



# St. JOSEPH PARISH

## NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

**Pastor, St. Joseph & Pastor, Nativity:**  
**Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor**

**Business Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**Sharon Angell**

**Business Manager, Nativity**  
**Music Director, Nativity:**  
**Ed Klimczak**

**Office Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**Kathy Flynn**

**Worship and Liturgy Coordinator,**  
**St. Joseph:**  
**Christina Dupre**

**Assistant Music Director, and Funeral**  
**and Wedding Coordinator, St. Joseph:**  
**Joy Rivera**

**Communications Coordinator:**  
**Kim Frankart**

**Principal, St. Joseph School:**  
**Amy Makruski**

**Principal Parish School of Religion:**  
**Angela Eads**

**Operations Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**Bob Kenska**

**Director of Youth Activities**  
**Rachel MacDonald**

**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848

NATIVITY BVM PARISH OFFICE: 440-986-7011

ST. JOSEPH PARISH WEBSITE: [stjosephamherst.com](http://stjosephamherst.com)

ST. JOSEPH PARISH ADDRESS: 200 St. Joseph Dr., Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH: 333 S Lake St., South Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 767, Amherst, OH 44001

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL OFFICE: 440-988-4244

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.sjsamherst.org](http://www.sjsamherst.org)

Mass:

Monday, Friday 9:00 A.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Tuesday 8:00 A.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Thursday 7:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday Vigil 4:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday 5:30 P.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Sunday 8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

**The 11:00 A.M. Mass will be livestreamed.**

**The link can be found on our website: [www.stjosephamherst.com](http://www.stjosephamherst.com)**

Confession at St. Joseph Parish:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 A.M. - Noon

**Liturgy Schedule**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>** Holy Day of Obligation  
 9:00 A.M. Don Volante (The Sliman Family)  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 12:00 P.M. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parishes  
 Mass at Nativity Parish  
 7:00 P.M. Barbara Ann Needham  
 (Daughter, Audrey Korbel)  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>** Mass at Nativity Parish  
 8:00 A.M. Dan & Sybil Knoble (Jerry & Anne Knoble)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** No Mass

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 7:00 P.M. Rudy and Myrtle Katkic (Bre and Pansy)  
 Confession after Mass until 8:30 P.M.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 9:00 A.M. Steve Kessler (Family)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish  
 4:00 P.M. Aunna Cowger (Burt and Barb Vilagi)  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 5:30 P.M. Helen Halter (Kathy Urig)  
 Mass at Nativity Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>** Masses at St. Joseph Parish  
 8:30 A.M. Dan Pleban (Wife)  
 11:00 A.M. Margaret Lavish (Daughters, Lesley and Chris)  
 5:00 P.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

**Daily Readings**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>** Advent Weekday  
 Our Lady of Loreto  
 Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** Advent Weekday  
 Saint Damasus I, Pope  
 Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>** Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr  
 Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>** Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent  
 Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>** Third Sunday of Advent  
 Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

**Activity Schedule**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
 Eucharistic Adoration 11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M. (NBVM)

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**  
 Faithfully Fit Yoga - Tue. & Thur. 9:30 A.M. (NBVM)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group (SJ Social Hall)  
 Join us for the 5:00 P.M. Mass prior to our session - meet near the choir.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 P.M. Wonderful Women (SJ Social Hall)  
 7:00 P.M. Parent Club (School MPR)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:30 P.M. PSR for Kindergarten – Grade 8 (SJ School)  
 6:30 P.M. Sacred Sisters Meeting (OSE Community Ctr)  
 7:00 P.M. Pre-Baptism Class (SJ School)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 P.M. St. Joseph Parish School Christmas Concert  
 (St. Joseph Church)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 P.M. Information Session for the Angel Scholarship Fund, following Mass (SJ Social Hall)  
 6:30 P.M. Information Session for the Angel Scholarship Fund, following Mass (Nativity Parish Hall)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group Christmas Party (SJ Social Hall) Join us for the 5:00 P.M. Mass prior to the party - meet near the choir.

**After all Masses** there will be an Information Session for Angel Scholarship Fund. (Following the 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Masses, meet in SJ Social Hall. Following the 5:00 P.M. Mass, meet in SJ Gathering Area)

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

***St. Joseph Parish***

<b>Sunday, November 24</b>	\$ 10,386.92
Eoffering	\$ 2,490.57
<b>Total Sunday Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 12,877.49</b>
Other Collections	
Children’s Envelopes	\$ 3.00
Maintenance	\$ 125.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 10.00
Advent Flowers and Decoration	\$ 185.00
Christmas	\$ 220.00
Little Blue Books for Advent	\$ 68.00

***Nativity Parish***

<b>Saturday, November 23</b>	<b>\$ 1,825.00</b>
Christmas Flowers and Decorations	\$ 10.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 60.00

## Second Sunday of Advent

### ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND Information Session

#### Join Us for Coffee and Donuts at the Informational Session on the Angel Scholarship Fund!

Are you looking for a way to support Catholic education at no cost to you? Join us for refreshments and learn more about the Angel Scholarship Fund, a unique opportunity to help students in need.

**Date:** December 14/15

**Time:** After all Masses at both Parishes

**Location:** St. Joseph Social Hall and Nativity Parish Hall

(Note: following the 5pm Mass on Dec. 15 we will meet in the gathering area)

Our parish has set a goal to raise \$250,000 for this important initiative! Come find out how the program works, how you can participate, and the impact it has on our community. Everyone is welcome—whether you're considering a donation or just want more information. Together, let's reach our goal and make a lasting impact! For more information, contact Steve Frankart at 330-814-8844.



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Turning taxes into tuition*



### St. Joseph Giving Tree

Our Giving Trees are up and are ready to be made bare! Take a tag from the tree and go shopping! All gifts need to be returned no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. Gift cards need to be returned via the collection basket as indicated on the ornament. Bins will be available at each tree for other gifts. Please place your gift and its ornament inside a bag and then place it in the proper bin marked according to the organization you are helping. **Please do not attach the ornament by any means (tying, stapling, taping, etc.) to the bag or the gift.** The bag will keep both safe in the bin. Also, do not tie the handles of the bag together. Our Parish Community is known for its compassionate generosity which warms our hearts when we are packing and delivering the gifts we collect. Our time is valuable and deliveries need to be made early enough for the gifts to be distributed to the organizations before Christmas. Attaching the tags or tying the handles means we must undo all the attachments before packing which takes a considerable amount of time.

If you prefer to shop online, Birthright and Blessing House each have wish lists on Amazon. Simply log into your Amazon account and under the "Accounts and Lists" tab you will see "Find a List or Registry," then you can use the search feature to find Blessing House or Birthright. Check out their websites and you may also find a direct link to their Amazon Wish List.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This year, December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent, and so the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

is transferred to Monday, December 9.

This is to be observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

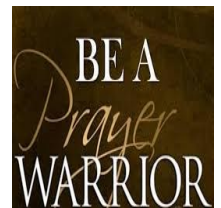
#### Mass times are as follows:

9:00 A.M.	St. Joseph Parish
12:00 P.M.	Nativity Parish
7:00 P.M.	St. Joseph Parish

### Sacred Sisters Meeting Change

The Sacred Sisters prayer group will **not** be meeting on the following dates:

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



Our first meeting in the 2025 year will be Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Old Stone Evangelical Church Community Center. All ladies of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are welcome.

# *St. Joseph Parish Christmas Concert*

Join us as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with uplifting music and a special celebrity guest!

A night of holiday cheer and inspiration awaits.  
Bring your family and friends!

Friday, December 27 | 7:30 P.M.  
200 St. Joseph Dr., Amherst



## **Seasonal Programming on AM 1260 THE ROCK**

With the Advent season upon us, AM 1260 The Rock will broadcast special programming throughout the season, to celebrate this joyous time; things like Advent Reflections each Sunday at 4:00pm and 9:00pm and The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary at 9:30pm. For a complete listing of the Advent and Christmas Program schedule, please visit [am1260therock.com](http://am1260therock.com).

Second Sunday of Advent

# Nativity News

## Nativity Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is up for the Christmas Season. Inside each envelope you will find the name and age of a child along with the clothing sizes and toy wish list.

Please bring your gifts back in Christmas gift bags and be sure to **ATTACH THE ENVELOPE TO YOUR GIFT** so that it can be matched to the correct family and child.

We are asking that the gifts be returned **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>** so that they can be delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

As always, your generosity will go a long way to giving these kids a blessed Christmas. Any questions, contact Diane Kirsch at [440-935-2301](tel:440-935-2301).

## Thank-You From Dinners on the Go



Dinners on the Go would like to thank all who have supported our efforts at Nativity Parish. We are truly blessed by your contribution to our parish. From our youngest helper and the rest of us, may God bless you and those you love throughout the holiday and coming New Year!

## Thank-You from Maybell's Food Cupboard

We would like to thank all the parishioners from Nativity and St. Joseph who donated food for our pantry. With your support and donations from the Altar and Rosary Society, we were able to help over 600 families from the Firelands area this year.

God Bless You,  
Maybell's Food Cupboard

## Retirement Fund for Religious

**Support those who have given a lifetime.**

Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service, praying, teaching, and caring for those in need. This is done usually with little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously. Donation envelopes can be found on the counter in the gathering area.



# Wonderful Women

**Join us Tuesday, December 10 at 7 pm  
in St. Joe's Social Hall!**

**Special Guest Presenter:  
Captain Tanish Bolton  
from Salvation Army Lorain**



**We'll be collecting new toys, books & clothing items for children  
ages 1-12 if you'd like to contribute. Items will be handed out  
by Salvation Army this Christmas to local children in need!**

## Heart of a Shepherd Campaign Update



**HEART OF A SHEPHERD**  
*Building for Today. Providing for Tomorrow.*

As pledges are being fulfilled for the Heart of the Shepherd Campaign held at St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes, both parishes have begun receiving their portions of the pledges and below you will see our latest distributions.

Since both parishes exceeded their set goal pledge amount, 80% of payments received have been arriving at our parishes quarterly.

### Most Recent Quarterly Funds Received

**St. Joseph: \$7,938.00**

**Nativity: \$5,176.00**

Thank you to all who contributed to this effort in order to support current seminarians, the newly ordained priests and retired clergy of our diocese.

## Paid Summer Internship for College Students! Build your resume with The FEST!

The FEST is looking for motivated college interns for a paid internship this summer as we celebrate 25 years and plan and prepare for FEST 2025! If you are an event, marketing, communications, logistics, or theology major and interested in building your resume while getting hands-on, real-life experience creating an event for 40,000 people, apply today. Becca was a first-year intern this past summer and shared, "This job taught me so many new communication skills, brought me closer to God, and it brought me to meet so many amazing people!" Send your resume to Caitlin ([Caitlin@theFEST.us](mailto:Caitlin@theFEST.us)) by January 10<sup>th</sup> to apply!

## Second Sunday of Advent

### November Calendar Raffle Winners

Below are listed the final Calendar Raffle winners.  
Thank you for your participation and congratulations.

11/20/24 Jim Yanosko \$100, sold by the Jaskiewicz family  
11/21/24 Connie Linkous \$100, sold by the Linkous family  
11/22/24 Eric Case \$100, sold by the Brucker family  
11/23/24 Jamie Neubauer \$377, sold by the Stigall family  
11/24/24 Matt Woods \$200, sold by the Buddie family  
11/30/24 Mike Reed \$100, sold by the Herron family

11/25/24 Johnny Gest \$150, sold by the Rodachy family  
11/26/24 Mark Kuhnle \$100, sold by the Kuhnle family  
11/27/24 Stephanie Sierra \$100, sold by the Jaskiewicz family  
11/28/24 Josephine Rowe \$500, sold by the Rowe family  
11/29/24 Betty Lou Frankart \$200, sold by the Hunker family



Holy Ground Youth Group Christmas Party will be on December 15. Mark your calendars and join us for Christmas Cheer!

ALL ARE WELCOME! 7TH - 12TH GRADERS

### HOLY GROUND YOUTH NIGHTS!

- Fellowship & faith formation in the social hall
- Snacks provided
- Closing Prayer 7:30 PM



### Quarter Two Dates!

December 8th  
(Bring money to go shopping for the Giving Tree!)

December 15th  
(Note this is our Christmas Party and will go until 8:15!)

January 5th  
January 19th

We  love  
having you as part of our flock



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with us via  
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Text SJPA to 84576 or go to  
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rachel.macdonald@sjs-amherst.org

## Pre-Baptism Class

St. Joseph Parish will be holding a Pre-Baptism class for any parent wishing to have their child baptized.

The class will take place on **Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00pm in St. Joseph School.**

You must register with the parish office before attending the class.

Please call 440-988-2848 to register for the class and to schedule your child's Baptism.

## CHOOSING A BAPTISMAL SPONSOR:

**Baptism:** When choosing a Godparent the following criteria must be met. The sponsor must be Catholic and an active registered member of a Catholic Church, be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and if married, the marriage must be valid in accordance with the Catholic Church. Also, according to the Code of Canon Law, "Only one male or one female sponsor, or one of each sex is to be employed (at Baptism)." (Canon 873)

Additionally, a practicing member of a non-Catholic Christian faith may be included in the Baptism as a Christian Witness, but only together with a Catholic sponsor. A "Christian Witness" is a baptized non-Catholic person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community and together with a Catholic sponsor serves as a witness to Baptism.

**Confirmation:** When choosing a sponsor the following criteria must be met. The sponsor must be Catholic, be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and if married, the marriage must be valid in accordance with the Catholic Church.

Additionally, the sponsor must be either; 1) a registered active member of either St. Joseph or Nativity Parish OR 2) if registered at another Catholic Church, a sponsor letter must be obtained from that Parish.

## Year-End Giving

In the month of December many parishioners very generously make donations before the end of the calendar year. The assumption is that contributions DATED in December are deductible in the current calendar year. However, the **deductibility of the contribution is dependent on the date in which the contribution is POSTMARKED or when someone is available to receive it during regular office business hours.** Please call the parish office if you have any questions about your contribution. Year-End Statements will be available in mid-January, after we have had time to record all the contributions received in December.

In addition, if you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Questions? Contact Moira Wopershall of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525, ext. 8070 or visit [www.catholiccommunity.org/ira](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/ira).

## Updating Parish Records

If you have recently moved, changed your phone number or email address, or updated your household status, please reach out to us so we can update our parish records. Additionally, if you are an adult whose parents were parish members and you're listed on their family file, but have never officially registered with us, please contact us at 440-988-4244, ext. 204. Most importantly, if you have been attending our church or are enrolled in our parish school but have not yet registered with the parish, please do so at your earliest convenience. Registering takes just about 15 minutes.



# Children's Worship Page



Just like John the Baptist told people that Jesus was coming, we can also share the good news about Jesus as we get ready for Christmas Day to celebrate His birth.

Today, a second purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath. The second candle represents peace and getting ready for Jesus. It reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the peace that Jesus' birth brings to the world.

A Y L M H E E B R H T S T S D  
 K O C F K E R A N T N H B E M  
 W U P S U H Y A X H G H L H O  
 U X T R E S E D P I O L J R U  
 S P Y Q M A M C A E I J V K N  
 Z A P G E E C R N F R Q O E T  
 S Z L X H R T H Y H F P I G A  
 J M F V Y S Z D E L H A C A I  
 A I O I A M H X L Q H L E T N  
 I I N O U T E G L P A T H S S  
 F G G D T L I E A R O U G H H  
 Z A E R G H A O V O G D U J P  
 S M X O O J U Q N B R F A F C  
 P B K L D F U R N U Y N V T V  
 D G N I M I A L C O R P T G Q

Can you find these words that are in today's Gospel reading?



Crying  
 Proclaiming  
 Desert  
 Salvation  
 Prepare  
 Rough  
 Mountains  
 Valley

Lord  
 Voice  
 Paths  
 God  
 Straight  
 Smooth  
 John  
 Low

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

In the charity of your prayers, we commend to God:



James Welte, Sr.  
Jacqueline Handley  
Larry Law  
Melvin Gregg, brother of Joan Pleban  
Beverly Stecz, mother of Sue Kuhn

We pray for their families and the families of all our deceased relatives and friends that they may enjoy eternal peace with our Risen Christ.

*Let us also remember to pray for those confined to hospitals and nursing homes, the homebound, and their caregivers, our sons and daughters in the military, those dealing with mental illness and addictions, the homeless and those who have no one to pray for them.*

FYI: Bulletin article submission deadline is NOON on the Monday prior to publication. Also note that as we approach any and all holidays, this deadline is moved up as deemed necessary by our bulletin publisher.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**Submission deadlines for upcoming holidays:**  
**December 29 bulletin - Wed., Dec. 18 by Noon**  
**January 5 bulletin- Mon., Dec. 23 by Noon**

We live in a world where there will continually be fraudulent attempts to trick people into giving out personal information, purchase gift cards, or to respond to a request for an “urgent matter.” These scams can come as a text, email or even a phone call. They look and sound very legitimate. Please know that no one from the parish office will ask you to make a purchase, or respond to an “urgent need.” As a best practice, never open any links or give out private information without first checking to see that the source is legitimate.

**Choral Spectrum Christmas Concert**

Choral Spectrum invites you to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our winter concert: "A Merry Choral Spectrum Christmas." This concert will feature heartwarming and festive Christmas music that is sure to put you in the Holiday spirit! Performances are: Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm at St. Peter Parish in Lorain; Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin; and Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm at St. Mary Parish in Sandusky. The concerts are free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. Choral Spectrum is an auditioned choir under the direction of Anthony Trifiletti.

Visit us at [choralspectrum.org](http://choralspectrum.org) for more information!

**St. Peter Lorain Bus Trip**

Once again, St. Peter Parish in Lorain is sponsoring a bus trip. This year, they will travel to Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA for 7 days and 6 nights, June 8-14, 2025. Cost is \$1,129.00 per person for double occupancy. More information can be found in the flyer located on the gathering area counter at St. Joseph Church. Or you can call Sr. Cordell Kopec for more details at 440-282-2378.

**St. Joseph Mass Livestream**

To view our 11:00am Mass for the homebound, visit our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmedia8044/streams>

Or you can use the button on our website:

<https://stjosephamherst.com/>

**SPONSOR  
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WEEK**



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**THANK YOU**

This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs which would otherwise burden the parish. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank-you for their kind generosity.

**ON AIR**



**LIVESTREAM**



# Donna Templeton

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**Amherst Holy Family Council 4891**  
Meetings held:  
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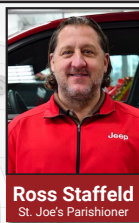
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