



December 29, 2024 THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

through family anxiety?

MUSINGS + MESSAGES

L Msgr. John Kasza, Moderator 🖪 frjohn@stol.church

In the middle of the Christmas season, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This year the Gospel reading describes a scene familiar to many parents: a preteen Jesus goes off by himself and causes his parents to worry. Then when they find him, Jesus sort of talks back, but then is obedient

How can

and returns home to Nazareth. How many parents have had issues with their pre-teen/teenager?

This feast is a reminder that all families, even the Holy Family, can have difficulties at times. But those are opportunities for growth and development. The key is dialogue and understanding. The TV show "Young Sheldon" illustrates some of what I'm getting at. Young Sheldon, a genius, says and does things that exasperate his parents and family. Yet, they still love him. They don't always understand him and occasionally, Sheldon needs to be put in his place. While he doesn't continued on page 7

Connecting Point

💄 Matt Kush - Director of Engagement 🛛 🖪 matt@stisidore.church

How can I trust God through family anxiety?

Family life is full of love and joy, but it can also bring its share of stress. In this Sunday's Gospel, we get a glimpse into a very human moment for the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph lose track of 12-year-old Jesus for three days—imagine their panic! When they finally find Him in the temple, Mary says what any parent might: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

We've all had moments like this in our families. Maybe it's the uncertainty of our kids' decisions, the challenges of caring for an aging parent, or just navigating the ups and downs of life together. Like Mary and Joseph, we can find ourselves asking, "Why is this happening? What should I do?"

This Gospel reminds us that even in the middle of anxiety and confusion, we're not alone. Mary and Joseph didn't understand why Jesus stayed behind, but they trusted that God had a plan for Him. They remind us that we don't need all the answers to stay close to God.

Trusting God through family stress doesn't mean our worries magically disappear. It means handing those worries to Him and trusting that He's walking with us. When we feel overwhelmed, we can ask for God's guidance, lean on prayer, and remember that He's with us, even when life feels uncertain.

So, how can we trust God through family anxiety this week? Maybe it's by taking a deep breath and asking God to give us peace. Maybe it's by letting go of the things we can't control. Or maybe it's as simple as remembering that God loves our family even more than we do.



CALENDAR **DECEMBER 29 - JANUARY 5**



8 AM MASS 9:45 AM MASS 11:45 AM **MASS**



12 PM FUNERAL -KRAJENKE 2 PM ROSARY



7 AM AA MEETING 8:30 AM **MASS** 4:30 PM **MASS** 7 PM F.E.A.S.T. NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT



OF GOD

9:45 AM **MASS**

R

7 AM AA MEETING 8:30 AM **MASS** 9 AM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 9:30 AM RAMBLING ROSES 12:30 PM 'WELLNESS STRATEGIES AS WE AGE' **3 PM CONFESSIONS**



8:30 AM MASS 9:30 AM STRETCH & STRENGTH

FR



4:30 PM MASS

SAT



SUN

8 AM MASS 9:45 AM MASS / CHILDREN'S CHURCH / LITTLE LAMBS

11:45 AM MASS / CHILDREN'S CHURCH / LITTLE LAMBS

1 PM BAPTISM **3 PM EPIPHANY CONCERT**

EVENTS



TUE | DEC 31 | 6:30 PM NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Come join us as we ring in the New Year with heavy appetizers, drinks, and music by the Sylvester Cats! Doors will open at 6:30 PM, and the party will go until 1 AM. Bring your friends and/or family. The cost is \$80 per person or \$150 for two **tickets**, which are only available through the St. Therese Parish office. Get yours today! This is a 21+ event.



THU | JAN 2 | 12:30 - 1:30 PM WELLNESS STRATEGIES LECTURE

After Rambling Roses, boardcertified nurse practitioner Nicolette Kowal will present a lecture on "Wellness Strategies as We Age," including topics such as heart disease, fatigue, and skeletal and muscle health. Please join us for a light lunch and a great presentation! **Please RSVP to the parish office** at 586-254-4433 or Marilyn Cito, parish nurse, at 586-254-4433 Ext. #320 or Marilync@stol.church.



SUN | JAN 5 | 3 PM EPIPHANY CONCERT

Come join the St. Therese of Lisieux Music Ministry as they wrap up the Christmas season with praise and song. Free-will offerings are greatly appreciated.



FRI - SUN | JAN 10 - 12 | FARMINGTON HILLS RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Presents under the tree are wonderful, but can they heal a hurting marriage? Transforming your marriage is a "gift that keeps on giving." With the help of Retrouvaille, it can be done! Retrouvaille is a Christian peer ministry specifically designed to help heal troubled marriages, and it could very well be the best Christmas gift you ever give! For confidential information and registration, call 800-470-2230 or visit HelpOurMarriage.org. Please pass this information on to anyone who you suspect might be struggling with marriage.



SAT | JAN 11 | 5:30 PM

MOVIE NIGHT - APPARITION HILL

In *Apparition Hill*, seven strangers journey to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the Virgin Mary is said to appear each month, to investigate reports of miracles and search for answers to life's big questions. This is a documentarystyle movie, and it is fascinating to watch the thoroughly human ways in which these strangers bond and become a family. *Apparition Hill* opens our hearts and minds to the awe and wonder that can come alive in sacred places like Medjugorje.



WED | JAN 15 | 6 PM COLUMBIETTE MEETING

Next meeting is Jan 15. Importance of joining the Columbiettes, establishing the 1st Macomb County Columbiettes Auxiliar with a consistent number of women joining (20-25) to set an installation date. Meetings will rotate between Parish of Families, choose a permanent regular meeting day, & time. This meeting is open to all ladies 18 and over, who are looking for an active way to be part of the church's laity. Looking forward to meeting new ladies in the parish of families and getting this Auxiliar started. If you have any questions, please call me at (810) 343-8011 God Bless, Grace Van Hamme



SUN | JAN 19 | 2 PM LISTEN, PRAY, AND LEARN

The Advent season prepares us to greet the Christ Child with hope in our souls. At His birth we celebrate this New Life with our families, our friends, and our fellow parishioners. Join us for an afternoon of reflection and community as we . . .

- Listen Sue Nellis, Director of Compassion Pregnancy.
- **Pray** that we hear the Spirit speak to us in community.
- Learn how we can support the many programs available to women in need as we walk the journey with them.

Rambling Roses Christmas Party

In early December the Rambling Roses had their annual Christmas party and fun was had by all. Our group meets the first Thursday of the month at St. Therese of Lisieux and is always looking for new members. If you would like to join our senior group call or stop in the parish office.



MUSINGS + MESSAGES (cont'd)

like it, he is obedient to his parents and grandmother. Even when he is an adult (in the show "The Big Bang Theory"), he is still obedient to his mother even if he rolls his eyes at what she says.

In our own family units, do we love and respect one another to allow for differences of opinion? Are we willing to forgive transgressions? Do we become hard-nosed in our discipline? Today's feast challenges us to examine how we live as a family. Are we growing closer to God by our interactions or are we tearing one another down? Invite the Holy Family to intercede for your family so you too may grow holier each and every day.

Let There Be Peace On Earth

² Evangelization Committee

You've all heard the song, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." What a wonderful thought and beautiful way to start off 2025!

As it turns out, "Bringing happiness to others, increases your chances of being happy, while seeking happiness for yourself, decreases those chances." This is an important message from the book, *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity.* Who knew? Let's get busy! Here a few simple examples of things you can do to make others smile:

- Tell someone how much you appreciate something they did
- Tell someone that you love
 them
- Smile at a stranger, or 2 or 10!
- Give someone a hug
- Offer to pray with someone
- Give someone a compliment
- Let someone get in front of you as you wait in line at a store
- Hide an anonymous "Happy Note" for someone to find
- Pay for a stranger's coffee
- Feed the birds; it will make others stop at the window and admire God's creations



 Bring a homemade treat to your neighbor

Have a family discussion about what else you can add to the list.

Let's all enjoy bringing Peace on Earth!

Pope Francis reminds us that "The primary mission of the Church is to evangelize."

The 2024 St. Therese Health Ministry

▲ Marilyn Cito ◀ marilyn@stol.church The Christmas season always causes me to pause and reflect on the year past and the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Although there are so many terrible things going on in the world with wars, unrest, unhappiness, and anxiety, we are still blessed in so many ways.

Although the Christmas holidays are usually a time for fun-filled family and friend get-togethers, celebrations, and wonderful religious events, it is important to remember it might also be a time of sadness and loneliness. Hosting Grief Support Groups at St. Therese has taught me there are no "time limits" for those who have suffered a loss, even though others may think sufficient time has passed. We must respect grief as an individual journey for each person and recognize the holidays may be a difficult time for them.

It is important to keep our parishioners, community, and world in our prayers and offer support to those who may be suffering either physically or mentally. It is our responsibility to help those in need, be compassionate and understanding, and kind. The St. Therese of Lisieux Health Ministry is here to help you. Please reach out to a Health Ministry Member or Parish Office if you are in need of help or support.

St. Therese of Lisieux Health Ministry has been busy with our "usual" activities, but we have added some new and exciting programs! As we customarily do at the end of the year, I would like to share some of this year's highlights of our wonderful St. Therese Health Ministry:

- Our Medical Lending Closet provides durable medical equipment like wheelchairs, shower chairs, and commodes, protein supplements and briefs at no cost to our community. We served over 200 people.
- Provided 16 educational programs during the year.
 Over 516 people attended these programs with topics like Anxiety and Depression,
 Diabetes, Arthritis and Hand
 Pain, Cancer Screening and
 Prevention, Back Pain and
 Treatments, Medication Safety,
 Eye Conditions, AARP Driver
 Safety Programs, Elder Law and
 Estate Planning.
- Held four First Aid, AED, Medical Emergency Training classes for 105 K of C and Usher members.
- Hosted two Flu Vaccine events with 63 people attending.
- The Grief Ministry, facilitated by Marilyn Kylmala, sends sympathy and Christmas cards to families of deceased parishioners and hosted a Memorial Mass.
- Heidi Boccomino, our Health Ministry Member and Social Worker, facilitated our "Hope for the Holidays" workshop for 16 people.
- Hosted a LifeLine Screening
 Event with 78 people attending.
- Hosted three 9-week Grief Support groups (27 sessions) for parishioners and community, Donna Hagg, Paula Breitschuh

and Sr. Mary Andrew helped facilitate these groups with 10-15 people attending each session.

- Sue Verelllen and Donna Ludwig facilitate three Widow/Widower/ Men Social groups.
- Sue Verellen and other Health Ministry members have provided over 282 hours of respite care, visits, phone calls and texts to parishioners.
- Hosted five Blood Drives this past year and collected 120 units of blood from these events.
- Meals from The Heart program is ongoing and serves meals to parishioners who are ill, or who have had surgery. Mickey Wilson is in charge of this ministry as well as the Medical Lending Closet.
- Paula Breitschuh and Char Tocco do monthly Blood Pressure Screenings during Rambling Rose meetings.
- Medical educational articles are written by the Health Ministry each week for the bulletin.
- Hosted our First Annual Mother's Day Tea with 104 attending.

This list is not inclusive of the countless hours and activities the St. Therese of Lisieux' s Health Ministry participates in. And, none of this would be possible without the help of our 44 Health Ministry members. Each member donates their talents, time, and energy selflessly for the good of our parish community. Not everyone in the Health Ministry is a healthcare worker, but each person contributes in their own way to make our Health Ministry successful. We continued on page 9

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Rite of Enrollment Updates - First Communion and Confirmation Students

Children preparing to celebrate First Communion or Confirmation in 2025 are invited to attend the Rite of Enrollment on January 12, 2025 during the 9:45 AM Mass. Children should come to Mass with their families and will be called forward for a special blessing and prayer. Check in prior to Mass in the Gathering Space between 9:30 -9:40 AM. Please watch your email for details.

Adult Bible Study Starting Soon!

We are excited to be offering a ten-session study of "Lectio: Salvation New Life in Christ," with video lectures featuring Dr. Michael Barber. In this study, we will discuss the meaning behind the fact that at every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "for us men and for our salvation." Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer. Based on the best-selling book, Salvation: What Every Catholic Should Know, this video study program is inspiring, engaging, and is expected to be a great discussion starter!

Classes will begin the week of January 7 and 9, 2025, and will continue through mid-March.

Sessions will be offered with a choice of Tuesday mornings, from 9:30-11:00 AM, and/or Thursday evenings, from 6:30-8:00 PM. Participants can choose whichever session best fits their schedule, even toggling between day and evening, as needed. Please know, there will be \$20 book fee, due at the first session. Make sure to register by contacting Kim at 586-254-2944, or kimc@stol. church so we can order a book for you!

Virtual Learning Opportunity for Adults

Are you making a New Year's resolution to grow in your faith? If so, signing up for one of our parish bible studies is a great option. We know, however, that timing and committing to a multi-week study can be a struggle. If that's the case for you, please consider one of the free or low-cost options that are offered online from the faculty of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, our local seminary for lay and priestly formation! Available online at equip.shms. edu, these courses are self-paced and repeatable. No homework is expected. You can pause anytime, rewind and repeat. You are in the driver's seat. Currently, there are twenty options available, but more are added on a regular basis. Make sure to check them out!

The 2024 St. Therese Health Ministry (cont'd)

are always looking for new members for our Health Ministry. If you are interested in joining this rewarding ministry, please contact Marilyn Cito. I feel blessed to be able to work with each of our ministry members, Monsignor Kasza, the wonderful St. Therese of Lisieux Administration and staff, ministries, volunteers and parishioners. It is a privilege to be one of your St. Therese of Lisieux parish nurses.

Christmas Poster Contest Winners

Paul Candela, K of C

The K of C Council #11957 and the St. Therese of Lisieux Discipleship Formation staff would like to announce the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. Youth ages 5 through 14 participated in one of four grade groups (1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8) making a 11 x 17" poster that centers on examples of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Judging was based on slogan, artistic merit, and overall impact. All entries were on display at the K of C Buffet Breakfast on December 8.

Winners of each age group will receive a \$25 award from the K of C, and their entry will be entered into the K of C district poster contest. District winners go to the State contest and so on.

The winners are: Grades 1-2: Amelia Hernandez Grades 3-4: Veronica Voss Grades 5-6: Gwenyth Voss Grades 7-8: Sylvia Szatkowski

Thanks to all who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners.

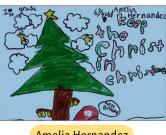












Amelia Hernandez

Ministry Schedule

SAT | JANUARY 4 4:30 PM

Lector 1: Iolanda Agazzi Lector 2: Betty Buzynski Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 5: Dennis Westerlund

SUN | JANUARY 5 8:00 AM

Lector 1: Paul Wilhelm Lector 2: Janis Fick Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 6: Jack Simonetta

SUN | JANUARY 5 9:45 AM

Lector 1: Volunteer Needed Lector 2: Volunteer Needed Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 7: Art Wilson

SUN | JANUARY 5 11:45 AM

Lector 1: James Snodgrass Lector 2: Volunteer Needed Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 8: Dean Corsi

We pray for the sick...

Asterisk denotes newly added name.

Ayotte, Isaiah **Baby Scarlett** Bacheldor, Mary Baldinelli, Marilvn Bauman, Linda Beaugeois, Mary Beaulieu, Michael Beaulieu, Don Beninati, Patricia Binkowski, Madeleine Blacker, Kathi Bliss, Jennifer Bourgeois, Mary Brown, Debbie Brown, Joanne Brown, Rachel C. Patricia Camacci, Barbara Cassidy, Barbara Chilcutt. Patricia Ciavattone, Bruno Corless, Kaye Dan Denton, Eden Derderian, Eloria DeFauw. Paul DeGregory, Joseph DeGroot, Christian DeRemer, Colin Fain, Rose Marie

Finkel, Ryder Fuelling, Ethan Greg Guzzardo, Marv Hervis, Olga Hill. Dan Hill, Sandy Hoos, Nona Hope, Charlie Jachcik, Bradley Jachcik, James Jachcik, Nancy Jachcik, Shirley Kelley, Shirley Knee, Colleen Konczal, Norm Kraemer. Barb Kremer, Paul LaRose, Vincent Lemanski, Kym McBride, Andrea McCarthy, Rick Mackowiak, Elaine Malane, Sharon Maliskey, Barb Maliskey, Larry Markle, Susan Matthews. Sue Matthews, Dave Moreno, Nancy

Mumma, Brad Neddermeyer, John Nehra, Rebecca O'Brien. Shawn Okon, Ann Marie Okon, Mary Anne Oleszkowicz, Bonnie Ousley, Jacob Parent. Julie Pasque, Evelyn Patterson, Dave Patterson, Peggy Pattison, Matt Pazin, Delphine Pazin. Richard Petz, Christine Poma, Teresa Procissi, Carole Przepiora, Donna Marie Ramirez, Tina Ricardo, Tan **Rinehart**, Nicholas Robb, Ken Roland, Debbie Roland, Melanie RoseAnn Saffo, Nazar Samulski, Dolores Schafran, Barb Shock, Maureen

Selesniak, Sharon Sienkowski, Carol Snodgrass, Doris Stanislawski, Kimberly Sterling, Carol Sterling, George Stewart-Reilly, Kim Stow. Monica Suida. Richard Swiftney, Richard Szpotek, Donna Tarpey, Nancy Lee Theisen, Beth Theisen, Jim Theut. Bill Tiedt, Tom Trotto, Patricia VanDerHagen, Barbara VanDerHagen, Rich VanDerHagen Rick Vela, Yolanda Visconti. Dianne Vitale, Carlie Walter, Albert White, Bri White. Dawn Wigginton, Jim Wood, Jr. James Zimmerman, Toni Zoellner, Brent

...and for those serving in the military

Staff Sgt. Thomas Barone, Air Force 2nd Lt., Michaela Biske Army PVT Jonathan Bulter, Marine HM1 Christopher Burley, Navy SGT Andrew Chapoton, Army Michael Chmielewski, Navy Christopher Chryczyk, Navy Lt. Col. John Cisco, Marines Major Anthony D. Corsi, Army Leonard Cox, Army SGT Christian Jose Curtis, Army LCPL Matthew DeLaney, Marine Jerry Delia, Airforce PVT David Dimattia, Army PVT Jacob Earehart, Army Lt. Colonel Suzana Gjekaj – Air Force Lt. Matthew Gordon, Navy LT David Grzywacz, Navy Andrew Hall, Navy PFC Killian Hannon, Army Major Megan K. Hardesty, Army PVT Logan Hoskins, Marines Robert Kaljved, Army LT. COL. Chris Kean, AF SSGT Griffin Kozak, Marines Andrew Larsen, Marines Zoe Lowe, Army MSGT Eric McCulley, AF Captain James Miller, Space Force Nick Radwick, AF Staff Sgt. Drew Reynolds, AF Derek Skorupski, Army CPL. Nathan Taylor, Marine CPT Keith Trojniak, Marines Dante Vanuck, Army SFC Cally Wood, Army Andrew Zalewski, Navy

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Give us peace. Amen

Mass Intentions

SAT. DEC. 28 4:30 PM

- 🕇 Giovanni & Luisa Meschini (Anniv.)
- Alfred Saam
- Eva & Joseph Pinchero, Pat Denton, Joey Pinchero, Joe & Diane Pinchero
- Deceased Members of the Wesley and McCoy Family
- Maria Basirico-Fiorello, Joe Basirico Arthur & Justina Deshaies & Family
- + Joseph & Nina Salomone
- Tom Konczalski
- 🕇 Wanda Thomas
- + Caitlin Tracey

SUN. DEC. 29 8:00 AM

- Judy Brusate
- Living & Deceased Members of the Benenati Families
- **†** Tom Westerlund
- Mary Madeline Ulrich
- **†** Carmen Baffo, Jr.
- Michael Kreucher
- Kenneth Kreucher (29th Anniv.)
- Paula Jean Probstfeld

SUN. DEC. 29 9:45 AM

- Frank Chryczyk
- Robert Chryczyk
 People of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish
- **†** Jerry & Mary Ann Wasik
- **†** Frances Gentile
- † Tom, Ann & Rebecca Szczygielski Catherine Champine
- **†** Sara Bujold (Anniv.)
- † Cinda Maldonado (Anniv.)
- Antoinette Skowronski (5th Anniv.)

SUN. DEC. 29 11:45 AM

- 🕇 Grazia DiMaggio
- **†** John & Ann Rein
- Carolyn Gambino
- Deceased Members of the Recchia Family
- **†** Gaspare Lombardo
- 🕇 Liza Mataj, Ndue Dashi
- Edward Bobola, Jr. (1st Anniv.)
 Kledi Pllumaj
- 🕇 Leonardo Dedivanaj
- Mitchell Kondrat

TUE. DEC. 31 4:30 PM

- For those honored and memorialized in our Rosary Garden
- For those honored and memorialized on our Rose Tree of Remembrance
- For the people of Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish

WED. JAN. 1 4:30 PM

- For those honored and memorialized in our Rosary Garden
- For those honored and memorialized on our Rose Tree of Remembrance
- For the people of Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish

THU. JAN. 2 8:30 AM

- + Ray White (1st Anniv.)
- **†** Gaspare Lombardo
- Don MacLean (Bday) Veronica Stegner
- 🕇 James Blaisdell, Jr.

FRI. JAN. 3 8:30 AM

† Jerry Kennedy

SAT. JAN. 4 4:30 PM

- **†** Joe Basirico, Maria Basirico-Fiorello
- **†** Janet Hartigan
- Alfred Saam
- **†** Tom Konczalski
- William and Julia Silarski
- Ron Tichansky
- Deputy Brad Reckling
- **†** Ed, Evelyn, Larry Dluge
- **†** Jack & Carol Hartigan

SUN. JAN. 5 8:00 AM

Melinda Robinett

SUN. JAN. 5 9:45 AM

- Living & Deceased Members of the Meyer and Hill Families
- Vincent Tocco (4th Anniv.)
- **†** Giuseppi Russo (4th Anniv.)
- † Jeanne Matelic
- Tom Tiedt & Family
- Franks BlowersDennis Jalbert

SUN. DEC. 5 11:45 AM

- Francesco Bologna (1st Anniv.)
- 🕇 Pietra Ventimiglia
- Don MacLean (B-Day)
- I Jospeh Phillips
- Deceased Members of Marra Family
- Giuseppe laconis
- **†** Joe Avissini
- Deceased Members of the Avissini Familiy
- Deceased Members of the Alogni Family

SATURDAY

1 Jn 3:7-10;

Ps 98:1, 7-9;

Jn 1:35-42

SUNDAY

ls 60:1-6;

Mt 2:1-12

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6;

Patricia Esparza

Readings

SUNDAY

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

MONDAY

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

TUESDAY

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

WEDNESDAY

Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

THURSDAY 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4;

Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

FRIDAY

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Get In Touch

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Bulletin Question?

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