

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 † TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

To love others is an obvious and non-negotiable reality of the Christian life. God is the origin and identity of all love. God is love. In love we are created as an expression and desire of Divine Love. Love by nature is self-giving. Love offers itself for the sake of the good of others. Love is the deepest longing, desire, and need of every human being. To be human is to love. Love is our nature as human beings created by God who is Love. There is no such thing as a self-made, isolated, standalone Christian. Love by nature is relational and can only realize itself in connection with other people.

Jesus is the Incarnation of Divine Love. Remaining God and becoming human, Jesus is the enfleshment of Divine Love for the world. Jesus is the fulness of what it means to be a fully realized human being. The purpose of the Incarnation is for the redemption of humanity and all creation. In the lie of evil that leads to the disorder of sin, love is often hindered, hidden, or lost. The person of Jesus enfleshed in the communion of human and Divine Love, serves as the remedy for sin for all those who seek the truth of love in the image and intention of God. Love and redemption are not only the identity of Jesus, but they are also his mission, his passion, and deepest longing in the will of the Father.

Jesus is quite open about this reality, much to the distress of those around him. Jesus predicts his suffering and death on a Cross, only to rise three days later. Immediately after being given authority of the yet to be formed Church, Peter rebukes Jesus for saying such words. To Peter, they are unthinkable and make no sense. Peter expresses this with strong emotion and deep conviction.

Hitting a nerve, Jesus responds even more strongly: "Get behind me you Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do." Jesus will not deny his identity as One with the Father, nor will he compromise his mission of redemption that can only be accomplished through his death. In both his human and Divine nature, Jesus will not give into the human ego or fear of Peter. Jesus will not allow the obstacle and distraction Peter presents.

Harsh as this seems, Jesus is speaking truth and the truth Jesus speaks is that of redemptive love. Note that Peter speaks for all the disciples, as they

undoubtably feel the same way. Peter professes Jesus as the Messiah, then rebukes the kind of Messiah Jesus expresses himself to be. Peter has his own ideas of what the Messiah should look like. Human ego gets in the way and Jesus will not allow it.

Mature love will always include some degree of surrender. Surrender is not a concept that is understood or welcomed in our culture. It is made to seem contrary to human nature. This is the lie of sin and a great obstacle to love. To sincerely love another, I must in some way give up something of myself for the sake of the good of the other. For Jesus, it was his whole life, his entire person given in death to reveal the surpassing power of Divine love to heal, forgive, and reconcile. Nothing less could satisfy the sacrifice necessary for the work of redemption.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny them self, take up their Cross and follow me." If I prefer to save myself in the identity I have made for myself, I will lose all. If I am willing to lose or surrender myself for the sake of others, I will find my full and true self in God. Self-surrender is the way of the Cross.

We all know how to surrender because we all know how to love. To receive love, a person must give love. Love freely given for the good of another offers its own reward and bears its own fruit. Selfish love or self-seeking love is not real and will never last. As humans, we are pretty good at pleasing ourselves. This kind of happiness can only go so far. If we seek to please or serve others out of love or in a time of need, this happiness fills the soul with true peace.

It can be hard to learn to put others first and myself second, or even third. This is easier for the one who maturely loves them self in the awareness of Divine love. Knowing deep self-love creates a freedom to see the wisdom and identity of God in others which inspires relationships of love through service. This is the fruit of redemption at work.

Consider any obstacle, be they persons or things, that hinder you from loving God, yourself, and others more freely. Like Jesus, stand strong against internal and external obstacles to your freedom as a human being to live a life noticeably marked by love.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION **Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm** in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

> **Adoration on Tuesdays** 8:45am to 10:00am

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721 Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm, Friday 9-Noon **Closed Saturday & Sunday**

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator

Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator

Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Summer Office 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser. Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator For information on Baptisms, OCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720

MASS

MONDAY, Sept. 4th 9:00am

Parish Offices will be closed.





MONDAY, September 4, 2023 LABOR DAY

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, September 5, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions for Deanna req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, September 6, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

THURSDAY, September 7, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions of the Tourville Family req. by

Mary Ann Przybysz

SATURDAY, September 9, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, September 10, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Mike Kapolka† req. by Linda Karolski

Dennis Menard† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Francis Bischoff (for healing) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

READINGS THIS WEEK

September 3, 2023

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (2b)/

Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-Monday:

12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/

Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44 Thursday:

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk

5:1-11

Friday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab,

6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5 Saturday: Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom

13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20



INTERGENERATIONAL **HEALING MASS**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:00pm

Celebrant: Fr. John Esper What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled Intergenerational Healing, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: "intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our "bloodstream" and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about. It's an exciting, fascinating area of the healing ministry."

All are welcome.



CHOIR RESUMING!

Practices will be Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Admin Building Choir Room

You are invited to join us in the Admin Bldg. at 7pm this Wednesday, September 6th to see if this ministry is a good fit for you.

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

Marilyn McAuliffe

Ernest Szwarc Robert Kevin Brettnacher

Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

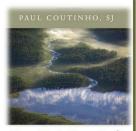
Wednesday Mornings 16 Week Book Study

How Big is Your God?

by Paul Coutinho, SJ

Study Begins September 13th 9am in Admin Bldg.

"How big is your God? In other words, what limits have FOREWORD BY FR. RICHARD ROHR, OFM you placed upon God in your life? If



How Big Is Your God?

your experience of the Divine has become static and predictable, or if you have a relationship with God that is small and confined, Fr. Paul Coutinho, invites you to believe that God is bigger - much bigger! This book will challenge one to grow deeper and stronger in faith by embracing a God whose love truly knows no bounds." -Loyola Press

The Wednesday Morning Book Study begins September 13th at 9:00am in the Parish Admin Building. The book will be studied over a 16-week period allowing us to prayerfully reflect on the chapters. Each class will offer a time for teaching, reflection, and sharing. A small breakfast is offered so please let the office know if you are attending, 248-542-8720.

Annual Appeal for Priest Retirement Fund Collection - Sept. 9/10

Each year, the Archdiocese of Detroit requires an annual contribution to the Priest Retirement Fund. To help defray the cost of this assessment, we will take up a collection next weekend. Your generosity supporting retired priests who have served in the Archdiocese of Detroit is greatly appreciated!

Envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What are the names of the three persons of the Holy Trinity?

Answer: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

EUCHARIST BOOKS ON DISPLAY

At the Admin Bldg.

In acknowledgement of celebrating a renewed focus on the gift of the Eucharist, a small display of books about the Eucharist can be found on the table just outside the parish library in the administration building. These books are ready for circulation. Please feel encouraged to visit our library which currently has hundreds of books, most of which have been donated by our generous parishioners to enhance your faith journey.



MERCY IN ACTION COLLECTIONS BLESSING BAG & SNACK BAG ITEMS NEEDED Sept 2 thru 24

Travel size: deodorant, brush, comb, Kleenex packet, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brush, tube socks, hand & feet warmers

Individual lunchbox sized: juice boxes, granola bars, cereal bars, crackers, cookies, fruit snacks

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY



Calling all crafters, sewers, and artistic adults and children: The Prayer Blanket ministry resumes on Thursday, September 28, 2023. We are in need of decorated prayer blanket squares to begin this year's ministry. There is a basket of blank squares

by the Herbert Street entrance of the church under the crucifix. Please take as many as you wish to decorate. We need some children's decorated squares as well as adults. Squares can be decorated with permanent fabric markers, embroidered, needle point, or by sewing machine. Please leave a 1 inch boundary around all the edges for sewing purposes. The finished squares can be placed in the basket next to the basket of blank squares. Thank you and may God bless you for helping in this ministry.

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION September 9/10

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS September 10

Our Parish Nurse, Angela, will be checking blood pressures after the 9am Mass at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality next Sunday.

FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but if you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

A love of suffering does not come naturally to us as humans. We have no instinct to throw our arms around a rough and heavy cross — no, we shy away from it. But as adopted children of God, crafted lovingly in His image, our inheritance is the grace to do what feels so impossible.



Pray for...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.

- ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, earthquakes and disasters
- ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
- ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally
- ...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests Lord Jesus.

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

Ministry Schedule September 9/10, 2023 Mass 4:00pm 9:00am D Tourville T Karolski Sacristan Reader #1 P Allen R Pasiak Reader #2 D Tourville T Karolski EME T Riley P Allen R Pasiak R Grant **M Simmons** D Gray R Pasiak Greeters N Oparka T Pasiak T Oparka R Juska-Svoba D Vu P Miles L Proszkowski

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 9/10
Kathy Bush & Dawn Waller

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION NEXT SATURDAY

A session to prepare the parents and godparents of infants and toddlers for the child's Baptism will take place on Saturday, September 9th from I:30pm to 3:30pm in the parish Administration Building. If you wish to have your baby or toddler baptized, please call the parish office to register for this class. (248)542-8720.

Sessions are held quarterly. The next session will be Dec. 2nd.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

From the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration...

Talking with someone about your feelings can save your life. This may sound familiar but is important to know to prevent suicide. You can help yourself or someone you know by finding a therapist/support group, building and using a support network, and making a safety plan for yourself. If you believe someone is in danger of self-harm or want to injure yourself, call 911 or text 988to talk to a caring professional.

If you are trying to help someone start by asking, are they are thinking of killing themselves. Listen without judging and show you care. Stay with the person. Remove any objects that could be used in a suicide attempt.

Causes of suicide can be multiple factors, such as mental illness, substance abuse, painful losses, exposure to violence, and social isolation. Warning signs include talking about making plans for suicide, expressing hopelessness about the future, displaying severe and overwhelming emotional pain, showing worrisome changes in behavior, social withdrawal, changes in sleep (an increase or decrease), anger out of character or out of context, and recent irritability.

Read more at SAMHSA https://www.samsha.gov

Support awareness:

Suicide Awareness Walk-Walk to Prevent Suicide
11am check in — walk at 1pm
September 10, 2023.

A three mile walk at Stony Creek Metro Park Eastwood Beach, Shelby Twp. Contact info 586-419-0384, oaklandmacombbootd@gmail.com6

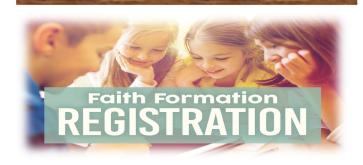
Take and read handouts at church entrances.

Let us pray to heal those with depression. Lord, it seems as if our world has collapsed, hurling many into a deep, dark pit. You said "Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you". Help us help those who are struggling. Help those feeling helpless and afraid. Please lift them out of the pit and show them the way, Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

QUESTIONS OF FAITH September 11, 2023

On Monday afternoon, September 11, 2023 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Father John will lead an informal conversation with participants who come with questions of faith and faith practices, "Questions you always wondered about, but never asked." All are welcome to participate. This will be held in our administration building dining hall. Call the parish office to register. (248)542-8720.



CLASSES TO BEGIN September 25

Registration forms are available at our website or you can pick up a packet at the Parish Office

A Singles Brunch & Presentation
open to all interested
following 9am Mass on September 17th
SVF Admin Bldg. Dining Hall
\$10 per person Paid in advance at the Parish office

Dr. Patricia Cooney Hathaway, PhD, a Professor of Spirituality and Systematic Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary will present insights into

Faith During the Seasons of Life

Join others in this insightful opportunity.

A light brunch will be served.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

St. Peter Claver | September 9



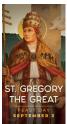
Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

St. Gregory the Great | September 3



Saint Gregory the Great lived in a most turbulent time. There were devastating episodes of plague, the sacking of Rome and the breakdown of strong Roman rule, invasions by Lombards and Franks, floods, and a widening gap between imperial Byzantium and the Roman Church.

Born around 540 into a noble Roman family, Saint Gregory was probably trained in

law, and started his public service as a Prefect of Rome. However, upon the death of his father, he converted his family home to monastery, where he resided as a monk. He built six more monasteries in Sicily and one in Rome.

Often called the father of the medieval papacy and Apostle of the English, Saint Gregory was proclaimed Pope by acclamation in 590. Although he was reluctant to assume this post, preferring the cloistered life, his accomplishments were many. He was an extremely capable manager of Church estates and tenants and is known for his reform of the liturgy. He was instrumental in the consolidation of papal power and led the fight against the many heresies promoted by small Christian groups at the time. Through his prolific correspondence he oversaw monastic life, curtailing the power of grasping bishops, correcting abuses, and enforcing discipline. He was particularly concerned with the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his monastery including Saint Augustine of Canterbury to evangelize there.

Saint Gregory died in 604 and was sainted immediately. He is one of four key doctors of the Western Church, including Saints Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome.

Choosing the Cross

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I've never been called "Satan," at least not to my face.

It seems to me the worst name you could call a person, and today we hear it straight from the lips of Jesus. It's just one of the many small reminders strewn throughout Scripture that Jesus preaches meekness, but he is not mild — not when mildness serves no purpose, anyway.

And here, when Peter is trying to deter Jesus from making the right choice, mildness serves no purpose at all.

Can we blame Peter? I certainly can't. I'm sure I would have said the same thing to my own dear friend. He is, in today's Gospel, wholly unwilling to embrace the cross — he's afraid of it, even — but aren't we all, in the end, afraid of our cross? I am. It's no sin, it's only human. Fear is natural. Self-preservation is a reflex.

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday.

But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. I have to believe that if even a firefighter's loved one threw themselves in his way, he would still charge toward the flames, crying, "Get behind me."

Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear (and he had it, I promise you — he was human, too) but the fear of everyone who loved him.

"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..." — Romans 12:1 ©LPi

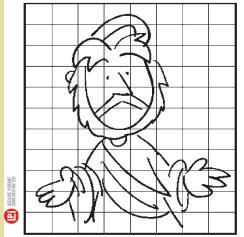
St. Teresa of Calcutta - Sept. 5

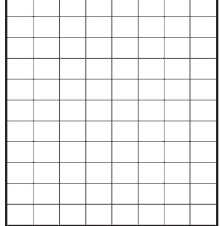


St. Teresa of Calcutta, formerly Mother Teresa, was born in Albania in 1910 and named Agnes. At age 18, she felt God calling her to follow him and joined the Sisters of Loreto based in Ireland. After 2 months she left go to India where she took

final vows as a sister and the name Teresa, After spending 15 years teaching in a girl's school in Calcutta, she again heard God calling again. This time is was to the poor in the streets of Calcutta. With permission from her order, she left to live among the poor and dress like them. Others followed and the religious order, Missionaries of Charity, was begun. The missionaries tried to care for as many of the dying as they could, even those suffering from leprosy by washing them, giving clean clothes, medicine, listening and comfort. Mother Teresa died in 1997 and was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016 during the Year of Mercy.







OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Monday: Labor Day

Friday: The Nativity of

the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Peter Claver,

Priest

Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in

Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Jer 20:7-9

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the loneliness and ridicule he endures for answering his prophetic call. Who do you turn to in times of personal sadness and distress?

Second Reading: Rom 12:1-2

Paul challenges us not to be conformed to the present world "but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." What can you do this week to grow in your thinking as someone who believes in Jesus?

Gospel: Mt 16:21-27

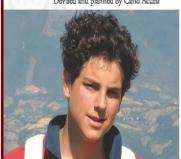
Peter is resistant to Jesus's revelation that as the Messiah, he is destined to suffer and die before rising. How do you react to news difficult to hear?

-SAVE THE DATE

International Exhibition MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST

ACROSS THE WORLD

Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis



A Slideshow Presentation on Eucharistic Miracles

Based on the Website of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Wednesday, October 11, at 7 pm St. Vincent Ferrer Church

Followed by a reception in the Social Hall

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 26/27

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	95		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	4,467.11	(825.89)	(1,208.83)
Energy	289.00	37.00	(252.00)	(583.53)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	231.00	(884.39)	(8,682.76)
St. Vincent de Paul	n/a	2.00		
Mass Intentions	n/a	40.00		910.00
Special AOD Collections:	n/a			
Holy Days: Assumption	n/a	5.00		632.00
Budget deficit donations		325.00		2,802.00



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