

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road

Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: info@olaffld.org

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”
To Jesus through Mary.*

Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

Daniel Ford, Esq., Trustee

Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

*Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)*

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 1:30- 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Every Tuesday: 7-8:00 PM

Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy

Chaplet and Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer

contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at
(203) 817-7528.

Novenas

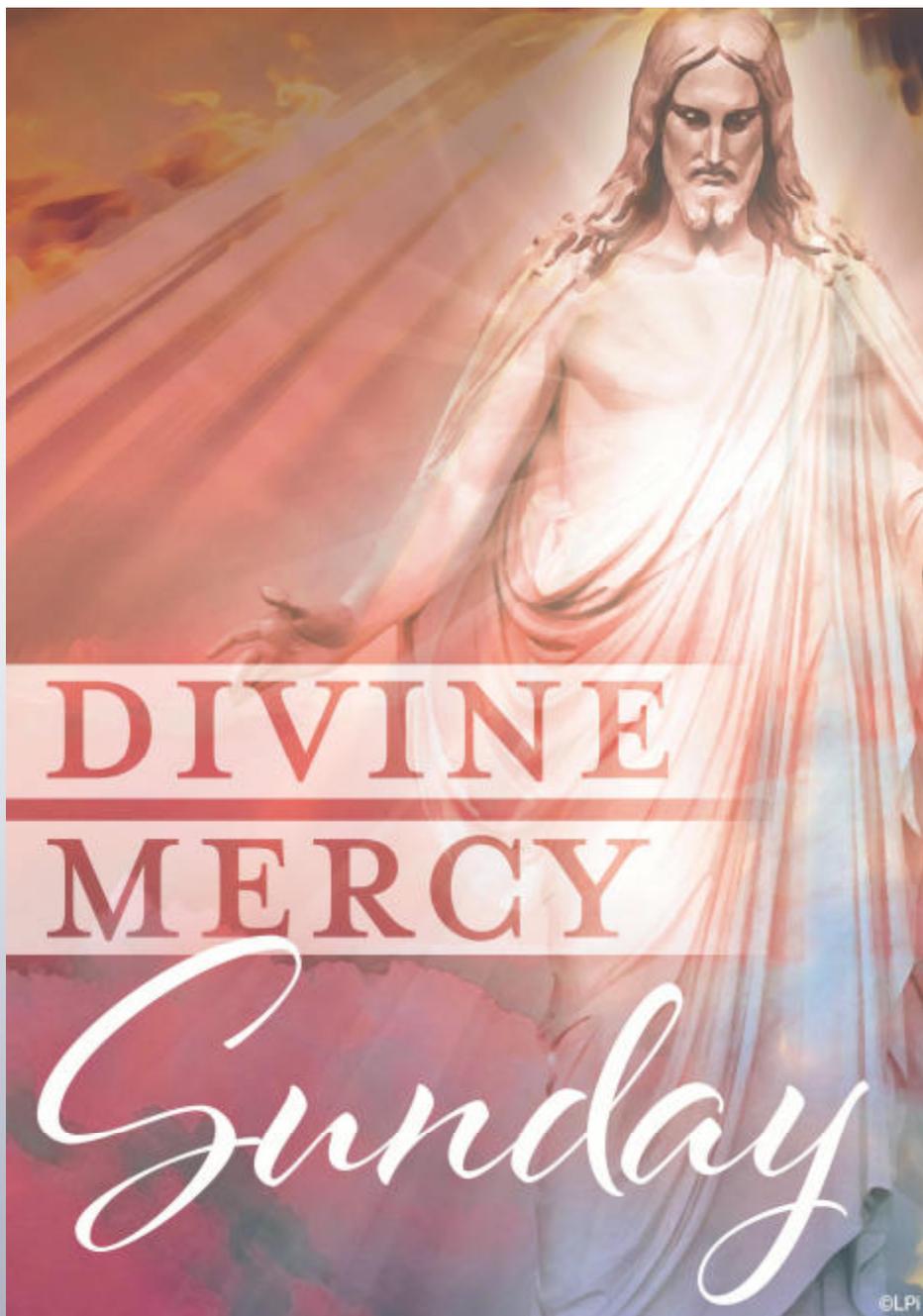
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.



- Nathaniel Hawthorne and Divine Mercy -

Saint Thomas was not present for Jesus' first Resurrection appearance; he was quite adamant that he would not believe Christ was risen from the dead unless he was able to see and touch the wounds mark on Jesus' body.

However, this request may cause one to wonder:

If Jesus is risen from the dead, and if that means His body is restored and glorified, in other words, perfected, then how is it, or why is it that He would maintain those hideous crucifixion marks on His body? Marks that signified the horrific torture that Jesus had to undergo in His Sacred Body in order to save us from the ugliness of sin? As Saint Paul preaches:

"There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the brightness of the heavenly is one kind and that of the earthly another. The brightness of the sun is one kind, the brightness of the moon another, and the brightness of the stars another. For star differs from star in brightness. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful."

That being the case, there must be glory and power associated not only with those wounds of Jesus Christ He sustained and forever maintains in His body, but since He endured His Passion and death for our benefit, then whatever wounds we sustain in our bodies especially by way of disease and/or debilitating terminal illness will be for us similar trophies of glory that will enhance the joy and brightness of our Heaven forever. As Saint Paul says:

"Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, illness, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Still, we would much rather enjoy good health. No one likes to be in pain especially for an extended period of time. We are a culture that is obsessed with looking and feeling good. And we will do anything, especially by way of costly cosmetic surgeries, to maintain a youthful appearance keeping at bay the ravages of time which with every second that passes draws us closer and closer to the inevitable darkness of the grave.

We want strength and when necessary we want total healing, which is what this day of Divine Mercy in particular is all about.

There is no greater remedy for what ails us in heart, mind, soul and body than God's Mercy.

We experience any kind of suffering in this world whether our own or those we see in the disruptions of nature because of sin. Sin is the great cancer that wreaks its havoc upon the world not only spiritually but physically as well.

That we die and our bodies experience corruption and decay is due to the ugly ravages of sin. But rather than allow us to remain in this state of suffering and corruption, God provides for us the ultimate remedy and medicine that not only restores us to health but inserts us into a process of healing and being made stronger and stronger that will go on forever.

And one of the great American Father/Daughter stories that highlights these points of the healing effects of God's mercy both by way of Confession and the sufferings we endure in our bodies, that through faith have incredible redemptive value, is the story of Nathaniel and Rose Hawthorne.

Nathaniel Hawthorne was most certainly Protestant, but his heart beat with a powerful Catholic instinct and sensibility. He opened his heart and mind to the sufferings of the world and did not hide himself from the disagreeable aspects of existence. His daughter Rose had written of him: "He was as earnest as a priest for he cared that the world was full of sin and sorrow."

He understood that beneath this surface grime, there lay in the heart and soul of man a beauty so engaging, so irresistible that it drew Christ forth from the comforts of His eternity into the blood, sweat and toil of our human lives. And it was this compassion for human weakness and Catholicism's tender and merciful response to it that most fascinated Hawthorne.

The attraction would become so intense that for a period of time he lived in Rome. In his journals, he tells of repeated trips to Saint Peter's to watch people going to Confession.

One entry reads: "The more I see of the Catholic Church, the more I wonder at the exuberance with which it responds to the demands of human infirmity." These sentiments find voice in his book entitled the Marble Faun. In one of the more famous chapters in the book, taking place in Saint Peter's, one of the characters, a

non-believer, watches the female protagonist experience Confession:

"In truth, the sculptor had never before seen, nor hardly imagined, such a figure of peaceful beatitude as Hilda now presented. He could scarcely tell whether she was imbued with sunshine, or whether it was a glow of happiness that shone out of her.

At all events, it was a marvelous change from the sad girl, who had entered the confessional bewildered with anguish, to this bright, yet softened image of religious consolation that emerged from it. It was as if one of the throng of angelic people, who might be hovering in the sunny depths of the dome, had alighted on the pavement."

"Your happiness, then?" said the sculptor. "Whence comes it?"

"A great burden has been lifted from my heart—from my conscience...I am a new creature since this morning, Heaven be praised for it! It was a blessed hour—a blessed impulse—that brought me to this beautiful and glorious cathedral. I shall hold it in loving remembrance while I live, as the spot where I found infinite peace after infinite trouble."

"I have a great deal of faith, and Catholicism seems to have a great deal of good. Why should not I be a Catholic, if I find there what I need, and what I cannot find elsewhere? The more I see of this worship, the more I wonder at the exuberance with which it adapts itself to all the demands of human infirmity."

In real life, Rose Hawthorne, who remained ever at her father's side during these Roman excursions into Catholicism, would complete the journey to Rome through her conversion to the Faith in 1891. In 1898 she founded an order of nuns, the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, who still care for cancer victims in New York.

They are among seven homes in the United States operated by her sisters for the sole purpose of caring for people with terminal cancer who cannot pay for their care.

Every year, the Hawthorne Dominican Sisters care for more than 1,000 people.

To this day the sisters do not charge their patients. Nor do they rely on government support. What they rely on is "what the mailman brings us every day," according to Sr. M. Joseph, administrator of St. Rose's Home. "Rose Hawthorne depended on God, and she promised never to charge her patients. We've upheld our part of that promise, and He's upheld His."

What a beautiful and powerful reminder that our handicaps, illnesses and infirmities rather than reducing the quality of our human dignity actually enhance it...since it is in and through the sufferings of Christ on the Cross, the awful wounds He sustained upon His Sacred Body that insures our salvation.

Our suffering offered up and joined in union with our Crucified Lord now Risen from the dead has redemptive value for ourselves and for the whole world. Sufferings are those seeds sown corruptible but raised incorruptible.

Actual seeds we receive in the Holy Eucharist, where Christ is able to penetrate those sufferings with His love and mercy and transform them into the fruits of our everlasting joy and healing.

Hawthorne's struggle with Catholicism, or at least his honest reflection upon it were so many seeds planted in the heart of his daughter Rose whose influence continues to be felt by thousands of terminally ill cancer patients who are filled with the dignity, and redemptive power of suffering who is Jesus Christ.

What a powerful Easter reminder and comfort that God's healing will eventually be total, affecting not only our souls especially by way of Confession but our bodies as well. So that emerging from our tombs of mortality and infirmity, the injuries, hurts, handicaps and illness that we sustained in our bodies will be for us visible trophies of grace similar to the crucifixion wounds of Christ that Saint Thomas was able to touch with his fingers.

Sunday of Divine Mercy April 11, 2021

Temporary Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Closed on Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mr. Steven J Santoli, Principal - (203) 334-6271
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM
Before and After School Programs Available
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

Faith Formation

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM

Parish Finance Council

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

Parish Activities

American Heritage Girls Troop #4862: Monthly (except summer), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com. Currently suspended

Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.
Narcotics Anonymous Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently Suspended

Choir: Adults: Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.
Resurrection Choir: Sings at funeral Masses. Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

Knights of Columbus: Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

Parish Nurses: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

Blood pressure screening: Currently suspended

Sisters in Faith: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, April 10th

4:00 p.m. Donald Casazza

Sunday, April 11th

7:30 a.m. Kevin Kuczo

9:00 a.m. John Kostyszyn

10:30 a.m. Robert Irwin

12:00 p.m. In thanksgiving for Matthew Rouse

Weekday Masses

Mon. 4/12 7:30 a.m. Luisa Maria Vaz & Family
5:30 p.m. Charles Griffen

Tues. 4/13 7:30 a.m. Anthony & Agnes Mach
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of Joseph Pisani

Wed. 4/14 7:30 a.m. Kenneth Van Vlack
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of Brian Gifford

Thurs. 4/15 7:30 a.m. George A. Raiselis
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of Kathy Mastronardi

Fri. 4/16 7:30 a.m. Theresa Castella
5:30 p.m. Anne DeSantis

Sat. 4/17 7:30 a.m. Patrick Falvey

Saturday, April 17th

4:00 p.m. Donald Casazza

Sunday, April 18th

7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Michael Cipriani

9:00 a.m. Organ donors, their families & transplant recipients

10:30 a.m. Joan Ford

12:00 p.m. Arlene Callahan



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week
For deceased priests & deacons of
our parish & diocese*



*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week for
For unity in the United States*

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mary Alberico | Michael Devaney | Sandy MacArthur |
| Josephine Amiot | Larry DiPalma | Eugene Madara |
| Christopher Amiot | Fred Eichhorn | Peter Maioriello |
| Solange Anziano | Diane Fasanella | Noah Martinez |
| Lorraine Artale | Charlie Gordon | Kaitlin McLaughlin |
| Ellie Art | Holly Graham | Leroy Moye |
| Carol Bertanza | Suzanne Hannan | Dave Reynolds |
| Michael Black | Leonard Iwanski, Jr. | Donna Schmidt |
| Diane Breton | Clare Kelleher | Lillian Squilla |
| Eleanor Bruckmann | Christian Kong | School Sisters of ND |
| Letitia Ciccio | Tim Lambert | Elizabeth Thompson |
| Nicholas DeMaio | Robert Lancia | Valle Family |

March 27/28

2021

Weekend Offertory: \$4,674.00

Online Giving \$2,358.00

Thank You

The offertory for Holy Week and Easter will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

Thank you!

DONATE Online

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

Mass Capacity Update

As you may have read, effective March 19th, there is no capacity limitation on Mass attendance. However, the state still requires masks, social distancing, and regular cleaning. Given the requirement of social distance, we **MUST** continue to use every other pew and maintain six feet distance between individuals/household units. We will continue to require on-line registration for our weekend and Holy Day Masses. In addition, we will live-stream our weekend Masses (with the exception of the 7:30 AM Mass) to accommodate more people in the parish hall.

Divine Mercy Prayer Service



Divine Mercy Sunday is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion, on that day. Please join us for our prayer service, which will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy this **Sunday, April**

11th. Our service will be held at the "hour of mercy," 3:00 PM in the afternoon, which is the hour that Jesus died.

Time CHANGE for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Effective **May 1, 2021** the time of our Saturday afternoon Sacrament of Reconciliation will be changing. The new start time will be at **3:00 PM and end EXACTLY at 3:45 PM**. Please arrive prior to 3:45 PM in order to provide sufficient amount of time.

RCIA Candidate

Congratulations to our RCIA candidates, Samantha Ciaccia, Bilal Gilbertie, Didi Matregrano, George Momplaisir and Elizabeth Owen who were fully welcomed into our Roman Catholic Faith at our Easter Vigil Mass last weekend. Please continue to pray that they grow and flourish in their faith and embrace our wonderful parish.

Mother's Day Remembrance

If you would like to memorialize and honor your mother, either living or deceased this Mother's Day with her name in our bulletin, please send in your offertory and name before **May 2nd**. Mother's Day envelopes are included in your envelope packet and through online giving.

Convalidation of Marriage

Like other couples in your parish or family, you may be wondering if your marriage is fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholic Church law ordinarily requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a priest or deacon.

Catholics who exchange marriage vows in the presence of only ministers from other religious traditions or authorized civic officials (i.e.. Justice of the Peace) are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church, which offers Marriage in the unique form of a Sacrament called Holy Matrimony: a sacrament similar in scope and power to that of Holy Communion/Eucharist. In fact, Holy Matrimony is meant to signify (a sacrament is a visible sign indicating a greater invisible and/or supernatural reality) the enduring and unbreakable love for Jesus Christ the Bridegroom for His Bride the Church.

If you feel as though you are in a position where Convalidation is possible, please call the Rectory to discuss the process involved. Couples who are not in a recognized Catholic Marriage should not receive Holy Communion and are not qualified to be Catholic godparent until the Convalidation process is complete.

Regardless of what happened in the past, the Catholic Church invites you to bring new meaning to your lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and dedicating your family's mission to sharing God's love.

Special Note of Thanks

To our wonderful and dedicated volunteers who helped to make this busy Lenten/Easter season spiritually moving and rewarding for our parish family.

It is with the deepest gratitude we extend this thanks for your service to our parish staff, Mass volunteers, altar servers, musicians and our spectacular music director, Michael Cooney.

It was plain to see the beautiful Easter flowers that adorned our Tabernacle and altar. The church came alive as we celebrated Christ's resurrection. A very special thank you to Diane Kane and the dedicated helpers, Josh Orosz, Irene Orosz, Michael Broderick, George Kane, Ann Okrentowich, Jo-Ann Olsen, Marie Sabo, Karen Varco, and Meri Glifort.



Parishioner's Corner

Looking for some further outstanding reflections on the Sunday Mass Reading? Please visit Assumption's own Dr. Frank DeStefano's wonderful "Sunday Sunday" blogs at <https://doctorfrank.blogspot.com/>.



2021 Sword & Shield Charity Golf Classic

Fifth Annual Knights of Columbus Sword and Shield Golf Classic Co-Sponsored by Our Lady of the Assumption Council #11077 and St. Matthew Council #14360 will be held on **Monday, June 14th at Brownson Country Club in Huntington, CT.** Please contact Co-Chairman **Greg Matera at greg.mtra@yahoo.com or (203)209-2164**, for player and sponsor opportunities.



Foundations in Education 2021

Foundations in Education invites you to its re-imagined Virtual Hybrid Benefit on Thursday, May 6th. Join Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano to celebrate our Honorees Dr. Julia M. McNamara and Lynn and Frank Mara of the New York Giants and participate in an online auction from the comfort of your home. All to celebrate and support Catholic education! Proceeds support foundations in Education, whose mission is to provide hundreds of children from low and middle income families with quality education focused on Christian values and character formation. To purchase tickets and sponsorships or for more information, please contact Megan Quinn at 203-416-1671 or by email at: mquinn@foundationsineducation.org.

Readings for the Week

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | Acts 4:32-35/Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/ 1 John 5:1-6/John 20:19-3 |
| Monday: | Acts 4:23-31/Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/ John 3:1-8 |
| Tuesday: | Acts 4:32-37/Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/ John 3:7b-15 |
| Wednesday: | Acts 5:17-26/Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/ John 3:16-21 |
| Thursday: | Acts 5:27-33/Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/John 3:31-36 |
| Friday: | Acts 5:34-42/Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/ John 6:1-15 |
| Saturday: | Acts 6:1-7/Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/ John 6:16-21 |
| Next Sunday: | Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/ 1 John 2:1-5a/Luke 24:35-48 |

Communion Antiphon

"Feel the place where the nails were; do not doubt, but believe." - Psalm 118:2

ChristLife Program

Are you interested in the meaning of life? Do you want to revive your faith? Join us for the free seven week series, **"Discovering Christ"**. This new ChristLife program will **begin at St. Pius X, Fairfield on April 9th. To register, visit www.Christlifefairfield.com or if you have questions, please send email to: christlifefld@gmail.com or call Holy Family-St. Emery Parish at 203-336-1835.**

ASSUMPTION

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Games & more!





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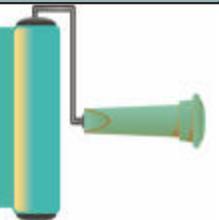
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