



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

November 17, 2019

33rd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed."

- Lk 21:16-18

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

ENCOUNTER

Pray & Worship

Join us! All are welcome!

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am
10:30 am, 12:00 pm,
6:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri: 6:30 am, 8:15 am
Saturday: 8:00 am

Confession

Saturday: 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
Tuesday: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Morning Prayer

Mon-Sat: 6:10 am

Rosary

Mon-Fri: 7:50 am
Saturday: 7:50 am

Adoration

Perpetual in the Reservation Chapel

Contact Us:

Parish Office:

Phone: 402-896-9675
Emergency: 402-896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Padraic Stack

Deacons:

Dcn. Ernie Abbott
Dcn. Chuck Botdorf
Dcn. Denny Dethlefs
Dcn. Jerry Kozney
Dcn. Marty Warwick

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Facility Reservations:

Contact Angie at 402-861-4502 or
a.carnazzo@stephen.org

Calendar of Events

For a full calendar of weekly happenings, visit our website at:
stephen.org/google-calendar

Bulletin Deadline:

Submit requests to
a.hartwig@stephen.org by
3 pm on the Thursday one week (10
days) prior to the bulletin publication.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Contact Cathy Ashton at 402-891-4507,
c.ashton@stephen.org and learn how
we can support your faith journey.

Pastor's Message

"See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end."

All the ancient Scriptures and the traditions of faith must have led the Jews of Jesus' time to believe that the temple would never be destroyed or torn down. After all, the temple itself was built because God commanded that it be built as His dwelling place among the human race. It had survived destruction twice before and had been rebuilt. The prophecy by Jesus that there would be destruction on the earth and that the temple will be destroyed was beyond imagining, but it came true on September 7, in the year 70 A.D., when the third temple was demolished by the Roman Empire. Only one wall was left standing, the now-famous "Wailing Wall."

Our Lord's prophecy about the temple came true, but there are also other structures of our world that will be torn down or destroyed. Think of the destruction that is taking place today that is dismantling families, religions, cultures, and nations. Think about our fear of terrorism and violence. In a world filled with the constant threat of destruction, violence, and the dismantling of our values, Jesus offers a clear, simple plan to maintain our security against evil: "Do not be terrified!" If we truly believe that, no matter what happens in our world today or tomorrow, that Jesus will not even allow a hair of our head to be harmed, then we will "in patience possess our souls."

We can waste so much time and energy being afraid of what might happen to us that it prevents us from truly living today. Being afraid of violence, destruction, and terrorism is really about a lack of trust. Jesus promises that if we have faith in Him, we will have eternal life—no matter what happens here on earth. Let us pray that we might have faith strong enough to take us through these difficult days in our world. It is a sad reality that sin and evil have a strong presence in our world. We can find great hope in knowing that God's presence is even stronger.

***"Human beings judge one another by their external actions. God judges them by their moral choice."* – C.S. Lewis**

God bless you!
Fr. Dave

Welcome Newly Baptized

Harlow Catherine Schmitz, daughter of Tony & Erin Schmitz
Jett Parker McMullen, son of Todd and Erin McMullen



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 a.m. Bring an item for your Thanksgiving meal to be blessed by Father Dave — a basket of bread, bottle of wine, a dessert. etc. It is a beautiful service and a wonderful way to say "Thank you" to God for all of our many blessings.

No Confession Next Tuesday—November 19

Our Religious Education and their families will be celebrating Mass together on Tuesday, November 19 and therefore Confession will not be offered. Confession on Saturday will remain as scheduled from 3:30 to 4:40 p.m.

Children's Choir—Christmas Eve Mass

We invite parents to sign up their child(ren) to sing at our *Christmas Eve 6 p.m. Children's Mass* this year. There are no tryouts - any child from age 5 and up is welcome to sing. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights, starting Nov. 21st. Email Paula Bonkiewicz at p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org.

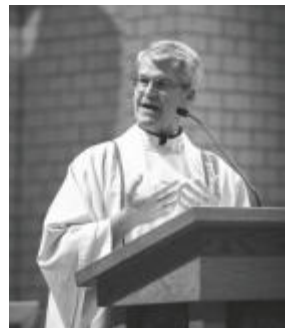
Prime Timers Upcoming Events



Christmas Party — Friday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the GPC. Main entrée and desserts provided. Bring a side dish to share. BYOB. Optional: Wear your PLAID matching or mismatched outfits. RSVP to Jan, Pat or Moe. Cost: \$6.50 per person to one of the three or drop off to Cathy Ashton in the GPC. All are welcome.

2nd and 4th Thursdays — Monthly Cards, Games and Conversation at 1 PM in the GPC. Please bring an item for the food pantry and a snack to share.

Prime Timers activities are open to anyone who would like to attend. Questions? Contact Moe (402-896-2577), Jan (402-592-1298), Pat (402-201-7945).



Stewardship of Treasure Appeal—Commitment Sunday!

You're invited! Commitment Sunday is this Sunday, November 17th. Join in the dining room after all Sunday morning Masses. Enjoy a pastry, fellowship and an **attitude of gratitude**, as we celebrate you! Everyone is welcome. Your prayers and response to our Stewardship of Treasure Appeal is appreciated. Thank you for returning your pledge card and know that your offertory giving allows God's miracles to take place everyday in our church and school. Contact Nicole Neesen at n.neesen@stephen.org or (402) 861-4540 with any questions. **Thank you!**

Martyr Jump Starter



What does it mean to be Catholic?

The Saints

Father Dave Belt

Sunday, November 17, 10 - 11 a.m., Dining Room

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton | (402) 861-4507 | c.ashton@stephen.org

Time, Talent, Treasure – Volunteer Feature



Nancy Wiederholt and husband Darrell were founding parishioners, beginning at Millard South School's auditorium! They have three adult children and one grandson. Nancy gives by helping with many ministries including: EMHC, Choir, Gardening, and Decorating. She also keeps "the teacher gift" going by facilitating study groups: *Lectio Divinia* and *Lord, Teach Me to Pray* series. She says, "We are all teachers who learn from one another".

How did you get started volunteering at St. Stephen the Martyr? After retiring from Millard Public Schools, I began volunteering in the second chapter in my life.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering? I am always honored to serve as a Eucharistic Minister when asked, but I really feel part of the liturgy of the Mass through singing in the 10:30 choir. When we are called upon to sing at a funeral mass it is like supporting part of our family at St. Stephens. Whatever I give to our parish, I get back 100-fold in blessings.

What does St. Stephen the Martyr mean to you? How could I ever leave this parish when it's the people of St. Stephen's who have made this parish what it is from the beginning concept: a "Family-Friendly Parish"? Humbly, I can say the priests, deacons, and the people from this parish are still teaching me!

Do you have any advice to other parishioners looking to volunteer? My friends will confirm my saying, "We're all in this together!" Jesus is still sending us out two by two or multiplied! If you don't know anyone, join a group which led me to some of my closest and dearest friends, my sisters in Christ.

Photo: Nancy Wiederholt (right) with parishioner Eunice Schmaderer sorting rosaries they helped make for second graders at St. Stephen the Martyr School and Religious Education.

Looking for when something is scheduled?

For a full calendar of weekly happenings, visit: stephen.org/google-calendar

KNOW

Formation

Learn. Grow. Form your faith.

Adult Faith Formation

Are you seeking opportunities to learn and grow in the Catholic faith? We're here to support you!

Explore opportunities:
stephen.org/adult-faith-formation

Contact: Cathy Ashton at 402-861-4507
or c.ashton@stephen.org

Sacraments

Getting married? Having a baby? Needing an anointing?

Baptisms:

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 1:30 pm. Parents are required to attend a preparation class prior to their child's Baptism. Contact parish office to schedule and to register for a class.

Weddings:

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests, the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them. Contact Dcn Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Are you homebound and need Holy Communion brought to you? Contact the parish office by 4:30 p.m. on Fridays for more information and to make arrangements.

Schedule Note

Breaking Open the Word will not be meeting on Friday, November 22nd or Friday, November 29th. This Adult Study opportunity is on Fridays from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and join at any time. Discuss the readings for the upcoming Mass. There's no homework required. We are very informal, the class lasts about an hour or so depending on how lively our discussion gets. Email questions to Bob Bastarache at bbastarache1@cox.net or call Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196.

Addition studies are offered every day of the week. Find one that meets your needs. Visit: stephen.org/adult-studies.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

— Matthew 19:14

School

Grades Preschool-8

Considering a Catholic Education for your children? St. Stephen the Martyr School is united in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

Website:
school.stephen.org

Phone: 402-896-0754
Email: school@stephen.org
Principal: Julie Perrault
Assistant Principal: Dr. Joe Greco



Religious Education

Grades Preschool-8

Do you want to build a strong Catholic faith foundation in your child(ren)? We can help! St. Stephen's offers religious education for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Website:
stephen.org/religious-education

Phone: 402-861-4512
Contact: China Weil
Email: c.weil@stephen.org

Youth Ministry

Grades 6-12

Did you know that 13 year's old is the average age that youth leave the Church? We're here to help! Our Youth Ministry programs are designed to keep youth actively Catholic and to provide real answers to real questions.

Website:
stephen.org/youth-ministry

Phone: 402-861-4509
Contact: Laura Bogue
Email: l.bogue@stephen.org

School News

Did you know?... Students in K-8 are assessed throughout the year in core subjects. Fountas and Pinell shows reading growth, MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) show reading and math growth, and Terra Nova (grades 3-8) show growth in all core subjects. We utilize these test in conjunction with classroom activities/assessments to determine placement and assistance when needed.

Calendar

Nov. 19: Picture Retakes
Nov. 20: Home & School PEptalk—Love & Logic
Nov. 26: School Thanksgiving Food Drive
Dec 19: Music Program (Grades 2, 5 & 8)

\$\$\$ Cash 4 Students \$\$\$

Keep sending in your Hy-Vee Receipts!

Save Hy-Vee receipts from any Omaha or surrounding area Hy-Vee store dated September 1 through December 31, 2019. Hy-Vee will donate \$1 for every \$200 spent during this period to our school. We can earn up to \$2,000 for SSM!

- ⇒ Place receipts in the HyVee boxes outside of the school office or in the parish reception area. Or students can turn in to their teachers.
- ⇒ **You may also TAGG your purchase using the TAGG app by taking a picture of your receipt and choosing SSM as your organization. Receipts need to be dated 10/21/19 or later.**

Religious Education News

Next week, we will celebrate Mass together as a community during each class time. Families are invited to attend and sit with your children!

Thank you to all who attended the Knights of Columbus breakfast last weekend, and to the Knights for so generously supporting Religious Education!

Calendar

Nov. 19/20: RE Masses, families invited
Nov. 26/27: No RE Classes - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1: No SS Classes - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2/3: First Reconciliation
Dec. 14 - Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsals
Dec. 15 - Sunday School Christmas Program

Youth Ministry News

Life Teen (High School) — Nov. 17: 7-9 PM, GPC — And the Word became...Status? You asked for it, and here it is: a night on the impacts and influence (good and bad!) of Social Media.

Edge (Middle School) — Nov. 19: 6:30-8 PM, Dining Room —Hear any bad news lately? Turn that frown upside down, and prepare to see how Good will always triumph over Evil!

What About Wednesdays (Grades 8-12) — Nov. 20: 7-8:30 PM, School Library — Are large groups not your thing? Do you still want to participate with parish youth activities, but Sundays won't work for you? Well, What About Wednesdays? 8th-12th grade teens are invited to join us for our Discipleship group where there will be a variety of teen-lead discussion, game nights, one night Bible or book studies, and more. It's come when you can, and we promise not to assign homework.

Hearts Open Wide: Youth Service Squad

- ⇒ Nov. 23: Essential Pregnancy Services Paint Day, 9 AM-1 PM
- ⇒ Nov. 24: Sundae Sunday at the Country House, 1-2 PM
- ⇒ Nov. 30: Prepare Dinner for the Stephen House, 4- 7 PM

Family participation is always welcome and encouraged.
Online registration is required.
Visit: stephen.org/youth-service.



Christmas Community Giving Opportunities

Are you seeking a way for you and your family to share the love of Christ this Christmas? How about supporting those in need? We've teamed up with several worthy organizations to help you and your family do just that! Details on two opportunities:

Parish Family Christmas Project

We've adopted Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Services and The Shelter for our Family Christmas project. This program serves women and children during their stay and transition out of The Shelter. This opportunity focuses on "Sheltering the Homeless" — one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy and it models how we should treat others, as if they were Christ in disguise.

How can you and your family help? You choose!

- Purchase and donate new sheet sets (sizes crib, twin, full or queen), blankets, comforters, mattress pads, pillows, towels or washcloths. Please place your **unwrapped** donation(s) in the Gathering Space baskets by December 15.
- Participate in the Second Collection the weekend of November 16-17. Funds raised will be used to purchase additional bedding and other items on Catholic Charities Amazon Wish List or gift cards. If you are interested in reviewing the wish list, it is available at <http://bit.ly/DomesticViolenceWishList>.

If just ONE child and ONE mom goes to bed with new bedding, they can experience the comfort and warmth provided by our St. Stephen's faith community. Thank you for helping us spread the love of Jesus Christ this CHRISTmas!

Questions? Please contact Teresa Ziska at 402-960-8618, Linda Hendricks at 402-699-1911 or Loni Burger at 402-896-4446.



YOUTH MINISTRY ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Choose an ornament (or more) from the four Christmas Trees in the Gathering Space. Each tree includes ornaments designated for one of four charities:

- ♦ **Essential Pregnancy Services**— All of their services are free and confidential. Every day, their programs provide pregnant women and mothers with the *medical, educational, material, financial and emotional support* they need to become healthy, knowledgeable, and caring parents
- ♦ **St. Augustine Indian Mission of Winnebago**— St. Augustine Indian Mission has served the Native American people of the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes since 1909. Through the years it has touched the lives of thousands of Native American children and impacted the lives of their families
- ♦ **Open Door Mission**— The Open Door Mission is a Gospel Rescue Mission providing basic needs and life-changing programs for the homeless and needy
- ♦ **St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Pantry**— Provides food and essential items to families in need



Please place your **unwrapped** donation(s) near the designated tree by Sunday, December 8th. Please attach the ornament to help with the sorting process.

Help Needed to Deliver Donations— Over the years, our parish has been overwhelmingly generous with this project and for that we thank you! If you are interested in helping to sort, pack, and/or deliver donations to the various locations, please contact Laura at 402-861-4509 or l.bogue@stephen.org.



Our 5th Grade PATH group is hosting their 3rd annual Turkey Trot while collecting new and used coats, hats, gloves, scarves (check your closets)! We hope to see you out for this fun, family run/ trot/walk. Lasts only about 45 minutes! First place finisher (kids) will get to take home the traveling Golden Turkey Trophy. Hot chocolate at the finish! Contact Jenni Smith with questions at smith.jenni21@gmail.com.

PROCLAIM

Community

Get involved. Belong. Serve.

Do you want to get more involved in our parish community? Are you looking for ways to serve others? Are you being called to participate in the Liturgy? How are you sharing your unique gifts?

Visit: stephen.org/community

Weekly Offertory

11/05 - 11/11/2019

Online/Checks/Cash: \$39,825.00

Children's Giving: \$238.00

"...Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us." 2
THESSALONIANS 3:9

Most people who live a grateful and generous lifestyle don't go around bragging about it. But through their actions and words, others do take notice. They notice because of the joy and peace that results and other people desire this in their own life. Know that the way you live your life may be the only interaction others have with our Catholic faith.

Give online at stephen.org/give

TAGG

YTD raised: \$6,847.51

EXCITING NEWS! HyVee is now on TAGG and will donate 1% of all purchases back to our Religious Education and School! That's 1% off gas, groceries, everything!

Learn more:
www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssm

From our Prolife Ministry

"As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace." - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God"

Join the **Institute for Priestly Formation** for an **Advent Morning of Reflection**, Saturday, December 14th at Christ the King Church. The morning begins with the 8:15 parish Mass, includes a continental breakfast, presentations by the IPF Staff, time for silent reflection, and concludes at noon. There is no charge for the event. For planning purposes, please register online at PriestlyFormation.org or call Linda at 402-280-3901.

Advent at Catholic Cemeteries

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha invites you to Advent at Catholic Cemeteries. On Wednesday December 4, Wednesday December 11, and December 18, 2019 there will be an Advent Prayer Service in the Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery at 6:00 PM. We understand how difficult this time of year can be for those who have lost a loved one. We invite you to leave a petition with our Christmas Remembrance tree so that the petition can be held in prayer and remembered at our January 6th, 2020 Mass. We look forward to praying with you. For further information please contact Deacon Jim Tardy 402/391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

Grieving with Great Hope

Firmly grounded in the Catholic faith, this 5 week grief workshop/support group for adults who have experienced the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, friend or other loved one. It is through prayerful reflection, practical learning and personal fellowship that we mourn. **REGISTRATION:** \$20 fee covers the program and materials (scholarships are available). Pre-registration is required. To inquire about upcoming workshops, **Contact:** Deacon Jim Tardy 402-551-2313 or 402-391-3711, jtardy@catholiccem.com Parish Contact: Deacon Denny Dethlefs, 402-861-4538, d.dethlefs@stephen.org

2020 OACCW College Scholarship

The Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW) and its deaneries are accepting scholarship applications from high school senior girls who are Catholic and plan to attend a public or private college or university. Each deanery may award a scholarship, and the application and essay of the winner of each deanery scholarship will be sent to the OACCW Scholarship Chair to compete for a \$500 OACCW Scholarship. Requirements and mailing addresses for each deanery contact are available from high school guidance counselors. Scholarship application forms are available on the OACCW Facebook page in "Photos" in the menu bar on the left side of the page. All documentation should be submitted to the applicant's Deanery Council of Catholic Women contact, and be postmarked by **January 15, 2020**. Late applications will not be considered. Contact: Kim Estes, OACCW Publicity Chairman, 402-340-2866/ 402-924-3125

Advent by Candlelight Service

St. Margaret Mary's Circles 2 and X invited you to join our annual Advent by Candlelight service. Our speaker will be Martie Jaworski, prayer reflection by Krista Anderson, and music by Nikki Boulay. Adoration and meditation will be offered. The service is Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 pm at Saint Margaret Mary's Church followed by a reception in the Suneg Center.

Seeking Babysitter

St. Stephen the Martyr is seeking a reliable babysitter to provide childcare during Friday morning Faith Formation classes in the Parish Center from 9-11:30 a.m., beginning in January and during an occasional Baptism Prep class. Candidates must be 19 years or older and Safe Environment trained.. If interested, please contact Cathy Ashton at c.ashton@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

TIP FROM THE CREATION CARE TEAM

Try to eliminate as much disposable plastic from your life as possible; it breaks down into tiny particles that enter streams, lakes and oceans harming fish and other wildlife. Instead, keep a reusable water bottle; wash and reuse plastic sandwich and snack bags, or try replacing them with waxed paper or waxed paper bags, which can be composted.

SKUTT CATHOLIC DANCE TEAM PRESENTS...

Dancing in a Winter Wonderland

Come Join SCDT in a fun-filled night of dancing and fun!

Perform with SCDT at halftime of the boy's basketball game!

When: Friday, December 13th
Who: Kindergarten-8th grade
Cost: \$50 per participant

What's included?
•Clinic T-shirt •Dinner •Crafts •Cotton Candy
•6th-8th grade participants get feedback from SCDT dancers and coaches

Register online:
<https://www.skyhawkcamp.com/dance-camp.cfm>
Questions? Email Coach Emily at skuttcatholicdanceteam@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 16

8:00 am † Joyce Current (PS)
3:30 pm Confessions (DB)
5:00 pm † Paul McDermott (DB)

Sunday, November 17

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)
9:00 am SI Our Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Ron Ingram (PS)
12:00 pm † Bill Bertch (PS)
6:00 pm † Lynn Colobong (PS)

Monday, November 18

6:30 am † Harry & Kate Skarda (PS)
8:15 am † Joe Tiesi (PS)

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 am SI Megan & Kevin Cossette (PS)
8:15 am † Rob Hauptman (DB)
5:30 pm **No Confessions**

Wednesday, November 20

6:30 am † Alfred Williams (PS)
8:15 am † Elva Craig (DB)

Thursday, November 21

6:30 am SI Sarah Kreber (DB)
8:15 am † Johnny Minton (DB)

Friday, November 22

6:30 am SI The Oberdorfer Family (PS)
8:15 am † Cliff & Evelyn Lisko (DB)

Saturday, November 23

8:00 am † Harry & Kate Skarda (DB)
3:30 pm Confessions (PS)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (PS)

Sunday, November 24

7:30 am † Cyril & Monica Rock (PS)
9:00 am † Richard Shaw (PS)
10:30 am † Sharon Abboud (DB)
12:00 pm SI Our Parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Norman Gohr (GM)

The Priest Schedules are subject to Change
DB=Fr. Dave Belt, PS=Fr. Padriac Stack, PK=Fr. Peter Krezalek, OSB=Order of St. Benedict, CS=Fr. Chris Saenz, GM=Fr. Gerald Melchoir

SI = Special Intention
† = Repose of the Soul

Vocations Corner

There are those among us that offer their presence prayerfully through the gift of the cloistered or monastic life. They keep holy that which is holy, pray ceaselessly for the poor, the forgotten, the world, and the Church, and fix their gaze on eternal things. Let us give thanks and praise for those who follow their vocation in this way on World Day of Cloistered Life (November 21). Perhaps you or someone you love has been hearing the call to live a consecrated life. There are many ways to do so! Find encouragement and guidance by contacting the Archdiocese of Omaha Vocation Office at 402-558-3100 or through email: vocations@archomaha.org. As Christ teaches us, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

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