

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Staff

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

904 East Lake Avenue,
Peoria Heights, IL 61616
stthomaspeoria.org; 309-688-3446
parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Pastor: Msgr. Jason A. Gray.....(x3)
msgrgray@stthomas-church.net

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Leopold Mushobozi.. (x4)
Fr_Leo@stthomas-church.net

Sacristan: Mother Vaclava Ballon, FSJB
(688-3500); fsjbpeoria@yahoo.com

Deacon: Dcn. John Nelson.....981-2716
Dcn. Ed Mallow.....360-7735
Dcn. Mark Kelsch (Senior Status)

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katecrim@stthomas-church.net

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Parish Nurse: Mary Clare Geraghty....(x1350)
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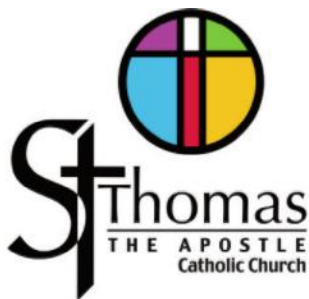
Music Coordinator: Steven Harms.....
steveharms@stthomas-church.net

Annulment Consultant:
John Mackoway.....699-5213

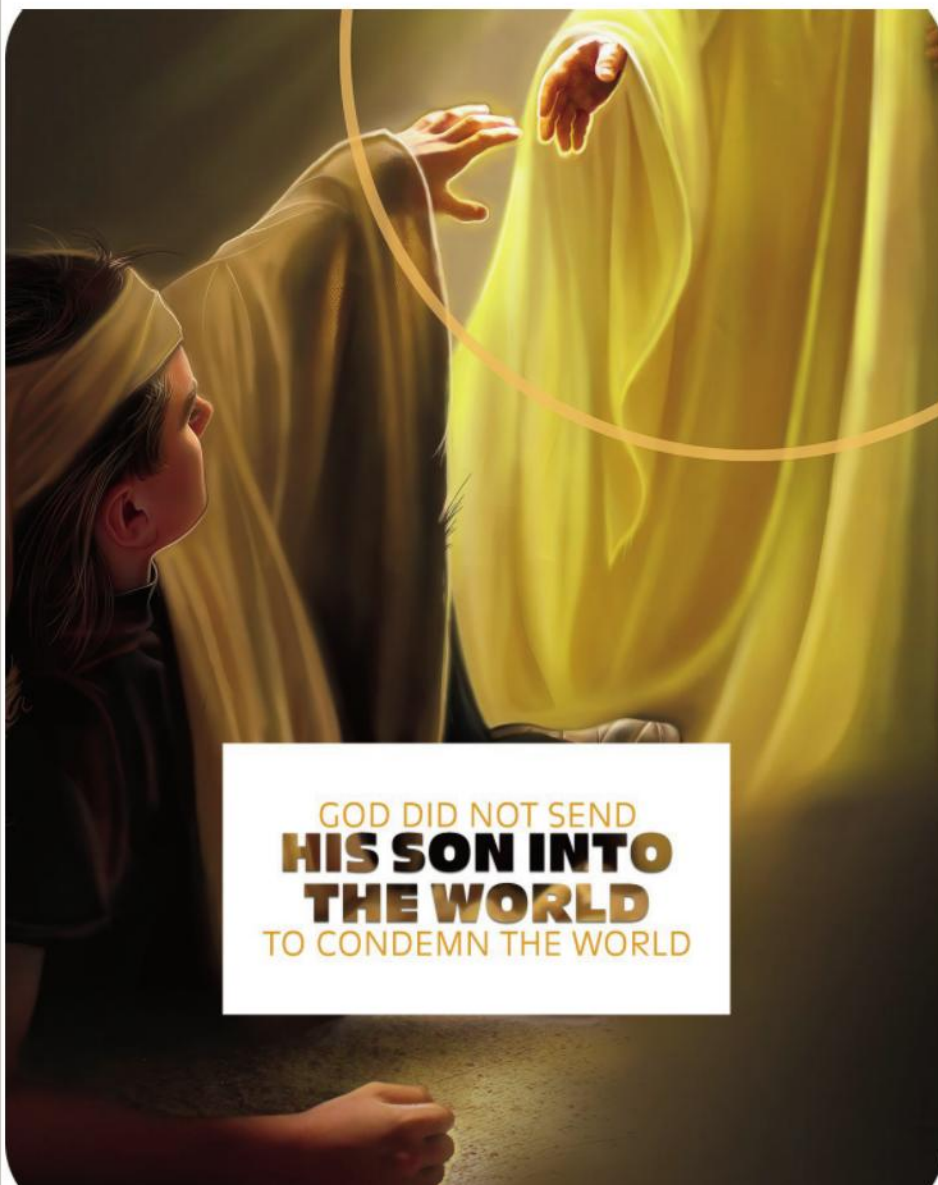
St. Vincent de Paul Society *HelpLine*.....
(309) 264-5815

Stay in Touch

1. Join Msgr. Gray for OCIA Class. Link can be found on the parish website, stthomaspeoria.org or the My Parish App
2. Download My Parish App to receive push notifications (Visit myparishapp.com/download).
3. Receive the Bulletin and announcements in weekly emails from the parish. (Email parishoffice@stthomas-church.net to sign up).
4. Bookmark the parish webpage (stthomaspeoria.org).



September 14, 2025
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



**GOD DID NOT SEND
HIS SON INTO
THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN THE WORLD**



From Our Pastor

Last weekend, we introduced this year's *Annual Diocesan Appeal* collection. Our goal is \$110,554. I encourage you to watch the video for the ADA which describes the programs that are supported by the Diocese of Peoria. Visit www.cdop.org/ada.

This year, the ADA highlights the training of seminarians and new priests to replace our retired priests, our family life programs such as the *Genesis Retreat* for engaged couples preparing for marriage, and our Catholic Schools. I encourage you to return the pledge card you picked up at Church or that you received in the mail. You can also contribute online at the same website as above.

Our Progressive Dinner this year will take place on November 8th, with a theme of *Thanksgiving* for our past. As the Diocese celebrates 150 years since its foundation, we remember our founding pastor, who was born 120 years ago and the legacy which he left us at St. Thomas. Our Progressive Dinner will raise money to add additional security items to our school and to replace the chairs in the Parish Hall.

Regarding school security, we will add restrictions for safety to our school Masses. The church doors will be locked during school Mass, and we will generally limit those who can attend to our school families and relatives. If you want to attend a school Mass, please contact the parish office in advance. As we have done in the past, there will not be an 8:00 a.m. daily Mass on the day of school Masses.

We are happy to welcome the Spalding Knights of Columbus who have made the transition from their meeting hall off Willow Knolls to now meeting on our campus. You may see the Knights meeting from time to time. The men of the parish are encouraged to join the Knights and we are grateful for their service to the Church and their volunteerism in our own parish.

Finally, those who receive envelopes in the mail will notice St. Vincent de Paul envelopes in your packets. Donations in these envelopes serve the needs of the poor in our community, just as the donations placed in the wood boxes at the beginning of each month. As the Society is separately incorporated, please make checks for the poor out to St. Vincent de Paul Society and not St. Thomas Parish.

- Msgr. Gray



Readings for the Week of September 14, 2025

Sunday	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Numbers 21: 4b-9; Philippians 2: 6-11; John 3: 13-17
Monday	Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; John 19: 25-27
Tuesday	Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 1 Timothy 3: 1-13; Luke 7: 11-17
Wednesday	St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church 1 Timothy 3: 14-16; Luke 7: 31-35
Thursday	1 Timothy 4: 12-16; Luke 7: 36-50
Friday	St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr 1 Timothy 6: 2c-12; Luke 8: 1-3
Saturday	Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gôn, Priest & Paul Chong Ha-Sang, & Companions, Martyrs 1 Timothy 6: 13-16; Luke 8: 4-15
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 15, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette Kouri, FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Len Kuchan/Family

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Joe & Mary Basler/Mary Ann Noe
8:00 a.m.	Mary Truitt/John Truitt

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Jim Becker/FSJB
8:00 a.m.	Jim Becker/Nancy Becker

Thursday, September 18, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Thomas Burek/George & Connie Burek
Sch. Mass	Klem Osika/Linda Osika

Friday, September 19, 2025

7:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory/Phan & Tam Vu
8:00 a.m.	Dave Lang/Carole Rogers

Saturday, September 20, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Fr. Tom Taylor/Bill & Ann Fulton
5:00 p.m.	Thomas Penn/David & Laurie Williams

Sunday, September 21, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Mary Kay Kemp/Mary Slevin
10:00 a.m.	Benefactors of FSJB
5:00 p.m.	For the People

Week of September 14

INCLUSION Monday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ROSARY Tuesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

PARISH COUNCIL Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Office

CCD Wednesday, September 16, 6:00 p.m., School

OCIA Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. IGNATIUS BIBLE STUDY Thursday, September 18, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

ST. THOMAS HOLY HOUR Thursday, September 18, 7:00 p.m., Church

THAT MAN IS YOU Friday, September 19, doors open 6:00, program 6:30 a.m., ends by 7:30 a.m., Parish Hall

CHURCH CLEANING Saturday following 8:00 a.m. Mass, Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

Msgr. Watson Memorial Golf Outing	September 26
K of C Mexican Dinner Fundraiser	September 27
Adoration	October 3

Pray with the Pope

September 2025

For our relationship with all of
creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



Weekly Collection

September 7, 2025

		Fiscal YTD
Collections needed.....	\$20,400	\$204,000
Sunday Collections	\$17,704	\$127,287
Electronic Collections.....	\$5,651	\$57,247
Total Collected.....	\$23,355.....	\$184,534
Over/(Short).....	\$(2,955)	\$(19,466)

Your support of St. Thomas Parish is important to sustain our mission. Please remember to contribute regularly with your envelopes or checks in our regular Sunday collection. Electronic contributions can be made through direct debit, or by using the Giving tab on our parish website: stthomaspeoria.org. Thank you for your support.

Our Sympathy

Lavonne Strieder

Peggy Hessling, Cathy Mallow's Mother

OCIA Schedule

Sept 17: Trinity, God is Three, God is One

Sept 24: God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth

Oct 1: God the Son

Oct 8: God the Son; God the Holy Spirit

Oct 15: Holy Catholic Church

Oct 22: Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of body, judgment, eternal life

Anyone wishing to become Catholic, or anyone wishing to learn more are welcome.


2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal

The 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parish. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. Your gift supports ministries, like the Genesis Marriage retreat, that helps form marriages which are the bedrock for the Domestic Church. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you have not given yet, please consider filling out a pledge card today and mail it to the Diocese or drop it in the collection basket. Addition pledge cards are in the narthex/pews. Every dollar raised over our \$110,554 goal will be returned to our parish.

Sponsor of the Week

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St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial Golf Outing

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund

Friday, September 26, 2025 • MT. Hawley Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from the outing will again fund scholarships for students at St. Thomas. The goal of the Men's Club is to fund 20 scholarships for St. Thomas families. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated!

GOLF REGISTRATION \$135/Person

Golf Registration includes: Green fees, Cart, Range Balls, and Food + Drinks in the Club House after the event.

Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th
Late registration after September 19th, \$145 Per Person

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSORSHIP \$2,500 / Sponsorship
Placement of company logo at all sponsorship levels. Logo as title sponsor on welcoming banner. Logo on all printed materials.

HOT SPOT SPONSOR

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$250 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Reception Sponsor - \$250 / Logo on Reception Tables

TEE SPONSOR \$150 / 36 Sponsors
Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR
Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item to Macro Wealth Management at 6915 N. Knoxville Ave, Peoria IL 61614 Include donor information and value (optional).

- Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am
- Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)
- Followed by Food & Drinks in the Club House
- Registration Deadline Friday, September 19th
- Late Registration \$145 Per Person

For more information please contact:
Tracey Deponai (309) 688-3446
Email: parishoffice@stthomas-church.net

Please Submit Payment with Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Golfers

Player 1: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 2: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 3: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____
Player 4: _____	Phone: _____	Amount \$ _____

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Category : _____ Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: **St. Thomas Men's Club**

Mail registration along with payment to:

Tracey Deponai / Golf • 904 E. Lake Ave. • Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Total Enclosed \$ _____



St. Thomas Monsignor Watson Memorial GOLF OUTING

Friday, September 26th

Mt. Hawley Country Club

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 19TH

TICKETS!



DIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE ST. THOMAS
SPONSOR A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

St. Thomas - Food Pantry

Items needed at this time are: Rice, Mac and Cheese, Crackers, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Canned Meat, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned or Dry Beans (Legumes), Hamburger/Chicken/ Tuna Helper

Thank you!

Spalding Council #427
Knights of Columbus

Mexican Dinner

Saturday, September 27th
St. Thomas Parish Hall
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 includes dinner & drink
(Fundraiser for K of C)



I.D. Drive (Tootsie Rolls)
Before & After All Masses
October 4th & 5th

For more information about either of the
above events please call **Dennis Goett**
at 309-550-1967

Please join us for the

ST. THOMAS

Progressive Dinner

Save the Date

Thankful for
our Past;
Securing our
Future

Saturday, November 8th

In 2021, Pope Francis established the celebration of the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. In the U.S., we observe this celebration in September, joining the Church's efforts to highlight the value and importance of grandparents and the elderly in our families and in society.

- Offer this [Prayer for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly](#).
- Take time this week to call or visit an elderly grandparent, family member, neighbor, or friend.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

HEAD OF THE HOUSE



September 21st
St. Thomas Parish Hall
6-8pm

Come for a Life Night on the Papacy. Dinner is provided. All High Schoolers are welcome! Bring a friend!!



ST. MARY'S OF KICKAPOO ANNUAL FAMOUS SAUSAGE DINNER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 11:00-3:00

➡ St. Mary's Gymnasium, Kickapoo, Illinois ⬅

Adults..... \$20.00
Children 5-12..... \$10.00
Children 4 & Under..... Free
Children's Hot Dog plate \$10.00

All you can eat Buffet!
Carry outs Available!!
Bluebird Carving Raffle
Lottery Ticket Boards Raffle



Raw Bulk Sausage—5lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____
Raw Link Sausage—5lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____
*Cooked Links—3lb. Pkg. @ \$30 each x _____ = \$ _____

RAW SAUSAGE
PICK UP 10/04/25
SATURDAY
11:00-12:00

Cooked Links available for pickup on day of dinner only Scan code to order

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

Order forms & Payment can be mailed to:

St. Mary's Church, 9910 W. Knox Street, Edwards, IL 61528

ORDERS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 22, 2024



TRIVIA NIGHT

Through the Decades
Saturday, September 20th
St. Monica's Hall

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE: NOW THRU SEPTEMBER 17TH

To Register, please follow the QR Code or go to:

<http://stpatswashington.betterworld.org/events/trivia-night>

Registration forms also available or call the church office for assistance (309) 444-3524 or (309) 694-2061

Price: \$30/person. Tables available for \$240 (max 8 people)



Register as a team or we can assist you in finding a team! Must be 21 years of age or greater to attend.

Space is Limited. Day-Of Registration may be offered, depending on availability.

Bring your own food. Charcuterie boards available for advanced purchase.

Come dressed in your favorite era and decorate your table!

Decorating times: 12pm - 1pm and 5pm - 6pm

Doors Open at 5:00pm

Event Begins at 6:00pm

Funds raised from this event will benefit the Boiler Campaign

Prizes for Best Dressed - Individual and Group!
Prize for best table decor!
Overall highest scoring table wins \$240
Cash Bar!
Light snacks on every table
Fun and Challenging Categories!
Cash or Venmo Accepted
Heads or Tails
Mulligans Available for Purchase
50/50 Raffle



EST.

2024

PEORIA AREA
LIFETEEN

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Help out our High School Ministry

Help by volunteering to bring a dish to share with our high schoolers twice a month alternating between St. Thomas and St. Vincent de Paul Parish

To Sign Up:

Contact us at peorialifeteen@gmail.com or call the Parish Office!

Emmaus Knights

For young men grades 7-12

Sept 28/Oct 12/Nov 9 From 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Join Fr. Chase for a Sunday night of faith, fraternity, and formation at the Emmaus House 2327 W. Heading Ave., W. Peoria

Scan the QR code to let us know you are coming and to have your parent fill out the digital permission form.



NOTICE: CHANGE of DATE!!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date has changed:

8th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING to Benefit Building Hope In Kids - Uganda

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 2025

QUAIL MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

50-50 Fun!

4 PLAYER SCRAMBLE

MULLIGANS

(Donations to BHIKU gladly accepted even if you're not interested in golfing.)

\$100/PLAYER

Includes Greens fee, cart, & awards dinner afterwards at Dining Room & Bar at Quail Meadows, catered by Barracks Catering."

Reserve your spot TODAY with check payable to:

**Adolph Arnold
111 Regent Ct.
East Peoria, 61611**

(Adolph is the BHIKU Board's Fundraising Chair)



Will you help?

12 Noon Shotgun Start

MINIMUM \$100 TO SPONSOR A HOLE.

For more details, **CALL Arnie** 309-264-7221



**Dinner Menu: Fire-roasted pulled chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans w/ bacon & onions, salad, and dinner roll.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: SEPT. 14th

Parish Registration

Complete this form and drop it in the collection basket, **or** mail to the Parish Office **or** Register on our website at stthomaspeoria.org. Under About open the New Parishioner Registration, complete and submit the form.

Last Name _____

First Name(s) _____ Mr ___ Mrs ___ Ms ___

Email _____

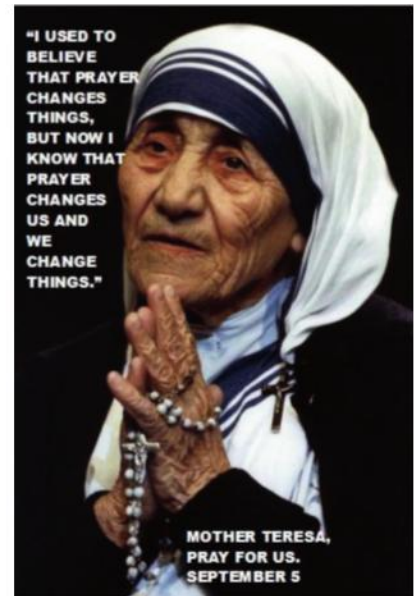
Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

New Parishioner _____ Change of address/phone _____



FULTON SHEEN RETREAT

by Fr. Donald Francis Roszkowski

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Location: St. Mary Cathedral and Spalding Ctr.



8:30am Opening Mass at St. Mary Cathedral
9:30am Talk by Fr. Donald Francis Roszkowski
11am Sheen Museum highlights by Sr. Lea, F.S.J.B.
11:15am Museum tour
12pm Lunch & Sheen television show
1pm Sheen Point Cathedral Tour
2pm Holy Hour with Msgr. Jason A. Gray

Cost \$40 * Register at CelebrateSheen.com

Most Reverend Louis Tylka cordially invites you to the

FOUNDATION Gala

An event to celebrate and support the Diocese of Peoria during its 150th Anniversary



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

CIVIC CENTER BALLROOM | PEORIA, IL

6:00 P.M. | COCKTAILS
7:00 P.M. | DINNER
8:00 P.M. | DANCING

A religious painting will be created during the evening and auctioned
Live music by **3 and a Half Men**
Dress Attire Business Casual

RSVP Due October 20, 2025.

Online Reservations at www.cdop150.org/gala.
Call 309.671.1550 with questions.



How to Submit Bulletin Information

Send information for the bulletin to parishoffice@stthomas-church.net with subject *Bulletin*.

Submissions are due by Friday noon, one full week prior.

Send images or logos separately as attachments.

Submissions may be edited for content and length. Please, DO NOT send PDFs.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents participate in a Baptism class before the Baptism of their first child. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the class.

Confessions

Saturday 4:00-4:45pm
&
6:00 p.m.-until last confession heard.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Staff are also available by email or voicemail. To leave a message, call 309-688-3446, and at the prompt, press:

- 3 - Msgr. Gray
- 0 - Tracey - Administrative Assist.
- 1341 - Sheris—Finance & Tuition
- 1310 - Kate—Faith Formation
- 1301 - Peggy—Bulletin

If you have items to deliver for the Parish Office, you are welcome to put them through the mail slot of the Office downstairs in the Church, or under the door of the main Sacristy upstairs. The Church is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW
JIM ROCHFORD & ASSOCIATES
309.637.5322 PARISHIONER
101 South West Adams, #700
drochford@rochfordlaw.com

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