



ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church
86-13 55th Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373

Parish Mission Statement

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we, the people of Ascension, strive to be united in Christ through worship and prayer, grow in Christ through God's word and the sacraments, and serve Christ in one another by sharing time, talent and treasure.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY

OF Advent

Watch therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health! I hope everybody had a wonderful and grace-filled celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Today begins the Church's liturgical year. Con-trary to what some people think, the liturgical calendar of the Church does not begin with the New Year in January. It begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends with the

Feast of Christ the King in November.

Advent is a season of HOPE and WAITING. This is symbolized by the Advent wreath. The evergreen symbolizes life, hope, and growth. The days have been getting shorter and the shortest day of the year is still over three weeks away. Yet, today, the first Sunday of Advent, a light begins to shine in the darkness, symbolized by the lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath. Advent is a time when we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

There are three stages in the coming of Christ. The first is the mystery of incarnation, God becoming man - an event we commemorate on Christmas Day. Jesus then came as Savior. The second is his presence in us through the Holy Spirit who is especially at work in and through the Church and the sacraments. The last stage is his final coming where He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

In the gospel reading today, Jesus insists on the need to be prepared for his coming. No doubt he is referring here to his public coming at the end of time, and to his private coming for each one of us at the end of our lives. As to when the precise moment is, no one knows, except the Father. Thus Jesus says, "Be watchful! Be alert!"

I am reminded of a story about a bus driver who was given an award. He had been driving for 25 years, and had traveled for more than 900,000 miles. But he had never, not even once, met an accident. When he received the award, he was asked, "Tell us your secret! How come that through those 25 years, through those more than 900,000 miles, you never had an accident. "The answer is simple," he said. "WATCH THE ROAD!"

continue next page

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 7:00 & 9:00AM

Saturday : 9:00 AM

: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

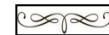
Sunday : 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

1st Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano)

2nd Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog)

4th Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Divine Mercy)



Rev. Anacleto S. Asebias, Jr.
Pastor

Rev. Kyrian C. Echekwu
Parochial Vicar

Sr. Mary Genevieve Ofori-Atta, HDR
Director of Religious Education

Peter Roland
Music Director

Terry Guevara
Parish Secretary

Romulo Quiblat
Parish Council Chair

Maryann Nepomuceno
Parish Finance Chair

Fernando Velazquez
Maria San Pedro
Parish Trustees

Yolanda De Castro
Director of Stewardship

Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Telephone: (718) 335-2626 | Fax: (718) 335-4181

Email: ascensionrcchurch@gmail.com | Website: www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org

SCHOOL: Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy

<https://saintadalbertca.org>

52-17 83rd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

718-424-2376 / Fax: 718-898-7852

What the driver said is similar to the advice and warning of Jesus in today's gospel reading. "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." To make sure we understand what he is telling us, Jesus compares this watchfulness with that of the servants whom their master place in charge of his household, each with his own work, before going on a long journey.

Through the parable Jesus tells us what sort of watchfulness is demanded of us. We are to be engaged in productive activity. We are to live up to his teachings and examples. This means that we should diligently do our tasks and faithfully fulfill our responsibilities now as individuals, parents, teachers, students, breadwinners, etc., as well as work for the growth of God's kingdom in our homes, workplaces and communities.

This is the kind of watchfulness that is asked of us during the season of Advent. Towards this end, we are to use all our gifts, talents and resources. If we do so then when Jesus returns, he will not find us "sleeping." Thus we are ready to welcome him.

In other words, the best way to prepare for the future is to live the present moment as best we can. How we live in the important interval between Jesus' first coming as Savior, which we celebrate at Christmas, and his coming as Judge at the end of time would determine our destiny.

Let me share with you a story about a woman who dreamed that Jesus would visit her the next day. The following morning, she cleaned the house, prepared a sumptuous meal and put on her best clothes. Later, a neighbor came to borrow money since the money her husband sent her from abroad for the family's daily needs has not arrived yet. But she did not entertain her neighbor's plea because she was focused on her expected visitor. Another came asking her to watch her sick child while she went out to buy medicine. She also turned down the request. Meanwhile, Jesus failed to show up at the woman's house.

When Jesus appeared again in her dream that evening, the woman asked why he failed to keep his promise. Jesus told her he did come twice but was turned away each time.

The story shows that the woman failed to carry out in her daily life the teachings and examples of Jesus. In effect, she was found "asleep."

No one knows when Jesus will come again as Judge. This is what makes watchfulness for his return of utmost value. And the kind of watchfulness we engage in will determine whether or not we will be admitted into his Kingdom when he finally returns.

A blessed Advent to all!

Praying for you all,

Fr. Anacleto

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

2nd Saturday of the month @ 11:00 AM, Baptism Class is the last Saturday of the month preceding the baptism @ 9:00 AM, pre-registration is needed, available in English & Spanish instruction. Please call the rectory to schedule, at least one month ahead of desired date. For further information and for the requirements of the godparents, please call the Rectory office.

Confession

Saturday @ 4:00 – 4:40 PM and by appointment

Marriage

Couple should contact the rectory office for information and registration at least 6 months prior to the date of marriage.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the rectory to arrange for a Priest's visit

CHURCH OFFERING

November 19, 2023

1st Collection - \$5,148.00

2nd Collection - \$2,054.00 (Catholic Campaign for Human Development)

November 26, 2023

1st Collection - \$6,561.00

2nd Collection - \$1,858.00 (Church Maintenance)

Upcoming Collections

December 3rd - Christmas Flower Offering

December 8th - The Immaculate Conception

December 10th - Religious Retirement Fund

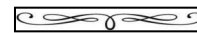
December 17th - My Christmas Gift to My Church

December 24th - Church Maintenance

December 25th - Catholic Charities

Online Giving

If you are interested in donating online, please visit the parish website. Parishioners can schedule their contribution to be made weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.



Religious Education

Faith Formation Classes are held Sundays from 8:45 AM to 11:00 AM. Classes take place at the Ascension School, 86-37 53rd Avenue, (across the street from the firehouse). The classes run from September through June. Classes are for children in grades 1 through 8th. Proof of baptism is required for children who are being registered for the first time, as well as birth certificate. For further information on registration please call the Rectory Office at 718-335-2626.

Volunteers Needed: If you would be interested in volunteering for the Faith Formation Program, please call the Parish Office at 718-335-2626

or e-mail ascensionfaithformationoffice@gmail.com

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Are you an unbaptized adult but want to be baptized in the Catholic church? Or, are you baptized non-Catholic who desires to be a Catholic? Or, are you baptized Catholic in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults is the place for you.

For further information please call the Rectory office at 718-335-2626.



Saturday, December 2nd

5:00 PM Ana Giraldo

Sunday, December 3rd

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Ascension Parish Rosary Society (L) & (D)

11:30 AM In Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

1:00 PM Altamirano (L) & Perez (L) Family
Jocelyn Altamirano (L), Larry Altamirano (L),
Isaias Altamirano (L), Ximena Zurita (L),
Mauro Xochimitl (L), Alvaro Tlachino (L)

5:00 PM Cebuano Mass

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, December 4th - St. John Damascene, Priest
and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Severiano & Florencia Madlambayan

9:00 AM Joseph Tran (L)

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 5th

7:00 AM Jasmine Paragas

9:00 AM Calabrese Family

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 6th - St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory

9:00 AM Rachel & Val Tavaris

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 7th - St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

7:00 AM Michael Mare

9:00 AM Juliet & Errol Fern

7:00 PM Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, December 8th - The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Ma. Concepcion F. Abelardo (L)

9:00 AM William Boetel

7:00 PM Eufrosina Costales

Saturday, December 9th - St. Juan Diego, Cuauhtlatoczin

9:00 AM Feodor Omega, James McCullagh
Deceased Members of Tan Family
Patrick Gilmartin, Amy Urcia (L),
Evelia Pariñas (L), Jasmine Paragas,
Angelo Manzano, Paulo Lopega,
Gohn Graffeo, Virginia Quinto,
Fernando Velasquez (L)

Please pray for:

Deceased members of our families

Pray for the Sick:

Rosa Tan, Carmen Moredo, Sandra P. Carvajal, Julissa Martinez, Luis Arnulfo,
Elizabeth Yee, Elie Fornilda, Jose Reynel Vigoya, Joel Rivera, Sursatti
Shaw, Gloria Patricia Rios, Harold, Diego y Kennedy Gomez, Elisa
Marquina, Maria Daulo, Jose M. Rosado, Karla Nicole Paredes, Ro-
melia Arenas, Rubiela Arenas, Enrique Soto, Eduardo D. Soto, Teresita
Danseco, Evangeline & Victoria Danseco, Nazarette Serion, Greta Tasayco,
Nerissa Infante, Laura Kreft, Shirley Ann Gundran, Egbert Nuñez, Avelina
Quilung, Dennis Anthony Calimlim, Exelito Valencia, Bonifacio Guiab, Margie
Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Renato Go, Leticia Maranan,
Denise Giglio, Rustico Castellano, Beth Bagnol Enriquez. To add names,
please call the Parish Office.



MEMORIALS

December 3 - December 9



Altar Bread and Wine has been donated
In Loving Memory of
Edwin A. Reillo

Sanctuary Lamp will burn
for
Victims of War in the Middle East



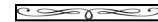
Altar Flowers has been donated
In Loving Memory of
(please contact the Rectory Office to request a flower memorial)

Altar Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Jasmine Paragas



Advent Candles will burn
In Loving Memory of
Joventino and Angeles Maranan
Requested by: Maranan Family

Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office.



**EUCARISTIC REVIVAL 2022-2024
EXPLANATION OF THE MASS**

After a series of short catechesis on the sacrament of the Eucharist, we will now
have a series of short explanation of the different parts of the Mass.

Gloria: The Gloria, a Latin word which means glory, is a Trinitarian hymn that
evokes the sons of the angels on Christmas. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem
and laid in a manger, suddenly there was a multitude of angels, praising God
and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests"(Luke 2:14). The Gloria is sung on Sundays, Solemnities,
Feasts, and special solemn celebrations. The Gloria is not sung during Advent
and Lent in keeping with the penitential character of the season, in order to
burst into song with the Angelic Hymn on Christmas and Easter. The Gloria,
which was composed in the 4th century, was not created originally for the Mass,
but was a thanksgiving hymn for feasts and celebrations. In the 6th century,
Pope Symmachus permitted the use of the Gloria on Sundays and feasts of
martyrs only if the Mass was presided over by a bishop. Pope Gregory the
Great allowed its use even if the celebrant was only a priest. Today, the Gloria
is said at all Masses of a festive character outside of penitential seasons.

Collect: The Opening Prayer is called *Collect* because it summarizes, or col-
lects, all the intentions of the Mass. In the period of silence that follows the
invitation, "Let us pray," all should bow their heads and pray for their inten-
tions; then the priest summarizes or collects all the individual intentions into a
common prayer. This is the first of the three presidential prayers which are
given by the priest; the others are the *Prayer Over the Offerings* and the *Prayer
After Communion*. The Collect should always end with "For ever and ever," to
which the people's response is "Amen."

The Liturgy of the Word: The *Liturgy of the Word* is part of the Mass where
the Scriptures are proclaimed and explained. It comprises the following: **First
Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Alleluia, Gospel, Homily,
Creed, and General Intercessions.** Over the period of three years, the most
(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)



Annual Catholic
Appeal 2023
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

**United in Communion,
United in Charity**

Summary Report as of November 27, 2023

Goal: \$51,617
Pledged: \$46,096.06
Received: \$40,909.02

To donate on-line: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/> Checks can be made out directly to:

Annual Catholic Appeal
Diocese of Brooklyn P.O. Box 310
Kensington, CT 06037-0310

Remember, that no gift is too small. Thank you.

Spanish Corner:

El Sacramento del Bautismo

Tenemos Bautismo en español el tercer sábado del mes a las 11:00 AM La clase pre-bautismal será el sábado antes del bautismo a las 9:00 AM Se requiere inscripción previa para la clase y el Bautismo, lo menos con un mes de anticipación. Llamar a la oficina parroquial para más información y para los requisitos de los padrinos.

Clases de Educación Religiosas Para Adultos

La Orden de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (OICA) son clases para adultos necesitados de recibir los sacramentos de Bautismo, Comunión o Confirmación. Las clases de OICA también son para adultos que no son Católicos, pero están interesados en ser Católico.

Para información sobre el programa y atención en español, llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Clases De Educación Religiosa para Niños/Jóvenes

Las clases de Educación Religiosa para los niños/jóvenes del primero a octavo grado toman lugar los domingos de 8:45 AM a 11:00 AM de septiembre a junio. Las clases toman lugar en la Escuela Asunción, 86-37 53rd Avenue, (frente la estación de bomberos). Se requiere prueba de bautismo y acta de nacimiento para todo niño registrado por primer vez. Para más información en español llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Nuestra parroquia necesita catequistas y voluntarios para el programa de educación religiosa. Animamos a los que puedan a compartir su fe Católica, su tiempo y talento. Si le interesa, favor de llamar a la Oficina Parroquial, 718-335-2626.

Campaña Católica Anual Del 2023

Unidos en Comunión Unidos en Caridad

Más que nunca, necesitamos su ayuda para difundir la luz de Cristo en nuestra ciudad y vecindarios contribuyendo a la Campaña Católica Anual del 2023. Su participación lo une en la fe con otros en la iglesia para hacer buenas obras durante tiempos desafiantes con nuevas formas innovadoras:

Haga su donación hoy en Annual Catholic Appeal.org o envíe un texto con las siglas ACA al 917-336-1255. Para donar en línea: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/>

Recuerden que cualquier cantidad será aceptada. Gracias.

Novena de Misas En Honor a la

Virgen de Guadalupe

domingo 3 de diciembre, lunes 4 de diciembre
martes 5 de diciembre, miércoles 6 de diciembre
jueves 7 de diciembre, viernes 8 de diciembre
sábado 9 de diciembre y domingo 10 de diciembre

TODOS LOS DIAS:

6:00 pm Rosario
7:00 pm Santa Misa
8:00 pm Hospitalidad

Lunes 11 de diciembre

7:30 pm Procesion
9:00 pm Rosario
10:00 pm Santa Misa
11:00 pm Serenata

11:30 pm Hospitalidad

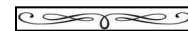
Martes 12 de diciembre

5:00 pm Rosario
6:00 pm Santa Misa
7:00 pm Hospitalidad

Para anotar intenciones durante una Misa reservar con anticipación en la oficina parroquial.

PRAYER GROUPS & DEVOTIONS

- Monday:** **Miraculous Medal Novena**
Mondays @ 9:30 AM
- Tuesday:** **Spanish Prayer Group @ 7:00 PM**
- Wednesday:** **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
Novena @ 9:30 AM | Novena Mass
@ 7:00 PM (1st Wednesday)
- Thursday:** **Rosary Making Ministry** - to request supplies and/or pick up rosaries, please email:
marie_panas@msn.com
- Friday:** **Holy Hour / Exposition & Benediction**
1st Friday @ 9:30 AM Mass
Our Lady of Fatima | Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & Black Nazarene
1st Friday – Angelus | Rosary | Novena to Our Lady of Fatima @ 6:00 PM &
Mass @ 7:00 PM
Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group & Choir
3rd Friday 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Saturday:** **2000 Hail Mary**
1st Saturday @ 9:30 AM
Lady of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace
2nd Saturday @ 9:30 AM
El Shaddai
2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Sunday:** **Ascension Parish Rosary Society**
1st Sunday @ 10:00 AM
Religious Education Children's Choir
2nd, 3rd, 4th and if applicable 5th Sunday @ 11:15 AM-12:30 PM
Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group and God the Father of All Mankind Devotion Prayer Group
4th Sunday @ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Lower Church)
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Church)
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Lower Church)
CFC Christian Life Program*
1st, 2nd, 3rd, and if applicable 5th Sunday
@ 2:00 to 5:00 PM (Lower Church)
4th Sunday of the month @ 3:00 to 6 PM (Lower Church)



EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Friday, December 8th, 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Rectory Office will be closed.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: A novena of Masses in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held from Sunday, December 3rd through Sunday, December 10th; 6:00 pm Rosary followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 pm, followed by fellowship in the lower church.

Monday, December 11: Procession at 7:30 pm, Rosary at 9:00 pm, Holy Mass at 10:00 pm, Serenata at 11:00 pm, followed by fellowship in the lower church.

Tuesday, December 12: Rosary at 5:00 pm, Holy Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by fellowship in the lower church. All are invited to partake in the celebrations.

A Christmas Market: St. Gregory's Theatre Group in Bellerose will stage their 2nd annual "A CHRISTMAS MARKET" on December 14th, from 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm in the Oak Room/Church Basement at St. Gregory The Great Church, 242-20 88th Avenue, Bellerose, NY. There will be live musical entertainment for your enjoyment while you shop for gifts from the various vendors in the market place. Refreshments will be available at the Christmas Café. Raffles and prizes, 50/50 and SANTA will pay a visit from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Something for the whole family!

**Eucharistic Revival
(continuation)**

significant passages of the Old Testament and the whole of the new Testament are read. The structure of the Liturgy of the Word is patterned after the liturgical service of the Jewish Synagogue, which comprised: the *Shema*, or Jewish Profession of Faith (Deuteronomy 6:4); the First Reading from the Law of Moses or *Torah* (the first five books of the Bible); the Second Reading from the Prophets or *Nebiim*; the Homily, and the Prayer of the Assembly. Jesus faithfully attended the Saturday services of the Synagogue, and sometimes gave the homily, as he did in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-22). Similarly, the early Christians attended the Liturgy of the Word in the synagogue, and celebrated the Liturgy of the Eucharist in their own houses (Acts 2:42-46). After the Christians were excommunicated by the Jews in 70 AD, they could no longer attend the services in the synagogue. So they took the Jewish Liturgy of the Word with them, added the New Testament Readings and the Gospel, replaced the *Shema* with the Creed, and combined it with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Thus the Mass as we know today was born.

Saint's Corner:

St. Nicholas
December 6

St. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Lycia (present-day Turkey) and lived during the 4th century. He is one of the most popular saints, after the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorated in the Eastern and Western Churches. Nicholas was a man of deep concern for his people in every area of their lives. He came from a wealthy family and used his inheritance to help people in need. The stories of his wonderful generosity are what made him so dear to millions of Christians.

Perhaps the best known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced to prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular story evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of tongue, Santa Claus - further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

Few Christians know that the jolly Christmas figure of Santa Claus is really a transformed version of a bishop of the 4th century. They just know - especially the children - that this man loves children and is an image of inexhaustible generosity. And that is enough to endear him to millions everywhere on earth across time and space. Santa Claus is the embodiment of goodness, of kindness, of generous love. And we need such symbolic figures. Whether or not the historical St. Nicholas was anything similar to Santa Claus is of little interest to most people. What is of utmost importance is that the stories of generous love surrounding St. Nicholas are a lesson for us to look deeper at our approach to material things and our concern for those in need.

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?
WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP:**

New parishioners are to register in the Parish. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes in address or phone number.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

I wish to receive a registration form

I have an address change

I am moving out of the Parish

Please cut out and return to Parish office or drop in the collection basket. Thank you.



Sunday Gospel Activities

First Sunday of Advent, Mark 13:33-37

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

ALERT	MIDNIGHT	WATCH
COCKCROW	MORNING	WATCHFUL
DISCIPLES	ORDERS	WORK
EVENING	SERVANTS	
GATEKEEPER	SLEEPING	
HOME		
HOUSE	SUDDENLY	
JESUS	TIME	
LORD	TRAVELING	

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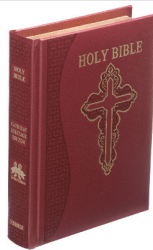
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