each antiphon begins with the words, "O Come," which translates to a phrase that is full of hope and waiting for Jesus to come.

Similar to the textual structure of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," each verse of our Advent hymn focuses on the individual readings for each week in Advent. Thus, week one reflects upon waiting for the Lord; week two on our forgiveness; week three on the light of Christ; and week four on Mary.

A little known fact.... Working backwards, the first letter of each Latin title of Jesus spells out a sentence - Ero cras. In Latin, ero cras means "I am coming tomorrow" (on Christmas Eve).

Advent Theme: Release Your Love

In case you missed it....By now, you should have received our Advent reflection booklet, which is based upon our 2020 Advent theme, "God's Love Released." As I mentioned a few weeks ago, our correlating Advent theme song

The words are as follows:

*Release your love on us we pray,
as patiently we wait.
Help us prepare for your return
as watchman at the gate.
Release your love on us we pray,
forgiven we will be.
Cleanse us from sin and change our
ways that we may live for Thee.
Release your love on us we pray,
your light will be our guide.
In times of darkness let us trust
that you are at our side.
Release your love on us we pray,
your light will be our guide.
In times of darkness let us trust
that you are at our side.
Release your love on us we pray,
free us to do your will.
May we say "yes" as Mary did,
your work through us fulfill.*

To familiarize yourself with our Advent theme song, you can view it on the following link: youtu.be/qmd0z5mldkE

Thank you, Marilyn, for helping us to pray more deeply during this Advent season!

—Maria Manzo

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

The RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process for welcoming adult newcomers into the Catholic Church.

This year we are gathering in small groups via Zoom and periodically meeting at The Madeleine (with masks, in small groups). Contact Christi Bohmbach at rcia@themadeleine.edu for a Zoom invitation. www.themadeleine.edu/rcia

THANKSGIVING CHALK THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who participated in our parish school's "Thanksgiving Chalk" project. This was put together by The Madeleine School's student government. Well done!

Many heartfelt and inspirational notes were written on the sidewalks around the parish...and in one case, even provided inspiration for Father Mike's homily at Sunday Mass.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Masses:

Wednesday 8:00 am
Thursday (School Mass) 2:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am

► Signup for in-person Saturday & Sunday Mass at www.themadeleine.edu/mass or call the Parish Office
► Livestream 10:00 am Sunday and 2:00 pm Thursday at youtube.com/themadeleineparish
Penance Saturdays 4:00–4:45 pm or by appointment; call Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Hours Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm
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School Office 503-288-9197

PARISH STAFF

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Rich Hammons—Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 29


SACRAMENTS

Marriages, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick—Fr. Mike ext. 11
Infant Baptism—Darlene Maurer ext. 25
First Reconciliation, First Eucharist—Trisha Mumm ext. 27
RCIA—Christi Bohmbach, rcia@themadeleine.edu
Confirmation—Fr. Mike ext. 11

COUNCILS & CONTACTS

Pastoral Council—Ron Oliver 503-281-9070
Finance Council—Jim Jones 503-284-3301
Buildings & Grounds—Erin Couch .. 503-281-9575
School Advisory—Catherine Glavan, 503-875-4679
Facility Requests—themadeleine.edu/facilities
Maintenance Requests—James Wurzer
jwurzer@themadeleine.edu ext. 18
Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Monday
Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu

2020 Advent calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>November 29</p> <p>Advent can be a transformational time as we wait for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Begin this special season with an intention. This Advent I will _____.</p>	<p>November 30</p> <p>This has been a difficult year, but as Christians we try to remain hopeful as we joyfully await the birth of Christ. If you haven't already, read the Sunday scriptural reflection on the Advent homepage and spend 10 minutes in silence, letting the Lord speak to you.</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p><i>"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)</i></p> <p>We too often worry about things out of our control and fear events that never happen. Today, reflect on a time God surprised you with kindness and helped you feel hopeful about the future.</p>	<p>December 2</p> <p>We all need a community to live the Laudato Si' message. Laudato Si' Circles are small groups that meet regularly to deepen their relationship with God as Creator and all members of creation. Click here to learn more about joining or forming a Laudato Si' Circle. If there isn't a Circle in your area, consider connecting with family members or friends.</p>	<p>December 3</p> <p>Too much of everything ends in the trash. With your friends or family, play Secret Santa and give hand-made gifts with recycled materials. Plan a socially-distant meetup to exchange gifts, if the pandemic requires such actions.</p>	<p>December 4</p> <p><i>"We must not lose our ability to listen . . . Saint Francis 'heard the voice of God, he heard the voice of the poor, he heard the voice of the infirm and he heard the voice of nature.'" (Fratelli Tutti 48)</i></p> <p>How do we listen to creation? Spend five minutes outdoors, reflecting on creating #AdventHope.</p>	<p>December 5</p> <p>As St. Francis of Assisi did, listen to the voice of the poor, the voice of the most vulnerable among us. Spend some time reading news stories about how the poorest sisters and brothers in your area could use our help this Advent.</p>
<p>December 6</p> <p>Visit the Advent homepage and read the new scriptural reflection. What comes to mind as you reflect on its message? How is God speaking to you through the reading and this Advent?</p>	<p>December 7</p> <p>Embody a Laudato Si' Christmas: Spend time sharing moments instead of materials, or give experiences rather than objects. What is one way you and your loved ones can embody Pope Francis' message of hope this Christmas?</p>	<p>December 8</p> <p>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>Pope Francis warns against consumerism in Laudato Si'. His Holiness proposes solutions to overcoming the "indifference induced by consumerism." This Advent, show concern for a public place, such as a fountain or a landscape, and strive to protect, restore, improve, or beautify it as something belonging to everyone.</p>	<p>December 9</p> <p><i>"Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems." (Laudato Si' 61)</i></p> <p>The "Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us." (LS 13) Let go and let God handle a nagging worry that has recently bothered you.</p>	<p>December 10</p> <p>Most of us can live more simply than we do. Today, try fasting in between meals. No snacks, just meals. Rely on God's strength to help you throughout the day. Jot down how you feel explicitly relying on God's strength.</p>	<p>December 11</p> <p>Hear the voice of the poor: If you're able, donate to a charity in need in your area, or, if you're able and it's possible, make plans to volunteer at a similarly-minded organization in January 2021.</p>	<p>December 12</p> <p>Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p><i>"All it takes is one good person to restore hope!" (LS 71)</i></p> <p>Create hope: Call someone who lives alone or can't be in touch with family because of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>December 13</p> <p>Visit the Advent homepage and read the new scriptural reflection. Send it to at least one other friend whom you think could benefit from it.</p>	<p>December 14</p> <p>"We need to be silent, we need to listen, and we need to contemplate."</p> <p>Pope Francis shared those remarks during the Season of Creation, but it's always helpful for our spirits to contemplate creation's beauty. Today, spend 10 minutes contemplating creation.</p>	<p>December 15</p> <p>Embody a Laudato Si' Christmas this week by eating one more meatless meal than you usually do. Click here for helpful recipes.</p>	<p>December 16</p> <p><i>"Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love." (FT 55)</i></p> <p>What fills your heart and lifts your spirit?</p>	<p>December 17</p> <p><i>"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)</i></p> <p>As you did it to one of the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it to me. Stop and think about those words. Whatever we do to the least of those among us, we do to Jesus. What does that mean to you, and how do you feel reading it?</p>	<p>December 18</p> <p>On United Nations International Migrants Day 2020, pray for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers by reading the Prayers of the Faithful here.</p>	<p>December 19</p> <p><i>"The hand that blesses is an instrument of God's love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life." (LS 235)</i></p> <p>Act like Jesus and accompany someone else on the journey of life by sending a text or an email about #AdventHope.</p>
<p>December 20</p> <p>Visit the Advent homepage and read the new scriptural reflection. Spend 10 minutes meditating in silence on what it means to you.</p>	<p>December 22</p> <p><i>"Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope." (LS 244)</i></p> <p>What's helped you create #AdventHope the most this season? Let us know by tagging us on social media with your reply and #AdventHope.</p>	<p>December 23</p> <p>Last-minute shopping can wait: use the time you might have spent buying things to deeply reflect on the changes you've seen in yourself this Advent, and how you can build on what the Lord has helped transpire through you.</p>	<p>December 24</p> <p><i>"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (John 1:9)</i></p> <p>Give yourself grace. Sure, you might have fallen short a time or two. But we do that; we're human. God forgives us and smiles at our attempts to be more like the person He wants us to become. Today, consciously spend time forgiving yourself and giving yourself grace.</p>	<p>December 25</p> <p><i>"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)</i></p> <p>Jesus is born. Celebrate Christmas! Merry Christmas!</p>		

Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Sinless Mother of God

The most important theological truth about Mary is that she is the Mother of Jesus, whom she conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and who was at once both human and divine. This singular relationship is the basis for all the reverence and dignity which Christians have for her. Therefore all other teachings about her are in one way or another related to this central fact. Of course, although no one in the earliest Church disputed that she was Jesus' mother, and because Jesus was called God, it was common in devotions and in the liturgy to refer to Mary as Mother of God. Nevertheless theologians argued about whether she could properly be called Mother of God (Greek: *Theotokos*, "birth-giver to God") or should just be called Mother of Christ (*Christotokos*). Finally the bishops gathered at the ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431AD agreed that she was indeed Mother of God since divinity and humanity are joined together in her son Jesus.

And it took the Church many more centuries to define the doctrine of Mary's own Immaculate Conception, that is, the recognition that by God's grace from the first moment of her conception she was free from all sin because she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. We must not confuse Mary's Immaculate Conception in the womb of her mother with the Virgin Birth of Jesus—his miraculous conception in Mary's womb at the time of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) through the power of the Holy Spirit without any human father.

The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's unique holiness as a result of God's gift of God's own divine life (sanctifying grace) to prepare her for bringing forth the Son of God into the world. Thus we rightly hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her." Like her, we are also called upon to accept the sanctifying power of God's life within us and in our own way bring forth Jesus into our world today.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

The dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception is just one of only two solemn definitions—the other being Mary's Assumption into heaven—that are considered “ex cathedra” or “from the chair of Peter,” that is, declared by a pope speaking in the name of the whole Church rather than by an ecumenical Council of all the Church's bishops.

It affirms that through God's grace she was never separated from God by sin. Over the centuries Mary's freedom from original sin—the teaching that every human is born in a distorted relationship with God (this is what sin is and does) and so must be freed from this condition through God's grace (this is what salvation is and does)—was disputed by theologians who could not agree.

Theologians in the Western Latin Church, following St. Augustine of Hippo, agreed that Mary could be free from all personal or actual sin, but found it more difficult to exempt her theologically from original sin if, as St. Paul says, all persons (which would include Mary who was not miraculously conceived as Jesus was) have sinned through their relation to Adam (Romans 5:12) and thus need God's saving power through Christ to free them from the power of Sin.

Theologians in the Eastern Greek Church emphasized that as a necessary presupposition to her role as Mother of God, God must have granted Mary some special immunity from all sin. But how this exemption happened and when it occurred in Mary's life were subject to debate.

In the 19th century, the theological debate was officially resolved when in 1854 Pope Pius IX solemnly defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith. But even before this definition, the US Bishops in 1846 had chosen Mary, conceived without sin, as the patroness of the Catholic Church of the United States.

A Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

—Pope Francis

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

In the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in this way:

“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

This doctrine assumes that Mary was formed in the womb of her parents in the normal way through sexual intercourse, thus the “first instance of her conception” does not refer to the procreative activity of her parents. Rather it refers to Mary being exempted from original sin at the first moment of her existence. Sanctifying grace was given to her by God before original sin could have taken effect in her soul.

Mary's unique holiness was granted by God in view of the salvation that Jesus Christ would bring to all humanity. God the Father granted Mary this “singular grace and privilege” revealing that the salvation that would come for all humanity through Christ had now occurred in her.

Original sin was not removed from Mary's soul in the usual way that it is cleansed from persons by baptism. It was simply excluded; it never existed in her soul. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, thus wounding our human nature, weakening our natural powers and breaking down our relationships with God and others. Since from the first instant of her existence Mary was gifted with sanctifying grace, she was preserved from these corrupting effects (the “stain”) of original sin.

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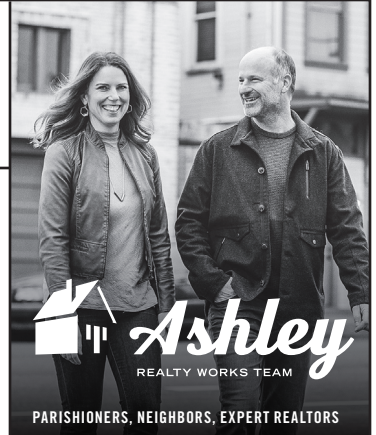


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