

ASSUMPTION CHURCH, MORRISTOWN, NJ

*Mass Intentions*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

8:00 a.m. Francis Walker, Jr.  
5:30 p.m. Francis Walker, Jr.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
8:30 a.m. Joseph Baron  
10:00 a.m. Dr. Arthur Falgione  
12:15 p.m. Rosina Milelli  
5:30 p.m. James Kennedy

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

7:00 a.m. Gretta Moloney  
12:05 p.m. Hugh Prendergast

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**

7:00 a.m. Charles Cook  
12:05 p.m. William Comfort

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

7:00 a.m. Melissa Riggio  
12:05 p.m. Mildred Mancinelli

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26**

7:00 a.m. James, Elizabeth and  
Mary Bernadette Beston  
12:05 p.m. Rose Emmer

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

7:00 a.m. Joseph Baron, Jr.  
12:05 p.m. Robert Ayres, Jr.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

8:00 a.m. Adlyn Maurello  
5:30 p.m. Alice Leyhan

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

7:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
8:30 a.m. Francis Scott Walker  
10:00 a.m. Rosina Milelli  
12:15 p.m. Michael Brown  
5:30 p.m. Vincent Colvin

*The Rosary is prayed every weekday 15 minutes before the 12:05 Mass.*

*Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Cedar Knolls.*

*The Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is prayed every Monday immediately following the 12:05 p.m. Mass.*

*Perpetual Adoration is observed seven days-a-week, 24 hours daily at St. Margaret of Scotland in Morristown.*

**First Reading – 2 Chronicles 36: 14-17, 19-23**

In the following portion of the book of Chronicles, the writer summarizes many centuries of Israelite history. It is apparent that the people's infidelity leads to disaster, but God's limitless, gracious mercy brings new hope out of despair.

**Second Reading – Ephesians 2: 4-10**

In this excerpt from the letter to the Church in Ephesus, a disciple of Paul writes of God's generosity. Like the Israelites of old, we have been saved not because of any merit on our part, but because of God's gracious mercy.

**Gospel – John 3: 14-21**

Today's reading from John's Gospel may have been shaped in a sermon given in the evangelist's early church community. That church felt alienated and spurned by the world, and, as it is typical of such isolated groups, asserted that all outsiders were condemned. And so, this passage stresses not only that God's surpassing love caused Jesus to come into the world, but also that his coming confronts people with the choice to accept or reject his message.

We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the readings for next Sunday, March 29, **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31: 31-34

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 5: 7-9

**Gospel:** John 12: 20-33

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT**

As we begin our Lenten journey, participation in Stations of the Cross is a wonderful way to help deepen our awareness of his suffering and lead us to a better understanding of Christ's passion and death. Please join us each Friday evening during Lent at 5:30 p.m. in the church for this beautiful and moving liturgy. In addition to our regular Friday evening Stations, there will be a special Stations of the Cross for children at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27.



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

## Fourth Sunday of Lent



### PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE RECOVERY OF:

Annette Cattano, Pat and Bob Seely, Noelle Talarico, Lorraine McMahon, John Dingman, Judy Lynch, Romaine Rea, Agnes Hogan, Kathleen McCarthy Brennan, Tony Bersani, Mary Ascher, Irene Schreiber, Rita Ventre, Helen Bitondo, Gladys Mageau, Victoria Vega, Cindy Hogan, Becca Wishbow, Michael Garde, Joseph McGovern, Elsa McGlynn, Doris Lemieux, Patricia Barter-Varrichio, William Galligan, Doris Laurenti, Heidi Hertsgaard, Mary O'Connell, Janet Cloninger, Jerry Kwilos, Kathy Farrand, Robert Carduner, Sherry Rickely, Manuel and Delicia Calderon, Ariel Donnelly, Julie Ann Barlotta, Elaine Brady, Christy Lee Ascolese, Sabrina Sanchez, Miriam Frias, Jim Cavanaugh, Gabrielle Murtha, Bea Scagnelli, Jody Hartley, Doris Laurenti, Guy J. Palazzolo, Jane A. Mullins, Andy Scrone, Landa Martin, Mary Breen, Shirley Konicke, Elizabeth Gibson, Theresa O'Connell, Maria Svaglinac, Christopher Scully, Siena Broesler, Malcolm Sutherland Foggio, Charles Lieb McCloskey, Marie Valvano, Conrad Geraghty, Charlotte Rez, John Maurello, Linda Rosenberg, and Sheila Hare.

You are invited to call the Parish Office with the names of any loved ones who you would like included in the prayers for the good health of the sick and homebound.

Please notify us when our prayers for recovery have been answered, so we may remove the person from the list.

### ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THESE, O LORD



*John A. Dever*  
Husband of Winifred

### WELCOME HOME TO HEALING

We have scheduled a "Welcome Home" penitential program where we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Monday evening during Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This program will be in addition to our regular time for Confessions on Saturday afternoon from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m.



### SHINES AT ASSUMPTION

*We believe that Jesus Christ breathes His Spirit on us so that we can strive to become a more perfect expression of the Good News in all aspects of everyday life.*

Sometimes the Light of Christ can be found in a box of Girl Scout cookies.

All year, Assumption School children have been using their "**Own Two Hands**" to try to make the world a better place. Throughout the month of March, their school-wide theme is **We Can Make the World a Safer Place**. Assumption school children have been collecting Girl Scout cookies and phone cards to send to soldiers in the Armed Services – along with letters written by the students in each class.

April's theme will be **We Can Make the Earth a Better Place** when Assumption School students will be focusing on recycling.

### WEEKEND RETREAT



### Assumption Women's Retreat

Loyola House of Retreats is offering a traditional Women's Weekend Retreat from Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The weekend will afford lots of quiet time for reflection and prayer, as well as inspirational lectures and moving liturgies. If you are interested in finding out more about this retreat, please call Liz Wilkey in the Parish Office or email her [liz@assumptionparish.org](mailto:liz@assumptionparish.org).

*Please Consider Remembering  
Assumption In Your Will*

March 22, 2009

### **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN**

Jesus said this in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Michelle Cameron does this best of all our parishioners. Michelle heads up our Bereavement Support Ministry. Twice a year, in the Spring and Fall, Michelle invites all the people who have lost a loved one during the past year to join a bereavement support group as a way to help them deal with their grief. Michelle has been doing this for the past 17 years. She has helped so many men and women get through this tough period in their lives to a brighter place on the other side. The group members sometimes bond so well that they continue meeting after the formal sessions. The participants say that the new relationships established along with what is shared during the sessions are the best part of the program.

Michelle will be starting our spring bereavement session on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The support meetings will run for six consecutive weeks. I encourage anyone who is grieving from the recent death of a loved one to contact her and attend the sessions. Information on how to register can be found later in this bulletin.

We want Michelle to know how much we all appreciate her ministry of compassion and love. I know God has a great reward prepared for her for all of her giving of time and energy.

*Father Martin*

### **RESPECT LIFE**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has launched an email campaign urging Congress to maintain widely supported pro-life policies and to oppose the federal funding and promotion of abortion. The email campaign augments the massive national postcard campaign launched in dioceses throughout the country in January. Recent polls show that Americans strongly support laws limiting or regulating abortion, including laws honoring parental involvement in a minor daughter's abortion decision, laws upholding the conscience rights of health care professionals and institutions, limits on abortion funding, and bans on a partial-birth abortion. To guard against the erosion of current pro-life measures – and to keep abortion from becoming a federal entitlement, your voice is needed now more than ever. Please go to [www.usccb.org/postcard](http://www.usccb.org/postcard) and click on "Email Congress Now" and let your voice be heard.

### **RED ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN**

A campaign has been suggested to send an empty RED ENVELOPE with message on the back reading, "*This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world. Responsibility begins with conception.*"

Address the envelope to: President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.



### **FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**JESUS' FOURTH WORDS:  
"MY GOD, MY GOD,  
WHY HAVE YOUR FORSAKEN ME?"**

St. Mark's Gospel says that after the first three hours it became dark for three more. So far Jesus has been simply enduring, though with a superbly selfless awareness of others. Now he is dying, and for anyone, that means slipping into aloneness, alone with whatever presence of God there may be in the darkness. He of all people could go forward unafraid, for he had lived in an unbroken communion with the God he called Father. He had not expected to be saved from this death, but he had trusted that God would be with him to the end. Now there was seemingly no presence, no answer, no meaning to it all. The vast emptiness echoed back his cry with a more savage mockery than the earlier laughter of his tormentors. Silence!

The childlike faith of Jesus reached out into that dreadful void, grasping for a fragile thread of trust, groping, and finding nothing there. "Why, for what purpose, have you forsaken me, left me derelict?" The previous words from the Cross reveal an almost unearthly perfection of strength and control. This raw cry of despair makes him one with our century. The questions, "Why? Why the holocaust? Why the World Wars? Why ethnic cleansing? Why religious terrorism? Why 9/11? Why the tsunami? Why the earthquake? For what possible reason?" are questions that, more than others, make God almost impossible for us to fathom. This is also the point at which suffering becomes affliction.

The afflicted, by seeming to be God-forsaken, lose all sight of their own value and significance. If they do not harden and shrivel their hearts, they take upon themselves an almost universal sense of the worthlessness of existence. They carry the sin of the world.

And that is just what Jesus did, not in fantasy but in reality. How you identify with his descent into an experience of the abandonment of God's love for humanity, is for you to decide. What is incontestable is that many who, in the extremity of suffering or despair, have found no comfort, but have been at least able to say: "That Jesus has been there too." And however they explain his death, they have discovered through it a God who is still believable. Suddenly, the sense of abandonment itself, becomes a horrible testimony to the intensity and unimaginable depth of the love—Son to Father.....Father to Son.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

*Love Fr. Dennis*

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### A SOMBER GOSPEL

#### *Jesus, serpents and reluctant disciples*

In the Book of Numbers we read that the people complained to Moses about God's treatment of them. "The people spoke against Moses and against God." Num. 21:5 Fiery serpents came upon the people and bit them. Many died. The people acknowledged their sin and asked Moses help. He made a bronze serpent, put it upon a pole, held it up and through God's mercy they were healed.

In today's Gospel (John 3:14-21) Jesus tells Nicodemus "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." Jesus tells us that he descended from heaven to bring eternal life through being lifted up on the cross.

The bronze serpent brought healing from fiery serpents. Jesus brings healing from the sting of sin. It is not a momentary release from pain, but a remedy forever. The gospels show Jesus as the new Moses. The Lord is the one who wipes the slate clean through his self-offering. His Resurrection is likewise for us. Glory for the undeserving won by the spotless lamb.

Nicodemus is a reluctant disciple who comes in secrecy to talk with Jesus. His support of the Lord is not public or evident. Ultimately, however, he follows Jesus. How blessed we are that Jesus continues to speak to us through the Scriptures, prayer, the Church, friends and life itself. There are times when faith is really hard and pain threatens to consume us, and we too are reluctant disciples.

Paul in Ephesians writes: "God who is rich in mercy...raised us with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places." We can call these things to mind for ourselves and for others.

– Sr. Patricia Marks

*In the home:* Ask God for the grace to recognize and deal with a fault or failing that remains hidden in the darkness.

*In the workplace or in school:* Take a stand and defend someone who is being denigrated.

*In our community:* Gossip can travel like wildfire in any community. Let others know that you will not participate in gossip.

**TRUE LOVE WAITS 1:** True Love Waits 1, a program to empower young people to save sex for marriage, is having an adult training seminar for people with a heart for youth. Be trained to present this 5-session program to a youth group or high school/junior high age students, and see resources to help you communicate the message of sexual purity in an interesting and positive way. The date is Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the C.Y.O. Youth Center in Kearny, Hudson County, NJ. Sponsored by LIFENET. For more information, please call (201) 804-8331.

### HOLY THURSDAY PROCESSION FOR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

All children of the parish who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion this year are invited to process with the priests, ministers, and those getting their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday evening, April 9th. This solemn and moving Holy Week Liturgy symbolically re-enacts the events of the Last Supper and ends with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

All First Communicants who wish to participate must attend a special rehearsal on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Assumption Church. On Holy Thursday evening the children will sit with leaders in reserved pews. The liturgy will end at approximately 9:30 p.m.

If you would like to register your 2<sup>nd</sup> grader for the Holy Thursday procession, please email us at [easter@assumptionparish.org](mailto:easter@assumptionparish.org) and indicate your child's name and contact information.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

**GOSPEL QUESTIONS:** We can either walk in the light, or we can follow the comfortable darkness of "business as usual." The light beckons. The choice is ours. How will we respond, and what will be the consequences?

*Adults:* How has my faith journey resembled the journey of Nicodemus?

*Children:* Have I kept the Lenten promises I made?

*A Family Perspective:* Jesus talks about the light coming into the world. Ask each family member, what, do you think, is the light? How do you suppose people of the light feel?

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD:** Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's word this week.

### ASSUMPTION CHILDREN'S EASTER MASS

In addition to the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the church on Easter Sunday, we will also be celebrating a 10:00 a.m. Children's Easter Mass in the gymnasium of Assumption School. This Liturgy, which will celebrate the symbols and signs of the Resurrection, will be a perfect option for those families with small children. If your young child, age 4 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, would like to participate in our special offertory procession at this Mass, please email us at [easter@assumptionparish.org](mailto:easter@assumptionparish.org) and indicate your child's name, age and contact information. These participants (25 maximum) will need to attend a special rehearsal on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Assumption School.



March 22, 2009



### MORE NEWS FROM SAINT PAUL LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

The authorship of this letter is most often attributed to a disciple of Saint Paul during the last quarter of the first century. The style used by the author would indicate that this may have been a "circular letter" written to many communities in Asia Minor with Ephesus being the most prominent community. When reading this letter, one might note the similarities of thought with the letter to the Colossians. In the letter to the Ephesians, however, we find a more developed theology, especially with regard to Christ and the church. Saint Paul stresses that the communities must be ever aware of their relationship with Christ and to call upon it daily to find support.

When reading this letter, one finds in the early chapters a listing of heavenly gifts bestowed upon the followers of Christ. The next chapters invite the reader to reflect upon these gifts and how they are to be used by a member of the Body of Christ. The movement in the letter is from reception of gift to action in the community and home as a Christian. "I urge you, then . . . [to] live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you." (Eph 4:1)

### YOUNG ADULT PENANCE SERVICE

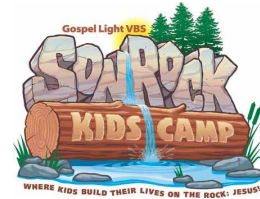
Morris Catholic Young Adults (MCYA) would like to invite you to a Young Adult Penance Service. This is an event for young adults, married or single in their 20s and 30s.

The service will be held at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel in Cedar Knolls, on Palm Sunday, April 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity for reflection, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and confession followed by a social gathering. For more information, please contact [Katie@morriscatholicya.org](mailto:Katie@morriscatholicya.org) or visit [www.morriscatholicya.org](http://www.morriscatholicya.org).

### Operation Rice Bowl

### Fourth Sunday of Lent Nicodemus and Jesus

In today's Gospel, the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus reminds us during Lent that as we seek to put our spiritual lives in order, we cannot accomplish this task on our own. God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We are reminded that we have been made able to see the Kingdom of God; we have been given the gift of eternal life through the waters of baptism. As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in prayer that we are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given. May our fasting keep us mindful of those who have no clean water to grow crops or to nourish their families. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief Services.



### ASSUMPTION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Presents  
**SonRock Kids Camp**  
**August 10-14, 2009**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon**

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

Both adults and teen volunteers are needed to run the 2009 Assumption Vacation Bible School program this summer. Come help set up camp at SonRock kids camp where kids build their lives on the rock: JESUS! The program runs Aug 10-14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs such as decorating, counselors, arts and crafts, snacks, games, music and more! To join in on the fun, please contact Gale Grennan at either [ubs@assumptionparish.org](mailto:ubs@assumptionparish.org) or 973 984-7774.

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

### YOUTH MINISTRY APPALACHIA FUNDRAISER



Assumption's Youth Ministry group will take their annual trip to West Virginia this summer from July 5 through 11th. For our fundraiser, we will be hosting a cocktail reception that will be held on May 1 at the Madison Hotel from 7 to 11 p.m. All are welcome to come and support our trip. The price is \$100 per person (checks to be made out to Assumption Parish, and mailed to the church at 91 Maple Avenue, Attn: Lisa Cosenza), and this will include open bar and a variety of passed hors d'oeuvres, a carving station, and hot/cold dishes, as well as dessert. We will have a 50/50 and we will raffle-off prizes.

If you cannot attend the dinner, you can still help! We will be giving everyone who attends an Ad Journal, so if you or anyone you know would like to advertise, please send in the form (which may be picked up at the doors of the church). Also, any monetary donation is greatly appreciated and will be used for raffle prizes. Checks should be made out to Assumption Parish, and sent to the church at 91 Maple Avenue, Attn: Lisa Cosenza. If you would like to donate a basket to be raffled, please contact me at [lisacosenza@optonline.net](mailto:lisacosenza@optonline.net).

This is the only fundraiser that the Youth Ministry group will have for our trip, so please help support us however you can!!

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### ATTENTION ASSUMPTION VOLUNTEERS

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m.!! Fr. Martin and Father Dennis are honoring our volunteers by inviting you and a guest to an organ concert presented by John Peragallo. Following the concert a reception will be held in the Community Room where all can meet and greet!!! You should have received an announcement of the event via email from your Ministry leader. If you are a volunteer and have not received one, please call the Parish Office at 973-539-2141.

### AN INVITATION FROM HOPE HOUSE

Hope House, a Catholic Charities Agency in the Diocese of Paterson, provides behavioral health, senior services, and services to persons with HIV/AIDS. We invite any interested person or persons to learn more about our programs and services offered to residents of Morris County by attending one of our free "Hour of Hope" tours. During these hour-long tours, you will see our facility, meet and hear from staff and clients and come away from the tour inspired about the work we do. Tours are offered twice per month. Come alone or bring a friend. To sign-up for a tour, or to learn more about Hope House, please contact Angela Vance at 973-261-5555, extension 143. You'll be so glad you did!!!!

### MISSISSIPPI COLLECTION FOR ST. ANNE'S, OUR SISTER PARISH

Thinking about Spring cleaning? Assumption will once again be collecting items for Sr. Pat Godri and St. Anne's Parish in Carthage, Mississippi. Due to space limitations, we can only accept the following items:

- ◆ Children's clothing – baby to 12 years
- ◆ Men's clothing
- ◆ Gently worn shoes/sneakers
- ◆ Blankets/sheets/towels
- ◆ Pots/pans/cooking utensils
- ◆ Sets of dishes/glasses
- ◆ Beds/baby cribs
- ◆ Toys for children (no guns or violent toys)
- ◆ Craft supplies
- ◆ DVD's for young children (2-4 years)
- ◆ Canned and non-perishable food items

We do not need: women's clothing, coats or jackets, electrical items, bikes, strollers, car-seats, walkers. The drop-off dates will be April 18 and 19 and April 25 and 26 at the Assumption Church garages.

Please call Mary Carr at 973-540-0607 if you have any questions.

### *Financial Blessings*

The collection for March 15 totaled \$14,359. Last year's collection totaled \$22,731. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Assumption's Bereavement Support Meetings starts on Tuesday, April 21 and will run for six consecutive Tuesdays in the Library of our Parish Center beginning at 7:30 until 9:00 p.m.

Topics will include:

- ⌘ The normal grieving process
- ⌘ How to handle feelings of anger and guilt
- ⌘ What you can do to help yourself
- ⌘ How to remember loved ones and go on

All are invited. Registration is preferred, but not required. Please call Michele Cameron at 973-769-9634.

### BAYLEY ELLARD HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

The Bailey Ellard High School Classes of 1973, 74 and 75 are holding a combined class reunion on July 11, at the Parsippany Hilton. If you were in one of those classes, or know someone that was, please share this information with them. For details, please log onto: [www.bayleyellardreunion.myevent.com](http://www.bayleyellardreunion.myevent.com). Go to the Classmates page and then add your information.

### HOLISTIC HEALTH NEWS VASCULAR SCREENING Saturday, March 28 or May 16 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fee: \$50

Attend our comprehensive vascular ultrasound screening, performed in our new Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute.

The screening will include:

- Carotid artery screening for carotid artery stenosis
- Aortic ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic and aneurysm
- Ankle brachial index screening for peripheral artery disease

Immediate results will be given. A Vascular Physician will be available to counsel if necessary.

There will be discounted parking at the rate of \$2.00 available at the JCP&L lot.

### *Mass Attendance for March 14 and 15*

5:30 p.m.	349
7:00 a.m.	97
8:30 a.m.	199
10:00 a.m.	445
12:15 p.m.	395
5:30 p.m.	268
TOTAL	1,753

March 22, 2009



## Poems from the Pew, From a Child's View



*Those who do good things love to come into the light.  
In the light, everyone can see they do good things  
because they believe in God.*

*John 3: 21*



### The Light

Those who bask in the darkness have something to hide,  
but those in the light hold true goodness inside.  
You live in the light when you follow my way,  
and do all you can to send darkness away.

In the light there is warmth for those who are cold.  
In the light there is sunshine when day is old.  
The light means a smile for those who feel sad.  
The light brings forgiveness to those who've been bad.

The light holds a sunrise, a smile, a touch,  
for your special family who you love so much.  
The light shines so brightly when you are a friend.  
The light will show others God's love in the end.

So take up my light and hold it up high,  
to let others see you have nothing to hide.  
If you keep this light with you to show you the way,  
you will grow in my love with each passing day



Liz Wilkey  
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