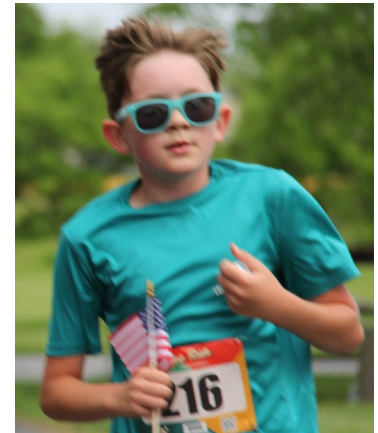


**Saint Maria Goretti Parish
500 Northgate Drive
Dyer, Indiana 46311
219.865.8956**



Celebrating Our Parish



July 6, 2024 - July 7, 2024

This Week In Our Parish

Monday, July 8, 2024

10:00 am - Mass at Cedarhurst
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Renewal Journey
 Coordinating Team Meeting
 1:00 - 3:00 pm - Crafty Corner
 6:30 pm - New Family Parent Workshop

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

9:30 am - 50/50 Club Drawing
 1:30 pm - Summer Movies with Fr. Niblick
 3:00 - 4:00 pm - Mental Health Initiative Meeting
 3:45 - 4:45 pm and 5:15 - 6:15 pm - French Class

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

10:00 - 11:00 am - Chair Yoga
 12:00 pm - Parish Offices Closed
 6:30 - 9:00 pm - Renewal Journey Visioning
 Team Formation

Thursday, July 11, 2024

No Events Scheduled

Friday, July 12, 2024

12:00 pm - Parish Offices Closed

Saturday, July 13, 2024

10:00 am - New Family Parent Workshop
 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Reconciliation

Sunday, July 14, 2024

No Events Scheduled

*The Altar Flowers This Weekend
 Are In Memory Of
 Ruth Meagher By Her Daughters*

Ministry Schedule

July 13 - 14, 2024

Lectors

4:00 pm Yvonne Hoff
8:30 am Marjorie Meagher
10:30 am Peter Norbot

Eucharist Ministers

4:00 pm Lynne Blais, Cindy Dupczak,
 Deacon Wilk, Father Leo Gajardo
8:30 am Emily Backe, Joann Halterman,
 Deacon Ratliff, Father Leo Gajardo
10:30 am Melissa Lantz, Becky McKeever,
 Deacon Ratliff, Father Leo Gajardo

Altar Servers

4:00 pm Chris Kinard
8:30 am Chris Kinard
10:30 am Oscar Dalla Costa

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, July 6, 2024

4:00 pm The People of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Sunday, July 7, 2024

8:30 am Sandra Shreve by Vince and Pam Didanato
10:30 am Michael Kohut by the Family

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

8:30 am The People of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

8:30 am Lottie Schuster by the Family

Thursday, July 11, 2024

8:30 am The People of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Friday, July 12, 2024

8:30 am Ann Ingratta by Fran and Ron Amazzalorso

Saturday, July 13, 2024

4:00 pm Frances Wozniakowski by the Family

Sunday, July 14, 2024

8:30 am Mr. and Mrs. Drozd by Joan Calligan
10:30 am The People of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Our Weekly Collection

*June 29 - 30, 2024
 Online Giving - June 25 — July 1, 2024*

Regular Collection	435 envelopes	\$	11,830.90
Community Outreach	4 envelopes	\$	460.00
HVAC Project	12 envelopes	\$	1,550.00
Music	14 envelopes	\$	147.00
50/50	339 envelopes	\$	1,695.00
Online Giving	21 envelopes	\$	833.75

Parish Office Information

Phone: 219.865.8956 - Email: info@smgdyer.org

	Extension	Email
Father Gajardo	313	FatherLeo@smgdyer.org
Father Niblick	304	FatherNiblick@smgdyer.org
Deacon Muvich	315	DeaconPhil@smgdyer.org
Deacon Ratliff	310	DeaconDan@smgdyer.org
Music Ministry	302	KarinJ@smgdyer.org

Christian Formation Program 219.322.6124

Community Outreach 219.865.5481

Church Website: www.smgdyer.org

Church Address: 500 Northgate Drive, Dyer, IN 46311

Office Hours:

Monday - Tuesday - Thursday:
 9 AM – 12 PM and 1 PM – 4 PM

Wednesday and Friday: 9 AM – 12 PM

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Evening Hours by Appointment

Dear Friends,

As we come together this Sunday for our annual parish picnic, I can't help but remember the one from two years ago. At that time, we celebrated the twenty years of Father Niblick's ministry at St. Maria Goretti, as well as my arrival at our parish. At that time, I was overwhelmed and humbled by the gracious and warm welcome you extended to me. Since then, I have been continually overwhelmed and humbled by the ongoing love and support you have offered me over the past two years. I can honestly say that my two years with you at St. Maria Goretti have been among the most blessed and wonderful of my life!

I also couldn't help but think of our picnic two years ago and the welcome you extended to me when I read and reflected on the Gospel passage that we hear proclaimed at Mass this Sunday. How different the "welcome" Jesus received in Nazareth—"his native place"—from the one I received from you! Jesus, who had grown up in Nazareth and was well-known to the townspeople, encountered and experienced suspicion and hostility when he returned there, after a very fruitful preaching and healing journey. This cold and harsh reception led Jesus to explain, perhaps with great sadness and frustration, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."

But even if we are surprised, if not shocked, by the fact that people who had known Jesus for so long would resent or reject him, we must take an honest look at the ways in which we might struggle to receive and respond to him and to the prophetic words that he speaks to us. That may sound like a strange thing to consider, since many of us see ourselves as committed disciples of Jesus. We come to Mass on Sunday and try to live our lives in accord with the example and teachings of Jesus. How is it possible that we would resent or reject Jesus?

In baptism, we have become Jesus' own kin—his sisters and brothers—and we share a common "native place" and "house" with him because we are all members of the household of God. This is an incredible blessing that Jesus has given to us. But, like the townspeople in Nazareth, our long-term relationship with Jesus can lead us to think that we have him figured out, or to take him for granted.

Our familiarity with Jesus can cause us to ignore or reject the more challenging aspects of his life and teaching.

That is why it is so vital for us to welcome Jesus not only as our shepherd, who heals and unites us, but also as our prophet, who speaks comforting and challenging words of wisdom and life to us. As sisters and brothers of the Lord, we must always be receptive of and responsive to the words that Jesus speaks to us, especially when he gathers us on Sunday to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with him. In the proclamation of the readings from Scripture, especially the Gospel, the Risen Jesus teaches us what it means to live as his disciples and kin.

Receiving Jesus' words of wisdom and life is not easy. There are many internal distractions (legitimate worries, personal preferences) and external distractions (social media, our entertainment and consumeristic culture) that make it difficult for us to be both astonished and responsive to the transformative and dynamic Word of the Lord. That is why we need to prepare to welcome Jesus' prophetic words prior to coming together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, so that we can attune our ears, minds, hearts, and imaginations to them.

This Sunday also marks the second anniversary of the inclusion of a *lectio divina* prayer guide in our parish bulletin (see pages 4 and 5). I have heard from some of you that you find it a helpful way of preparing to receive the Gospel on Sunday. We use this prayer guide at the start of our parish Finance Council meetings, Renewal Journey Coordinating Team meetings, and staff meetings. I have been so impressed at the way our work together has been enriched by God's word.

I want to invite those of you who have not tried this prayer practice to give it a try during the week. It only takes 10-15 minutes, and it can be done alone or with others. I am confident that praying with the Gospel can deepen our appreciation and love for the Lord and his Word.

Peace,

Father Leo

Lectio Divina for the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time July 14, 2024

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Reading (Lectio)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick— no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Meditation (Meditatio)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- Did this scripture passage remind you of a personal experience, story, or another scripture passage?
- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Prayer (Oratio)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (Contemplatio)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

No food, no sack, no money in their belts. How often do I rely too much on my possessions instead of on God’s providence? How can I grow in detachment from my worldly goods?

Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. What makes me feel welcome in my church? How can I extend the same welcome to others?

So they went off and preached repentance. For what do I need to repent? How can I foster greater reconciliation in my family and community?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD — for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear
him, glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

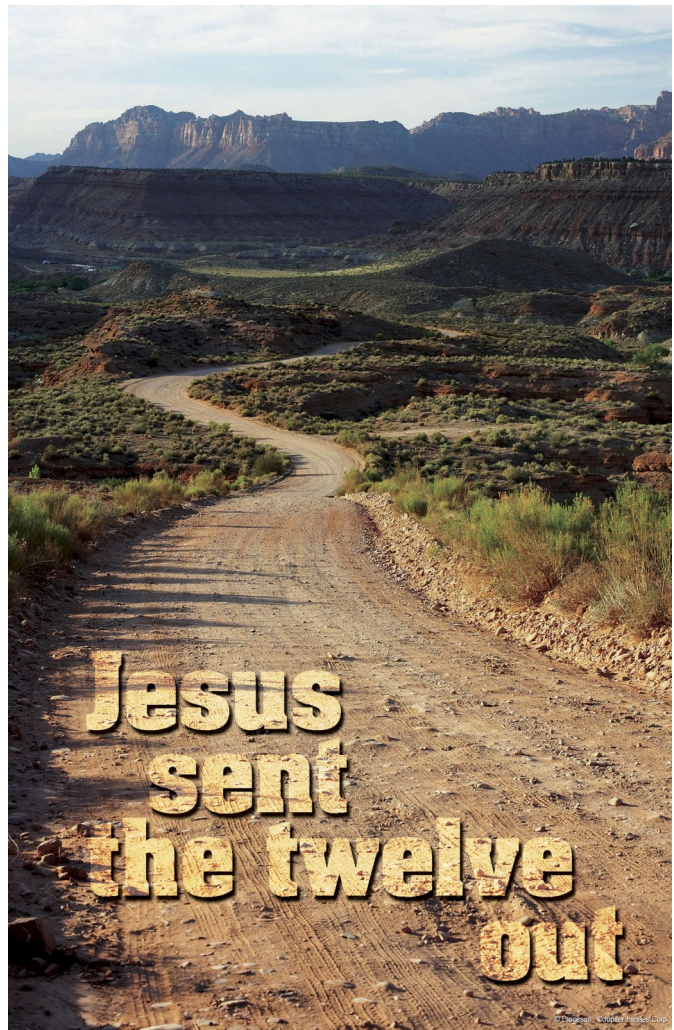
The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

(From Psalm 85)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Work with your pastor and other parishioners to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and valued in your parish.



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Bus Trip

**Mayslake Peabody Estate
Cooper's Hawk & Lynfred Winery
Bus Trip
\$121.00 per person
Wednesday, August 21, 2024**



Visit a beautiful mansion, enjoy a great lunch & sample great wine!

We begin in Oak Brook, IL at the Mayslake Peabody Estate & tour the Tudor Revival style Mayslake Hall, its retreat wing, and see the Portiuncula Chapel, a replica of the Chapel of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy. On the National Register of Historic Places the mansion was constructed from 1919-1921 for wealthy coal baron Francis Stuyvesant Peabody. At the time he was owner of one of the largest coal companies in the USA.

Enjoy an upscale luncheon at Cooper's Hawk Restaurant in Downers Grove!
The restaurant is known for its great food and exceptional wines!

**Pre-Select choice of Atlantic Salmon or
Parmesan Crusted Chicken**

Top off the day at Lynfred Winery in Roselle. Miles from the vineyards & orchards. Lynfred brings in grapes & fruits to create its award-winning wines. Fred & Lynn Koehler lovingly turned their hobby into Illinois' first winery since Prohibition in 1979. Here you'll sample different fruits of the vine and branch.

Stained glass windows and oak wood floors adorn the tasting room of this century old house that is Lynfred Winery!

Bus leaves at 9:00 am from the SMG parking lot.

Bus arrives back at SMG by 4:30 pm.

Please call 865.5482 to reserve your seat.
Payment will secure your reservation.
Seating is limited.



**Saint Maria Goretti
Food Pantry
5K Run/Walk**

Didn't think it would happen after last year but June 8, 2024, is now the BEST ever!

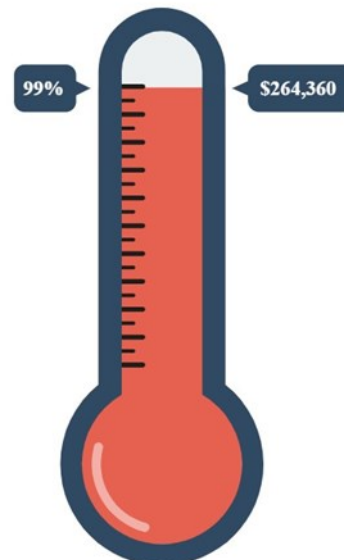
We sincerely thank all our participants, which exceeded 240 this year, and the many sponsors and volunteers who helped to make this year's event a great success!

Hopefully you all had fun, got in some great exercise and then enjoyed a wonderful breakfast!

We are pleased to report that the SMG Food Pantry received approximately \$18,000 of continued support, which we couldn't have done without all of you.

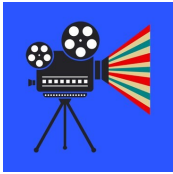
Please keep moving and hopefully you'll be back to join us next year!

GOAL: \$266,000



**Heating
And
Air Conditioning
Project
Donations
As of
June 30, 2024.**

**Thank You
for your
Support !!!**



Summer Movies

JULY 9, 2024 at 1:30 pm

Kidnapped:

The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara

A 2023 film, is based on the true story of a young Jewish boy living in Bologna, Italy, who had been secretly baptized Catholic by a zealous nanny in the late 19th century.

The film was directed by the 84-year-old Italian, Marco Bellocchio. It was released in Italy before last October 7, and I saw it as a part of the New York Film Festival on October 8, at Lincoln Center in Manhattan.

The audience was largely Jewish, and the tension was palpable as was the audience reaction.

Recent events have led to questions about the origin of antisemitism. You will come to see that it came from the Roman Catholic Church.



Due to the Independence Day Holiday Publishing Schedule the Number Drawn On Tuesday, July 2, 2024 Will Be Reported

In the July 14, 2024 Bulletin and on the Parish Website. The Next 50/50 Club Drawing is Scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Parish Book Club

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Place: Casa Maria Lounge

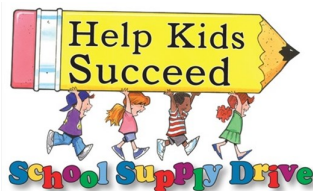
Book Title: Hang The Moon

Author: Jeanette Walls

Please Contact Stephanie White at 219.924.2417 with any questions.

Vacation Bible Week

Children ages four through fifth grade are invited to register for St. Maria Goretti and St. Joseph's Vacation Bible Week. Registration will take place after all the Masses on the weekends of June 29 and June 30 and the weekend of July 6 and July 7th. Registration forms will be available in the back of church, in the parish office, and the CFP office. "Run with Spirit" (an Olympic theme) will be held July 15th through July 19th at 9:00 am to Noon in Casa Maria Hall. The fee is \$25.00 for one child with a \$10.00 fee for each additional child. Checks can be made out to St. Maria Goretti. The fee includes a tee shirt and lunch on Friday. Children will visit five stations each day-Bible Station, Music Station, Game Station, Snack Station, and Art Station. Adult and teen volunteers are still needed to help in supervising the children. Contact Kathy at 219.322.1674 ext.308.



Do you have fond memories of starting school with brand new school supplies? St. Maria Goretti Community Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a School Supply Drive. Please join us in this effort by donating new school supplies. If you would prefer a monetary donation, place an envelope marked "School Supplies" in the collection basket. All donated supplies will be distributed on August 6th 11am – 2pm.

Please direct any questions to 219.865.5481.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Backpacks
 Kleenex (rectangle box)
 Disinfecting wipes
 Pens (blue, black and red)
 Scissors - small
 Erasers – Pink Pearl
 Glue – Sticks or bottles
 Washable Markers
 Dry erase markers
 USB Flash Drives
 Colored pencils
 Pencil pouch
 Ziploc bags – all sizes</p> | <p>Composition Books
 Spiral Notebooks (wide rule)
 1" 3-ring binder
 Index cards
 Pocket Folders
 Yellow highlighters
 Sticky notes – 3"x3"
 #2 Pencils
 Headphones/earbuds
 Loose leaf paper (wide rule)
 Small art box</p> |
|---|--|

VESTIBULE, BEFORE OR AFTER MASS. DURING THE WEEKENDS OF

July 13/14 - -July 20/21 - July 27/28

**PARISH MISSION AND CONCERT
WITH**

Sarah Hart

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

TIME: 2-5 PM

LOCATION: SAINT MARIA GORETTI CHURCH



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to offer a special parish mission and concert featuring the acclaimed liturgical musician Sarah Hart! Please join us for an afternoon of inspiration, faith, and beautiful music. This is an event you won't want to miss!

Sarah Hart is a gifted singer-songwriter and storyteller who has touched countless hearts with her music and ministry. Her work spans over two decades, with numerous albums, award-winning songs, and a deep commitment to sharing the love of Christ through her talents.

Sarah's music is not only uplifting and spiritually enriching but also deeply rooted in the Catholic faith, making her the perfect artist to lead us in this unique and moving experience. (continued →)

♪ Sarah's songs are a beautiful blend of contemporary and traditional styles that resonate with listeners of all ages. Her music will lift your spirits and deepen your connection to God.

♪ This parish mission is more than just a concert. Sarah will share her personal faith journey, offering insights and reflections that will inspire and encourage you in your own spiritual walk.

♪ This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a parish family. Let's unite in prayer, song, and celebration.

♪ Hosting an artist of Sarah Hart's caliber is a rare and special occasion. Don't miss out on the chance to experience her live performance and powerful message right here in our parish.

The Parish Mission will begin with a welcoming prayer, followed by Sarah's concert and a time for reflection and fellowship. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to purchase Sarah's music and merchandise. Let's be inspired by the incredible ministry of Sarah Hart. We look forward to seeing you there!

This event will fill up fast, so to guarantee your seat, please register by July 7, 2024. You can return this form to the parish office, call the parish office at 219.865.8956, drop it into the collection baskets or use the QR code below:



First and Last Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

How many will be attending? _____

Praying When It Seems Useless – Ron Rolheiser

Prayer is most needed just when it seems most useless. Michael J. Buckley, one of the major spiritual mentors in my life, wrote those words. What does he mean by them?

In the face of so many problems we can get the feeling that praying about them is useless. For example, in the face of the discouragement and helplessness we feel before some of the mega problems in our world, it is easy to feel that praying about them is useless. What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the wars raging in different parts of the world? What's the value of my prayer in the face of injustice, famine, racism, and sexism? What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the divisions and hatred now dividing our communities? It is easy to feel that praying about these situations is useless.

The same holds true about how we often feel about the value of prayer when serious illnesses beset us. Will prayer bring about a cure for someone with terminal cancer? Do we really expect a miraculous cure? Mostly, we don't, but we continue to pray despite the feeling that our prayer won't in fact change the situation. Why?

Why pray when it seems useless to do so? Theologians and spiritual writers have given us various perspectives on this which are helpful, though not adequate. Prayer, they say, is not meant to change the mind of God, but to change the mind of the person who is praying. We don't pray to put God on our side; we pray to put ourselves on God's side. As well, we have been taught that the reason it might seem that God doesn't answer our prayers is that God, like a loving parent, knows what is good for us and answers our prayers by giving us what we really need rather than what we naively want. C.S. Lewis once said that we will spend a lot of time in eternity thanking God for those prayers that God didn't answer.

All of this is true and important. God's ways are not our ways. Faith asks us to give God the space and time to be God, without having to conform to our very limited expectations and habitual impatience. We can indeed be grateful that God doesn't answer many of our prayers according to our expectations.

But still, still ... when Jesus invited us to pray, he didn't do so with a caveat: *but you need to ask for the right things if you expect me to answer your prayer.* No, he simply said: *Ask and you will receive.* He also said that *some demons are only cast out by prayer and fasting.*

So, how might the demons of violence, division, hatred, war, hunger, global warming, famine, racism, sexism, cancer, heart disease, and the like be cast out by prayer? How is prayer useful in any practical way in the face of these issues?

In brief, prayer doesn't just change the person who is praying, *it also changes the situation.* When you pray you are in fact part of the situation about which you are praying. *Sincere prayer helps you become the change you are praying to bring about.* For example, praying for peace helps you to calm your own heart and bring a more peaceful heart into the world.

While this is true, there is also a deeper reality at play. More deeply, when we pray there is something happening that goes beyond how we normally imagine the simple interplay between cause and effect. By changing ourselves we are changing the situation; yes, but in a deeper way than we normally imagine.

As Christians, we believe that we are part of a body, the Body of Christ, and that our union there with each other is more than some idealized corporate community. Rather, we are part of a living organism in which every part affects every other part, just as in a physical body. Because of this, for us, there is no such a thing as a private act – good or bad. I hesitate to suggest that this is analogous to the immune system inside the human body because this is more than an analogy. It's real, organic. Just as in a human body there is an immune system which protects the health of the overall body by killing off cells and viruses that are endangering its health, so too inside the Body of Christ. At all times, we are either healthy cells bringing strength to the immune system inside the Body of Christ or we are a virus or cancerous cell threatening its health. Praying about an issue makes a difference because it helps strengthen the immune system inside the Body of Christ - precisely as it is dealing with the issue about which we are praying.

While on the surface prayer can sometimes feel useless, it is doing something vital underneath – something most needed precisely when we feel that our prayer is useless.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser

Sponsor of the Week

ELMWOOD

Funeral Chapel & Crematory

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