

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

****FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK****

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by St. George Orthodox Church

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Altar Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

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23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius, Martyrs Basil, Stephen, two Gregories, John, Andrew, Peter, Anna, and many others (767). Martyr Irenarchus and Seven Word Martyrs at Sebaste (303). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Rostov (1394). Martyrs Timothy and Theodore—Bishops; Peter, John, Sergius, Theodore, and Nikēphoros—Presbyters; Basil and Thomas—Deacons; Hierotheus, David, Chariton, Socrates, Comasius, and Eusebius—Monks; and Etymasius, at Tiberiopolis

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EPISTLE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Ephesians 2:4-10

Luke 13:10-17

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NOVEMBER 28, 2021 NO. 434

Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . .", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion for The Resurrection — Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion for The Feast of St. Stephen the Monk-Martyr— Tone 4

Trained in asceticism on the mountain, with the weapon of the Cross thou didst destroy the spiritual assaults of the hostile powers, O all-blessed one. Again thou didst bravely prepare for combat and didst slay Copronymus with the sword of faith; // for both struggles thou hast been crowned by God, monk-martyr Stephen of eternal memory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion for The Resurrection — Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress Tone 6 (Hymn to the Theotokos)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

Ephesians 2:4-10

BRETHREN:

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Luke 13:10-17

Let us Attend:

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.

But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him

PROKEMEINON Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

ALLELUIA VERSES

He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise Him in the highest! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?

So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it - for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

LOVE CONQUERS ALL

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

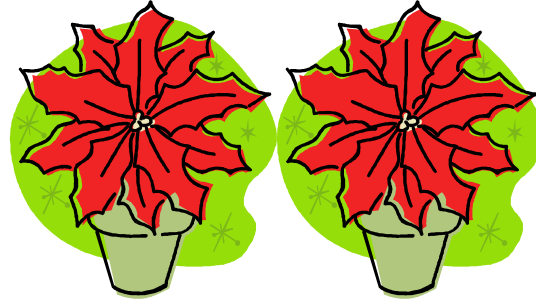
YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8



****ALL POINSETTIAS ARE A \$10.00 DONATION!**

****PLEASE SEE MATUSHKA FRAN FOR PAYMENT!**

IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE OR CONTACT MATUSHKA FRAN OR FR. JASON!

We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers and support.

May GOD continue to bless us and guide us as we grow together in faith and in love as we celebrate the Joyous Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord GOD and Savior Jesus Christ!

****POINSETTIAS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING THE FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY ON**

CHRISTMAS DAY – DECEMBER 25!!

Upcoming Events within The Life of our Parish/Diocese
DECEMBER 2021{Nativity Fast: Nov. 15-Dec. 24}

****FULL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY FAST
WILL BE SENT OUT TO EVERYONE VIA EMAIL AND/OR MAIL****

1 – Parish Council Meeting

5 – Eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Youth Sunday

Church School Q&A with Fr. Jay (The Acts of the Holy Apostles)

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM Great Vespers with Litiya at 1:30 PM

5 – ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL ST. NICHOLAS/NATIVITY PROGRAM

6 – The Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM

12 – Annual Parish Meeting

13 – Feast of St. Herman of Alaska

Moleben/Akathist Service to St. Herman at 9:00 AM

13 – Monthly Community Healing Prayer Service– 6:00 PM

18 - Great Vespers – 4:00 PM Parish Council Meeting (5:00pm)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

****Bring New Pajamas for patients at Roswell Park****

****Christmas Cookies are due for Hearts for Homeless****

****Christmas Gifts are due for Church School Nativity Project****

****Winter Gloves Donations due for Mats for Mission****

13/15/17 – Little Compline Service – 6:30 PM

24/25 – THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 23

9:00 AM – The Service of Royal Hours

December 24 (Eve of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:00 AM – Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

4:30 PM – Nativity Vigil Service

December 25 (The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

(Brunch in Parish Fellowship Hall)

December 26 (2nd Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

10:00 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Nativity Luncheon at Church following Divine Liturgy

Christmas Caroling around The Neighborhood

December 27 (3rd Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

23 – Church School Outing to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine for Festival of Lights

**THE SCHEDULE OF
WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2021

The Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Church School Class (in person
and via Google Classroom)
following Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Fellowship in the
Parish Fellowship Hall following
Divine Liturgy!

Coffee Hour Host:

Coffee Hour Donation:

MONDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Little Compline – 6:00 PM

St. George Bible Study Class

(Via Zoom) – 6:45 to 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2021

Daily Matins – 9:30 AM

Little Compline – 6:00 PM

Parish Council Meeting (Zoom) - 6:30 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021

Akathist to Our Lord – 9:00 AM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 2021

St Nicholas/Nativity Program

Rehearsal– 6:30 to 8:30 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2021

Great Vespers -4:00 PM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021

YOUTH SUNDAY

Eve of The Feast of St. Nicholas

The Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Annual Church School St
Nicholas/Nativity Program
following Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Fellowship in the
Parish Fellowship Hall following
Divine Liturgy!

Coffee Hour Host: Church School

Coffee Hour Donation:

Great Vespers – 1:30 PM

**31 – Eve of Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/
New Year’s Day
Great Vespers with Litiya – 4:00 PM**

Church School Children decorate Holy Water Bottles at home with parents and bring back to church on Sunday January 10 for Blessing of Water!

****Please refer to the weekly bulletin, monthly calendar and our church website for any changes to the calendar****

PLEASE SHARE THESE EVENTS WITH EVERYONE!!

An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18th All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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PARISH THEME FOR 2021:

Orthodox Christian Stewardship

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. **Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges** accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco: "The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and

“Lessons in Our Faith” Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

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ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!



A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

Please be sure to check out “The Giving Tree” in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a parish family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

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Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!

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WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website:

<http://www.nynjoca.org>!

There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

- Candles
- 7-Day Vigil Candles
- Flowers for Feast Days
- Charcoal
- Altar Wine
- Cups for Zapifka
- Snack Baggies for the Antidoron (Church Bread)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship.
May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

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ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OCMC PARISH AMBASSADORS

To The Glory of God, our parish has been blessed with two parishioners who have answered The Call of Our Lord to be Parish Ambassadors for OCMC guiding us to help bring The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ of “Making Disciples of All Nations baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit!”

Anthony Gregory DelNuovo and John Moses Lutz are our Parish Ambassadors for OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center). To help the good work being done by The OCMC of supporting Missionaries around the world, our parish will be sponsoring and supporting a missionary on a annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have \$450 collected for next year’s sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a donation, please see or contact Anthony or John. We express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated so far. Thank you for kindness and generosity.

For more information about The OCMC, please visit their website:
www.ocmc.org

Another blessing for our parish of continuing the Good Work that has been entrusted to us of bringing The Gospel Message to All!
Lord it is good to be here!

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Scriptural Readings for the Week

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Monday
1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8
Luke 19:37-44

Tuesday
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 19:45-48

Wednesday
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:1-8

Thursday
1 Thessalonians 5:1-8
Luke 20:9-18

Friday
1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-28
Luke 20:19-26

Saturday
2 Corinthians 11:1-6
Luke 12:32-40

Sunday
Galatians 5:22-6:2
Matthew 11:27-30
Ephesians 2:14-22
Luke 17:12-19

**Remember our Loved Ones
during Our Daily Prayers**

*'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the
least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS
(2021)**

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser 147 West Hazeltine Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217 716.875.9503	Reader Victor Shanchuk McAuley Residence 1503 Military Rd. Buffalo, NY 14217 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Un 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
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Mrs. Bonnie Dan 15 Pine Street North Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.693.1377	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562
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Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201	Mrs. Tita Abraham 84 Stonington Lane Getzville, NY 14068	James Stephen Silver 20 Traymore Street Buffalo, NY 14216
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**IMPORTANT PARISH
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Feed More of WNY, Baker Victory as well as our other outreach ministry projects.
- **WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

****Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:**

- 1) Reader Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES**
- 2) Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) Pastoral Video for Parish Monthly Update**

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EACH WEEK WE WILL BE
RECORDING
THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH
SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING
THE MONTHLY INCOME and
EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH
FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY
PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS!

INCOME FOR SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2021 – \$1, 885.90
Commercial Savings Account Deposit -
\$500.00
DONATION TO THE CAPITOL
IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) - -
\$5, 035.00

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MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU
AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH NATIVITY PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Greetings to all of you, your families, and our entire parish family as we prepare to begin The Nativity Fast in just a few short weeks!

Once again, this year, as part of our parish outreach ministry during The Nativity Fast and Christmas Season, we are holding collections for the following Ministries within our Greater Buffalo Area:

- 1) **Baker Victory** – Christmas Gifts for Children
BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12
***More information will be emailed out this week**
- 2) **Roswell Park** – New Pajamas for the Patients
(adult men and women s-m-l-xl/ children boys and girls s-m-l-xl)
BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12
- 3) **Hearts for Homeless** – Christmas Cookies and Canned Goods/Non-Perishable Items –
BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12
- 4) **Mats for Mission** - – **New Pairs of Winter Gloves All Sizes – AT LEAST 15 PAIRS BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 5**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Continuing with our Annual Parish Tradition with the sending of a Parish Christmas Card, we come to all of you – our dear Parish Family for your support in bringing the Love and Joy of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ to everyone during this Holy Season. The cost is only \$20 per family.

If we would like to have our name in the Christmas Card, please fill out the enclosed form with how we would like our name to appear in the card and hand it in to Fr. Jason, Matushka Katia, or Matushka Fran no later Sunday December 5 along with your payment of \$20.00. Besides our names, we will also have a Nativity Message and Greeting from our parish family.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself (716-875-4222)/jvansuch@hotmail.com or Matushka Katia (609-851-3811) / katia.vansuch@gmail.com or Matushka Fran (610-698-1666)/fances.vansuch@yahoo.com

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Thank you for your continued love, prayers, support, generosity and stewardship for our Annual Parish Nativity Outreach Ministry Projects, and for all that you do for our parish and throughout the year as well as for the community in which we live, serve, and dwell.

Looking forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone Be assured of my continued love and prayers for you, your families, and our entire parish family. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families, and our entire parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care today and always.

I remain, with love in Christ
Your Humble Servant,
Fr. Jason

SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR PARISH

We are celebrating The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Diocesan Directives/Guidelines and the new directives and announcements

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, we will make the wearing of masks a voluntary decision. If someone wishes to continue to wear a mask, that is their choice and their right to. If someone chooses not to wear a mask, that is their choice not to wear a mask. This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!
- We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone who wishes to use them to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.
 - * The choir will continue to sing up front until such time we can move them back to the choir area
 - * The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 15 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.
 - * We will continue to use the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.
 - * We will be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer
 - * The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week
 - * The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week by hiring our Professional Cleaner (Rocco) who will come in every week on Saturday Night to clean and sanitize the Parish Fellowship Hall and Restrooms. When Hosting Coffee Hour, we will need to be wearing masks as well as use gloves and proper utensils. Following Coffee Hour, the table and chairs will need to be properly sanitized as well as put away properly along with the kitchen and countertops need to be cleaned and properly sanitized.
 - * With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy. We do NOT need to sign-up beforehand but rather we will need to sign in at The Candle Desk when we come to church. This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that I have a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case, God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance. We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

**If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason,

Paul or any member of the Parish Council!**

May God continue to bless and guide all of you!**

FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM

SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

~ All are Welcome ~

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?

Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?

Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?

Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions
in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "**The Church**" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:

http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1

For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?', 'Who we Are?', and 'How we Live?', please view the PDF link below:

<http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf>

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith>

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:

<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

<http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

THE FEAST OF THE MONK-MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW
November 28

The Monk Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New was born in 715 at Constantinople into a pious Christian family. His parents, having two daughters, prayed the Lord for a son. The mother of the new-born Stephen took him to the Blachernae church of the Most Holy Theotokos and dedicated him to God.

During the reign of the emperor Leo the Isaurian (716-741) there was a persecution against the holy icons and against those venerating them. With the support of the emperor, the adherents of the Iconoclast heresy seized control of the supreme positions of authority in the Empire and in the Church. Persecuted by the powers of this world, Orthodoxy was preserved in monasteries far from the capital, in solitary cells, and in the brave and faithful hearts of its followers.

The Orthodox parents of Saint Stephen, grieved by the prevailing impiety, fled from Constantinople to Bithynia, and they gave over their sixteen-year-old son in obedience to the monk John, who labored in asceticism in a solitary place on the Mount of Saint Auxentius. Saint Stephen dwelt with the venerable monk John for more than fifteen years, devoting himself totally to this spirit-bearing Elder, and learning monastic activity from him. Here Stephen received the news that his father was dead, and his mother and sisters had been tonsured as nuns.

After a certain time his teacher John also died. With deep sorrow Saint Stephen buried his venerable body, and continued with monastic effort in his cave by himself. Soon monks began to come to the ascetic, desiring to learn from him the virtuous and salvific life, and a monastery was established, with Saint Stephen as the igumen. At forty-two years of age Stephen left the monastery he founded, and he went to another mountain, on whose summit he dwelt in deep seclusion in a solitary cell. But here also a community of monks soon gathered, seeking the spiritual guidance of Saint Stephen.

Leo the Isaurian was succeeded by Constantine Copronymos (741-775), a fiercer persecutor of the Orthodox, and an even more zealous iconoclast. The emperor convened an Iconoclast Council, attended by 358 bishops from the Eastern provinces. However, except for Constantine, the Archbishop of Constantinople, illegitimately raised to the patriarchal throne by the power of Copronymos, not one of the other patriarchs participated in the wicked doings of this Council, thus making it less likely to style itself as “ecumenical.” This council of heretics, at the instigation of the emperor and the archbishop, described icons as idols, and pronounced an anathema on all who venerated icons in the Orthodox manner, and it described icon veneration as heresy.

Meanwhile, the monastery of Mount Auxentius and its igumen became known in the capital. They told the emperor about the ascetic life of the monks, about their Orthodox piety, about the igumen Stephen’s gift of wonderworking, and of how Saint Stephen’s fame had spread far beyond the region of the monastery, and that the name of its head was accorded universal respect and love. The saint’s open encouragement of icon veneration and the implied rebuff to the persecutors of Orthodoxy within the monastery of Mount Auxentius especially angered the emperor. Archbishop Constantine realized that in the person of Saint Stephen he had a strong and implacable opponent of his iconoclastic intentions, and he plotted how he might draw him over to his side or else destroy him.

They tried to lure Saint Stephen into the Iconoclast camp, at first with flattery and bribery, then by threats, but in vain. Then they slandered the saint, accusing him of falling into sin with the nun Anna. But his guilt was not proven, since the nun courageously denied any guilt and died under torture and beatings. Finally, the emperor

gave orders to lock up the saint in prison, and to destroy his monastery. Iconoclast bishops were sent to Saint Stephen in prison, trying to persuade him of the dogmatic correctness of the Iconoclast position. But the saint easily refuted all the arguments of the heretics and he remained true to Orthodoxy.

Then the emperor ordered that the saint be exiled on one of the islands in the Sea of Marmora. Saint Stephen settled into a cave, and there also his disciples soon gathered. After a certain while the saint left the brethren and took upon himself the exploit of living atop a pillar. News of the stylite Stephen, and the miracles worked by his prayers, spread throughout all the Empire and strengthened the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy in the people.

The emperor gave orders to transfer Saint Stephen to prison on the island of Pharos, and then to bring him to trial. At the trial, the saint refuted the arguments of the heretics sitting in judgment upon him. He explained the dogmatic essence of icon veneration, and he denounced the Iconoclasts because in blaspheming icons, they blasphemed Christ and the Mother of God. As proof, the saint pointed to a golden coin inscribed with the image of the emperor. He asked the judges what would happen to a man who threw the coin to the ground, and then trampled the emperor's image under his feet. They replied that such a man would certainly be punished for dishonoring the image of the emperor. The saint said that an even greater punishment awaited anyone who would dishonor the image of the King of Heaven and His Saints, and with that he spat on the coin, threw it to the ground, and began to trample it underfoot.

The emperor gave orders to take the saint to prison, where already there were languishing 342 Elders, condemned for the veneration of icons. In this prison Saint Stephen spent eleven months, consoling the imprisoned. The prison became like a monastery, where the usual prayers and hymns were chanted according to the Typikon. The people came to the prison in crowds and asked Saint Stephen to pray for them.

When the emperor learned that the saint had organized a monastery in prison, where they prayed and venerated holy icons, he sent two of his own servants, twin-brothers, to beat the saint to death. When these brothers went to the prison and beheld the face of the monk shining with a divine light, they fell down on their knees before him, asking his forgiveness and prayers, then they told the emperor that his command had been carried out. But the emperor learned the truth and he resorted to yet another lie. Informing his soldiers that the saint was plotting to remove him from the throne, he sent them to the prison. The holy confessor himself came out to the furious soldiers, who seized him and dragged him through the streets of the city. They then threw the lacerated body of the martyr into a pit, where they were wont to bury criminals.

On the following morning a fiery cloud appeared over Mount Auxentius, and then a heavy darkness descended upon the capital, accompanied by hail, which killed many people.

The Healing of the Woman with a Spirit of Infirmity

Luke 13:10-17

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke
by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria


10-17. And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over, and could in no wise straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And He laid His hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead it away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when He had said these things, all His adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

The woman suffered from this affliction as a result of demonic assault, as the Lord Himself says, This woman, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years. Perhaps God had departed from her on account of certain sins, and as a result Satan was punishing her. For Satan is in part the cause of all the hardships which afflict our bodies, when God on high permits him. From the very beginning it was Satan who brought about our fall by which we lost the incorruptibility in which we had been created; it was Satan who caused us to be bound to diseased bodies prone to suffering, symbolized by the garments of dead skins in which Adam and Eve were wrapped (Gen. 3:22). But now the Lord, with the majestic voice of the Godhead, full of power, drives out the infirmity of this woman. He places His hands on her, so that we might learn that His holy flesh imparted both the power and the energy of the Logos. For His flesh was His own, and not that of some other human person alongside Him, separate from Him in hypostasis, as the impious Nestorius thinks. (1) So great is the goodness of the Lord, Who in this manner took mercy on His own creation. But Satan, who had bound the woman in the first place, was vexed at her deliverance because he desired her continued affliction, and so he bound the ruler of the synagogue with spite, and through the mouth of this man, Satan reviled the miracle. This is how he always attacks the good. Therefore the Lord uses the apt example of irrational animals to rebuke the man who was indignant that a healing had taken place on the Sabbath. And thus not only this man, but all the other adversaries of Jesus as well, were put to shame by Christ's words. For it was insane to hinder the healing of a man on the Sabbath using as a pretext the commandment that the Sabbath be a day of rest. So it was, that even while the people were rejoicing at the Lord's deeds, His adversaries were put to shame by His words. For these adversaries, instead of joining in the jubilation which followed His work of healing, burned with rage that He had healed at all. But the multitude, because they derived benefit from His signs, rejoiced and took pleasure in this healing. You must also understand these miracles to refer to the inner man. The soul is bent over in infirmity whenever it inclines to earthly thoughts alone and imagines nothing that is heavenly and divine. It can truly be said that such a soul has been infirm for eighteen years. For when a man is feeble in keeping the commandments of the divine law, which are ten in number, and is weak in his hope of the eighth age, the age to come, it can be said that he has been bent over for ten and eight years. (2) Is not that man indeed bent over who is attached to the earth, and who always sins in disregard of the commandments, and who does not look for the age to come? But the Lord heals such a soul on the Sabbath in the assembly of the synagogue. For when a man

assembles together within himself thoughts of confession (Judah means "confession") and keeps the Sabbath, that is, he rests from doing evil, then Jesus heals him, not only by word when He says to him, Thou art loosed from thine infirmity, but also by deed. For when He has placed His hands on us, He requires that we accept the energy from His divine hands to do in collaboration with Him the works of virtue. We must not be satisfied to receive only that healing which comes by word and by instruction.

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Please find below information Ms. Danielle Geeza (Chairperson for Department of Youth Ministry for our Diocese) on how we can prepare for The Nativity of Our Lord!! May it not only be a challenge but also a useful tool for our spiritual growth as we prepare ourselves for The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord.



My dear Diocesan Family:

Beginning today, December 1st, I challenge all of us to read one chapter from the Gospel according to Saint Luke each evening.

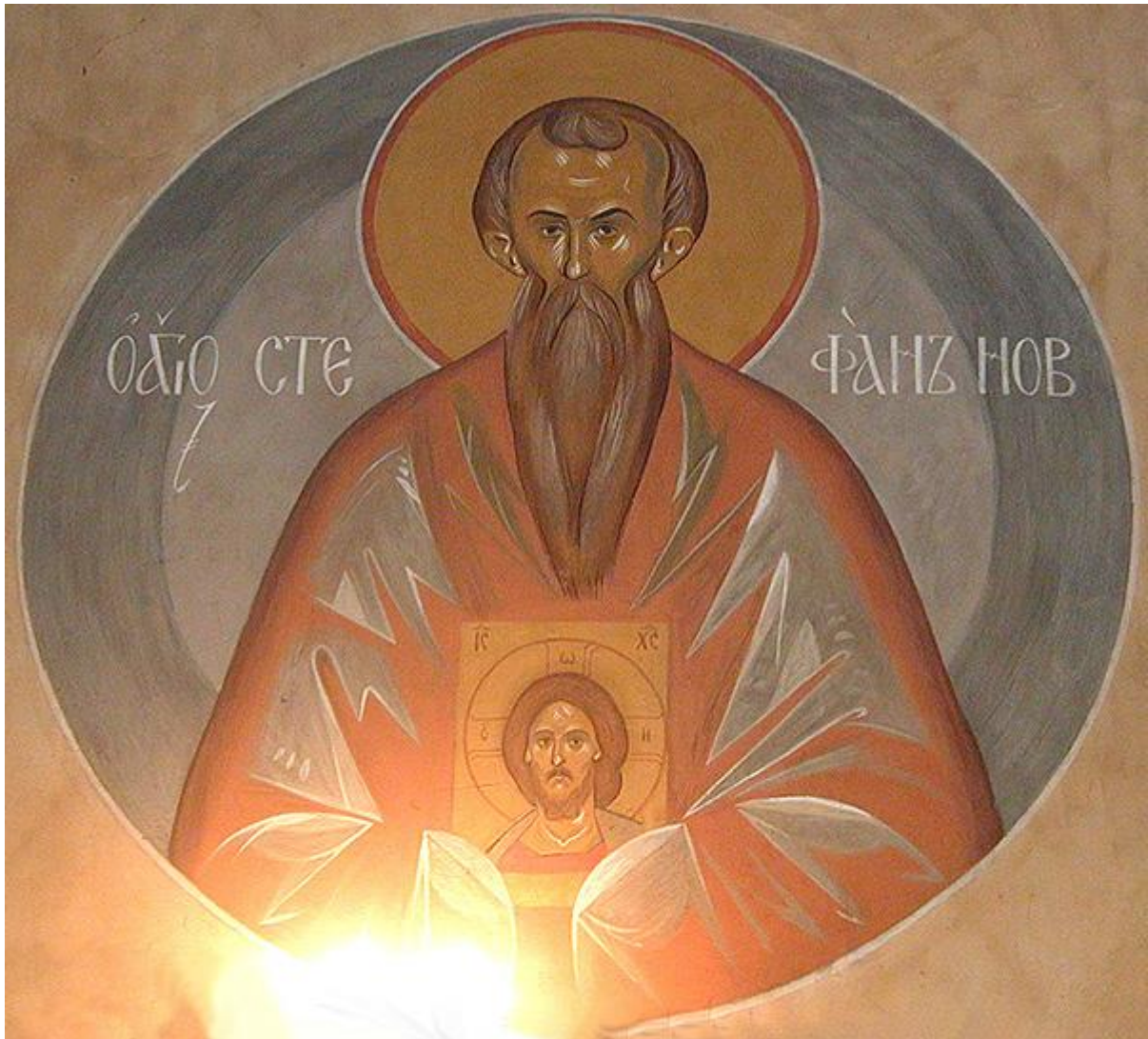
There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read **the whole account of Christ's life**, and wake up on Christmas morning knowing **WHY** we celebrate **the Nativity of Our Lord.**

With love and prayers,

Danielle

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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