

Knights of Columbus

ST. ELIZABETH COUNCIL NO. 8747

Milpitas, California

<http://www.kofc8747.org/>

DIVISION III



JANUARY 2026

GRAND KNIGHT

CHAPLAIN

KHAI T. PHAN

AUXILIARY BISHOP ANDRES C. LIGOT

C 1-408-205-3612

1-408-722-7097

IMPORTANT CALENDAR EVENTS
SEE THE ENCLOSED CALENDAR - POST IT AND SHARE IT!

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Dear Brother Knights,

As we begin this New Year of 2026, I extend to each of you my warmest greetings and heartfelt prayers. I hope that your Christmas celebration was truly joyful, filled with peace, meaningful time with family and loved ones, and moments of rest that refreshed your body, mind, and spirit.



The Christmas season often moves quickly, and yet it offers us something precious: a sacred pause to remember what truly matters. I pray that during these days you were able to step back from the busyness of daily life and rediscover the gift of God's presence in your home and in your hearts.

As we now return to our regular routines, the Church invites us to begin the New Year with two beautiful celebrations: the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. These two feasts provide a powerful spiritual framework for how we, as Knights of Columbus, are called to live our faith in the coming year.

The Epiphany reminds us that Christ is revealed not only to a chosen few, but to all nations. The Magi, guided by a star, represent every person who sincerely seeks the truth. They came from afar, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, symbols of kingship, divinity, and sacrifice.

Yet the greatest gift they offered was not what they carried in their hands, but the humility of their hearts and their willingness to follow God's call, even when the journey was long and uncertain.

As Knights of Columbus, the Epiphany challenges us to ask: How do we make Christ visible to others? Our vocation as Catholic men is to be witnesses—at home, in our parishes, in our workplaces, and in our communities.

Through acts of charity, unity, fraternity, and service, we allow others to encounter Christ through us. Like the Magi, we are called not to remain still, but to move outward, bringing Christ's light to places that may be darkened by division, discouragement, or need.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord deepens this call. When Jesus enters the waters of the Jordan, He sanctifies all creation and reveals His mission as the beloved Son sent to serve and save. In our own baptism, we were claimed as sons of God and commissioned to live as disciples.

Our membership in the Knights of Columbus is not separate from that baptismal call; it flows directly from it. Everything we do as Knights is meant to be an extension of our baptismal promise: to reject sin, to live the Gospel, and to build God's Kingdom here and now.

As we begin this new year, I encourage each of you to renew your sense of mission. Ask yourselves: How can I be a better husband, father, brother, and servant? How can I support my parish more generously? How can I bring Christ's compassion to those who are struggling, lonely, or forgotten? Small acts of faithfulness, done consistently and with love, can transform families, parishes, and communities.

Brothers, thank you for your generosity, your service, and your witness. Thank you for standing faithfully with the Church and for being men of integrity and prayer. Please know of my continued prayers for you and your

families. May this New Year be filled with health, peace, renewed faith, and a deeper joy in serving Christ and His Church.

May the Lord bless you abundantly in 2026, and may the light of Christ guide you always.

Fraternally yours,

Andres C. Ligot, JCD, DD
 Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of San Jose
 Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Parish, Milpitas
 Chaplain, St. Elizabeth Council 8747

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Worthy Brother Knights,

I pray that all of you brothers and your families



received and continue to receive peace and abundant blessings during this Christmas season. Don't forget that this liturgical season does not end on December 25th, but continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Sunday after the Epiphany (January 11th).

Additionally, our Catholic Church dedicates the month of January to "The Most Holy Name of Jesus." This is the veneration of the name "Jesus" – considered sacred and powerful in Catholicism and other denominations of Christianity. We celebrate his Holy Name with devotions like the Litany of the Holy Name. During modern times, the feast day dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus generally falls on January 3rd every year.

Other denominations of Christianity celebrate this feast of the Name of Jesus as part of the feast of the Circumcision of Christ on January 1st. However, the Catholic Church celebrates January 1st as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (a holy day of obligation this year).

Jesus died and rose for the sake of all people. No one can trademark or copyright Jesus's name. Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Mary. Everything that exists was created in and through the Son of God. (See Colossians 1:15-20.) Jesus teaches us to pray to the Father, and He prayed to the Father throughout His time on Earth. (John 16:23, John 17:1-26.) Some simple ways we can incorporate the devotion to His Most Holy Name into our pray life include bowing our heads when the Name of Jesus is spoken during Mass or while reading scripture and offering a silent prayer when we hear the Lord's Name used in vain.

Grand Knight's Report

1. We had a large gathering to celebrate the Christmas holiday season. Thanks to all who came out. I continue to invite and hope more of you to join us next time for food and fellowship.

2. Thanks to all who donated to our food drive and especially to Brother Bill Henzel and his team for sorting food and delivering it to our neighbors in need. These simple acts are a powerful way to practice God's love in our communities.

Finally, pray, pray, pray. Let us remember this as we head into the new year that when God answers your prayers, He is increasing your faith. When God delays his answer, He is increasing your patience. When God does not seem to answer, He has something better intended

for you.
Fraternally,
Khai Phan,
Grand Knight,
St, Elizabeth Council 8747

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Soul of Brother William Poehlman
The Soul of June Lumas Wife of Al Lumas
The Soul of Adalyn Indihar Wife of Deceased Lud Indihar
The Soul of Msgr. Joseph Okorie
The Soul of Brother Jerry Valdezino
The Soul of Brother Richard Jones
Brother Vinh Nguyen
Brother David Ojeda
Brother Melchor Baclig
Brother Skip Yenchik
Brother Timothy Crews
Brother Bill Paulsen
Rev. Paul Weisbeck
Brother Greg Dessel
Brother Ernesto Bautista
And all those listed in the Church Bulletin Prayer List.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Brother Knights,

First, I would like to take a moment and wish each one of our Brother Knights and family members a Blessed & HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2026. I am praying that our Brother Jesus Christ will look favorable upon us during this New Year and help us to overcome the tribulations we were dealt last year. Please join the Council in our prayers for a very prosperous 2026 New Year for the whole world.



I would also like to remind everyone that we are still celebrating the Church's Christmas Season. The liturgical season of Christmas began with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; January 11 this year. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him ... including the fact that he was born to die for us.

Our four Faith In Action Program Directors are: (1) FAITH Director - Brother Khai Phan, (2) FAMILY Director - Brother Guillermo Uribe, (3) COMMUNITY Director - Brother Greg Dessel, and (4) LIFE Director Brother Vinh Nguyen - Each of these Brothers submit the latest information in their area of expertise which can be found in the current bulletin. All Programs that our council participates in are positioned in one of these categories for reporting purposes to Supreme. If you have any suggestions for an event or have an interest in supporting any of our current Programs please

Building the Domestic Church Theme for January is - Family Prayer

The Christian family needs to put first things first by cultivating a relationship with God together through prayer. Prayer is essential for families to develop Christian joy, faith, hope and love.

Scripture Reading— Psalm 65:6-14

A prayer of gratitude for God's blessings.

You answer us with awesome deeds of justice, O God our savior,

The hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off across the sea.

You are robed in power, you set up the mountains by your might.

You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Distant peoples stand in awe of your marvels; the places of morning and evening you make resound with joy.

You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile.

God's stream is filled with water; you supply their grain.

Thus do you prepare it: you drench its plowed furrows, and level its ridges.

With showers you keep it soft, blessing its young sprouts.

You adorn the year with your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain.

The meadows of the wilderness also drip; the hills are robed with joy.

The pastures are clothed with flocks, the valleys blanketed with grain; they cheer and sing for joy.

Following is a summary of the council events for the month of **December, 2025:**

December 1 our council held the Officers/Programs meeting at 7:00 pm followed by the Business Meeting at 7:30 pm in the St. Elizabeth room.

December 8 our St. Joseph Assembly 2246 members attended their monthly Officers meeting in the St. Elizabeth Room & online at 7:00 pm with the Business meeting following immediately afterward. December 15 the annual St Elizabeth Council 8747 and St Joseph Assembly 2246 combined Christmas Party was held in the St Elizabeth / St Christopher rooms. Brother Andy Dyson provided his mini Knight Sounds Christmas and all had a great time.

December 20 our Brothers conducted the Christmas holiday Food drive sorting, packaging & distribution in the St Christopher room.

Following is a description of the council events scheduled for the month of **January 2026:**

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Thursday January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see church bulletin for mass times.

January 5 our council will hold the Officers/Programs meeting at 7:00 pm followed by the Business Meeting at 7:30 pm in the St. Elizabeth room. All our council Brothers are invited to attend and give us your input for our programs.

January 12 our St. Joseph Assembly 2246 members will attend their monthly Officers meeting in the St. Elizabeth Room & online at 7:00 pm with the Business meeting following immediately afterward.

January 22 the San Jose Diocese Knight of Columbus Chapter in conjunction with Fr. Joseph Geary Council 3523 and St Sebastian Council 4926 are hosting a Pro-life Mass of Reparation to honor the lost lives due to abortion. The Mass is Thursday January 22, 2026, 6:30 pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mountain View, CA.

January 24 Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 22nd Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 24, 2026. There will be Mass at 9:30AM celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary's Cathedral. The rally begins at 12:30PM in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30 PM.

Last year's Walk drew 50,000+ people.

January 25 REVS vs SEMS Basketball challenge on Sunday Jan 25, Santa Clara University, Leavey Center. Doors open at 5:00pm with free parking. Tickets \$ 10, children under 9 years of age - Free.

If you would like to share with me your ideas for the council or committees, have comments, suggestions, complaints or perhaps just need to talk, I can be reached by email at cnhudson@sbcglobal.net or on my Cell: (408) 881-3444.

Fraternally,
Charles Hudson,
Program Director,
St. Elizabeth Council #8747

CULTURE OF LIFE NEWS

The Blessing of Reconciling a Past Abortion Later in Life By Kevin & Theresa Burke – Lifestyle, Health & Family



As we age, there is a keener awareness of the passage of time. Amidst the joys and blessings of life, we face the challenges of diminished physical capacity and illness, and the grief of losing family and friends. This can spark an examination of one's life, and contemplation on the deeper issues of faith, death, and final judgment.

The U.S. abortion ratio reached its peak in 1984, with 364 abortions for every 1,000 live births. This generation with the highest abortion rates in our nation's history are entering their golden years. This provides an opportunity for the Church to share a message of reconciliation, hope, and healing.

Eileen Kuhlmann has been a leader for many years in an abortion healing ministry in the Dallas archdiocese. Eileen shared the story of Joanne: "An 87-year-old woman reached out to me with a desire to heal of a past abortion. She simply said, 'It is time.'"

Eileen told her about their Rachel's Vineyard abortion healing retreats, and Joanne agreed to attend. Eileen arranged to have a driver pick her up and bring her to the retreat center. Joanne brought her elderly friend Jane with her, who also wanted to heal from a past abortion.

Both woman shared stories that featured abandonment, abuse, pressure to abort, and violence. Eileen recounts the blessings of that weekend:

"It was time. They felt safe enough, loved enough, to be vulnerable. They were ready to surrender their hearts and souls to the Lord, allowing Him to reconcile and heal their deepest wounds. They had carried it long enough."

Each retreat participant received a prayer shawl at the beginning of the weekend, prayerfully knitted with love by volunteers. During the retreat, Eileen witnessed Joanne and Jane wrapping the younger retreatants into their shawl and consoling them with a hug, as only a grandmother can do.

Eileen adds, "Joanne and Jane walked out the door with a glow about them that cannot be described, and the most beautiful smiles. Two elders completely at peace who left a permanent footprint of grace and love on our hearts."

AN ARMY VETERAN AND NURSE SHARES THE LOVE OF CHRIST

For some older adults, their abortion took place be-

fore the national legalization of abortion in 1973.

Jody Duffy is an army veteran, registered nurse, and Rachel's Vineyard leader with the PATH program in the Atlanta area. Jody shared her experience with an 83-year-old woman from her parish, Kathryn.

When in her 20s, Kathryn had three children and discovered she was pregnant. Her husband told her they couldn't afford another baby. At that time, abortion was not a legal option. Kathryn was a nurse and knew how to self-abort. Sadly, she had helped one of her nurse friends do the same.

Jody shares, "She buried those abortions so deep that it wasn't until she came across a priest on EWTN talking about the importance of confessing abortion, that it surfaced."

Jody learned that Kathryn never had an opportunity to confess her involvement in those two abortions.

Fortunately, a priest who had served on the local Rachel's Vineyard team with Jody was available to hear Kathryn's confession. Drawing upon his experience in Rachel's Vineyard, the priest ministered to Kathryn with great understanding and sensitivity, sharing the mercy and forgiveness of Christ and His Church.

Jody met Kathryn for coffee a few more times before the holidays. Then, after the New Year, she had a massive stroke; "I visited her in the ICU. I laid my head on her chest and cried. She smiled at me, whispering, 'you are my angel.'"

Kathryn survived that stroke. Jody continued to visit her often while she was in rehab. Kathryn passed away 4 years later. She did not take that secret nor the fear and anguish of unforgiveness to her grave, praise be to God.

HOSPICE AND ABORTION HEALING

Jody worked as a hospice nurse in two different facilities. Jody shares from her experience:

"I had the opportunity to speak with the team Chaplains about the pain of abortion and the fact that many women and men carry that pain to their graves—denied the reconciliation, healing, and peace that is available.

"Reconciliation and healing of a past abortion loss, and often multiple abortions, can facilitate a more peaceful, and blessed, end-of-life experience."

Those working as professionals, serving as caregivers, and in pastoral ministry, would be blessed by an increased awareness about abortion suffering, and the emotional and spiritual healing programs in their community.

One of the best ways to gain an in-depth knowledge of how abortion impacts women and men, and how to safely reconcile and heal those wounds, is to attend a program like Rachel's Vineyard. This will equip you with the confidence and sensitivity to reach out effectively to those you serve.

In her Diary of a Soul, the saint of Divine Mercy, Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, shares of her intimate mystical encounters with the Lord Jesus, and the power of His mercy. This is a message of hope to those who, later in life, are called to reconcile and heal of a past abortion loss. In Diary of a Soul, Jesus shares

"All grace flows from mercy...even if a person's sins were dark as night. God's mercy is stronger than our misery. I am love and mercy itself."

Happy New Year
Stay Safe and Take Care
Fraternally,
Vinh T. Nguyen,
Life Director and Culture of Life Chairman

FRATERNAL INSURANCE AGENT'S CORNER

Brothers,

Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026!



Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you?

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined

by the Board of Directors. **1**

These dividends can be used in various ways, including to:

- Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium. **2**
- Reduce an existing loan.

Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve.

I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please come chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet.

Thank you.

Vivat Jesus!

Luis Manuel Contreras, FIC, CLTC

CA License #4274402

Fraternal Insurance Agent

Office: 510-961-1950

E-mail: luis.contreras@kofc.org

1 Dividends are not guaranteed.

2 This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT.

Milpitas Community events:

The Milpitas Chamber will be having Chamber January Business Mixer, **Thursday, January 8, 5PM-7PM. at KEYS law Group, 500 E Calaveras Blvd #333, Milpitas, CA 95035.** \$20 for non-members, Free for Chamber members. Contact and register at the Chamber office at 408-262-2613 or check with <http://www.milpitaschamber.com> for more information.



Greg Dessel;

Community Chairman

MILPITAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Here it is!

Community Meetings

Milpitas City Council:

Usually 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in City Hall except in July. Broadcast on ZOOM, on the Community Channel 15, and webcast on city website:

<http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov>

Milpitas Planning Commission:

Usually 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in City Hall except in July. Broadcast on ZOOM, on the Community Channel 15, and webcast on city website:

<http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov>

MUSD School Board:

Usually 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in MUSD Boardroom. Broadcast on ZOOM, on the Community Channel 15, and on the MUSD website:

<http://www.musd.org>



**FOR
THE MONTH OF
JANUARY 2026 (date),
TO:**

SKIPPER YENCHIK (02)

TOAN PHAM (03)

REV. DANIEL URCIA (06)

GERALD PHILIP (12)

GENE BRICKEY (16)

TAN T PHAN (19)

REV. FRANCISCO MIRAMONTES (29)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 8747
2025-2026 OFFICERS**

OFFICE

MEMBER

Grand Knight-----Khai Phan---408-205-3612
Chaplain-----Rev. Andy Ligot---408-262-8100
Deputy Grand Knight-----Joel Paulsen--510-205-1728
Chancellor-----Bill Henzel--408-835-6811
Lecturer-----Skipper Yenchik, Sr--946-5958
Advocate-----Allen Shroyer--408-515-7600
Recorder-----Cesar Simon--408-772-4724
Financial Secretary-----Andy Dyson--408-263-5156
Treasurer-----Charlie Hudson--408-941-0433
Warden-----Rocky Navarro--408-263-2491
Inside Guard-----Vinh Nguyen--408-946-2217
Outside Guard-----John Golos--408-204-1409
Three Year Trustee-----Manuel Mallabo, III--729-9292
Two Year Trustee-----Gwan Ali-Santosa--263-4638
One Year Trustee-----Guillermo Uribe--408-332-7556

PROGRAM'S MEMBERS

PROGRAM

MEMBER

Director-----Charlie Hudson
Public Relations Chairman-----Andy Dyson
Faith Director-----Khai Phan
Vocations Chairman-----Khai Phan
Community Director-----Greg Dessel--408-314-0408
Life Director-----Vinh Nguyen
Health Services-----Michael Castignani
Family Director-----Guillermo Uribe
Youth Director-----Bill Henzel
Membership Director-----Khai Phan
Recruitment Chairman-----Khai Phan
Retention Chairman-----Joel Paulsen
Insurance Promotion-----Andy Dyson
Admissions Chairman-----Andy Dyson
Memorial Committee-----Skipper Yenchik
Council WebMaster-----Gwan Ali-Santosa
Newsletter/Bulletin Editor-----Andy Dyson
PWID Chairman -----Gwan Ali-Santosa
St. Elizabeth Knight Sounds DJ-----Andy Dyson

**ADVOCATE'S COLLECTION UPDATE
LAST MONTH'S MEETING
\$80 COLLECTED
FOR AMERICAN WHEELCHAIR MISSION
THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE FOR
COLUMBIAN CHARITIES**

JANUARY 2026
St. Elizabeth Council #8747

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																		
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FEBRUARY 2026
St. Elizabeth Council #8747

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:00 PM Officers/ Programs 7:30 PM Members Business Meeting <i>Groundhog Day</i> Presentation of the Lord	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7:00 PM Assembly Offices 7:30 PM Business Meeting	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Recruitment Drive After All Masses <i>Valentine's Day</i>
<i>15</i> Recruitment Drive After All Masses	<i>16</i> <i>President's Day</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Begin Easter Food Collection

Jan 2026						
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Mar 2026						
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29	30	31				

KNIGHTS OF THE MONTH
COLUMBIAN YEAR 2025-2026

JULY

Greg Dessel

SEPTEMBER

Joseph T. Huynh

NOVEMBER

Greg Dessel

JANUARY

TBD

MARCH

TBD

MAY

TBD

AUGUST

Joseph T. Huynh

OCTOBER

Greg Dessel

DECEMBER

Paolo Sioco

FEBRUARY

TBD

APRIL

TBD

JUNE

TBD

FAMILY OF THE MONTH
COLUMBIAN YEAR 2025-2026

JULY

BILL & ANNIE HENZEL FAMILY

AUGUST

HAI V. & HOÀN LE VU FAMILY

SEPTEMBER

PAOLO & MONA SIOCO FAMILY

OCTOBER

BILL & ANNIE HENZEL FAMILY

NOVEMBER

AMUDHAN & JASMINE MANIKARAJ
FAMILY

DECEMBER

BILL & ANNIE HENZEL FAMILY

JANUARY

TBD

FEBRUARY

TBD

MARCH

TBD

APRIL

TBD

MAY

TBD

JUNE

TBD

KNIGHT OF THE YEAR 2024-2025

GREG DESSEL

FAMILY OF THE YEAR 2024-2025

BILL & ANNIE HENZEL FAMILY

Knights of Columbus



St. Elizabeth Council No. 8747

Andrew B. Dyson, Jr.

Financial Secretary

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Milpitas, CA 95035-6536

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Sir Knight Manny Managbanag

Did you know:
There are 136 questions to answer when someone dies?

We can help. Start the discussion today!
*Lift the financial burden from your loved ones during the time of grief.
Gather family support as they help you through making difficult decisions.
Ensure all personal records are in order.
Peace of mind knowing that you receive the funeral your life deserves
and protect your family from additional stress.*

**Deans of San Jose
Catholic Cemeteries**

Gate of Heaven Cemetery ~ 22555 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos ~ 650-428-3730
Calvary Cemetery ~ 2650 Madden Avenue, San Jose ~ 408-258-2940
St. John the Baptist Cemetery ~ 651 Old Piedmont Road, Milpitas ~ 650-428-3730
www.ccds.org

**HAWKINS'
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