

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

Rev. Marcel Saint Jean, In Residence

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

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: 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment.

Every Thursday: 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLP

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.

From The Pastor's Desk

- The Joy Who Is Mother Mary -



Today's celebration of the third week of Advent celebration is referred to as the Day of Joy.

This day is especially beautiful since having celebrated earlier this week The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we remember also the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12th.

Of the many titles under the patronage and protection of Our Lady, during Advent, her most regal title is perhaps that of Cause of our Joy...that Joy being her consent to be the Mother of God who gives birth to the world's redemption and our salvation...Jesus Christ.

This is a time of reaffirming life not as a biological function, but an eternal reality. It is the time of the light shining in the darkness, exposing the culture of death: the emphatic reminder that Joy triumphs over sorrow, goodness over evil, and life over death.

When Our Lady miraculously appeared in Mexico in 1531, she confronted an Aztec culture that was steeped in the blood of tens of thousands of innocent victims, many of which were children. The Aztecs created this culture and worship of death as a means to appease the wrath of their gods in hopes of bringing good fortune and favor to the peoples.

The killings were on a considerable scale, and occasionally reached thousands in a single day as failure to influence the gods generated a frenzy of slaughter. What a far cry from the incredible love of a God who through the Incarnation would assume our flesh, experience our human condition so as to shed His blood for us and die for us that we might live forever in joy and peace.

He shed His precious and innocent blood so that no more innocent blood would ever again have to be spilled, so that the culture of death and sin might be conquered. The Mass is the perfect Sacrifice of God's life whose blood purchases for us eternal life...in that one life, that one sacrifice, that one death the gates of Heaven are flung wide open.

Our Lady appeared in Mexico on a hill called Tepeyac, where the shrine to the Aztec's mother god was built. The appearance of this mother was like the combination of images from a lifetime of nightmares. The head of this mother was a combination of snakes' heads and her garment a mass of writhing snakes...to give birth to death and despair.

Having appeared here, Mary's message rang out loudly that she had come as the Woman who fulfills the prophecy from Genesis we heard in last Tuesday's readings, when after the Fall God addressed Satan: "Then the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your

offspring and hers; she will strike at your head, while you strike at her heel."

Mary is the woman who empowered by her fullness of grace, which is the life and love of almighty God Himself, does battle with the serpent and destroys it. This is a reference to the Immaculate Conception and is read that day because having been freed entirely and always from sin, Mary can truly say that she is in enmity or total and complete opposition and hatred to Satan and thus can defeat and crush him.

Even the title of Guadalupe is enlightening: since our Lady spoke in the dialect of the Aztecs and not Spanish so that Saint Juan Diego could understand her; therefore, when she spoke in the mother tongue the word she used of herself meant she who breaks, stamps and crushes the serpent...in particular the stone serpent god of the Aztecs who demanded the most human sacrifices, 20,000 yearly.

Through the exceptional grace of her Immaculate Conception it is her disarming holiness, her inspiring purity and dogged faith in the one true God that destroys evil and conquers death.

Speaking to Saint Juan Diego and through him to all of us suffering under the heavy burden of sin and sadness, she said: "I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows, and will remedy and alleviate their sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes..."

What beautiful and tender expressions of the most perfect love for you and I. Love is always life giving, life affirming, always open to the possibility of life.

In response to her appearance, the allure of her heavenly beauty and mysterious feminine dignity as both woman and mother, in a few short years over 9 million Aztec people converted. And where once blood flowed into death, grace flowed into new life.

What a powerful reminder for us, who face the same struggle, a far more fierce struggle with the culture of death, as the Abortion debate and the frequency of those having them continues to spiral madly out of control.

And if we feel as though our courage lags, our fire of zeal smoldering into ashes, and our faith weakening, Our Lady speaking once more through Juan Diego to us her most precious children says: "Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?"

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mrs. Stacy Clements, 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 (during school year)

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), 3rd Saturdays, 2:30 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com.

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, December 11th

4:00 p.m. Dorothy Samsel

Sunday, December 12th

7:30 a.m. Patricia & Richard Kelley

9:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Herman Winkler

10:30 a.m. Carl A. Kleinknecht, Sr.

12:00 p.m. Victims of Sandy Hook & their families

Weekday Masses

Mon. 12/13 7:30 a.m. Fr. Stephen Gleeson
(1yr Anniversary)

5:30 p.m. Special Intention of
Stephen & Ryan Arther

Tues. 12/14 7:30 a.m. Kenneth & Pearl Van Vlack
5:30 p.m. Josephine Rejman

Wed. 12/15 7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family
5:30 p.m. Dorothy DiNardo Aldor

Thurs. 12/16 7:30 a.m. John Danilowicz
5:30 p.m. Francis Lenox

Fri. 12/17 7:30 a.m. Vasile Macinic
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of
Nikola Kolarich

Sat. 12/18 7:30 a.m. Amy Boda

Saturday, December 18th

4:00 p.m. Madelyn & Raymond Foley &
deceased family members

Sunday, December 19th

7:30 a.m. Joanne Lanza

9:00 a.m. Michael Cordero

10:30 a.m. Terri Follis & Bill Roche

12:00 p.m. Michael Voytek



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week in
Loving Memory of the
Raiselis & Savage Families*



*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week for the
Kleinknecht Family,
Living & Deceased*

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico

Paul Alvarez

Josephine Amiot

Christopher Amiot

Lorraine Artale

Ellie Art

Rita Bellavance

Carol Bertanza

Michael Black

Gene Bullard

Eleanor Bruckmann

Letitia Ciccio

Brian Coleman

Lucille Costello

Nicholas DeMaio

Michael Devaney

Larry DiPalma

Tricia Duffy

Dolores Kuczo

Dcn Joe Gagne

Diane & Anthony

Gilbertie

Charles Gordon

Holly Graham

Leanne Gransden

Amy Hanson

John Howley

Clare Kelleher

Harold Liskov

Jamie Mack

Noah Martinez

Kaitlin McLaughlin

Norma Mc Nerney

Rita Meyers

Frank Minardi

Meghan Moore

Leroy Moyer

Al Panico

Craig Renzulli

Gerry Ressigue

John Salgado

Donna Schmidt

David Van Vlack

Patty Vitola

K.J. Webb

December 4/5

Weekend Offertory: \$5,241.00

Online Giving: \$3,276.00

Our second collection next weekend is for Capital Improvements

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.

Annual Collection Letters

Annual collection letters have been mailed to our parishioners. Kindly read our "year in review" and prayerfully consider an Annual Gift to our church. No gift is too small and all are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Holiday Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed for regular business on, **Thursday, December 23rd THROUGH Friday, December 31st, and will reopen on Monday, January 3rd.** If you should have an emergency, please call the rectory and follow the instructions for emergencies.

Christmas Flowers in Memoriam

Remember your loved ones during this Christmas season in a very special way by making a Christmas Flower donation in their name. A memorial list will be displayed in our parish bulletin during the Christmas season. Please use the envelope provided in your envelope packet. Flower envelopes may be placed in any offertory basket or you can mail it to the rectory. **Due to the early submission of our bulletin during Christmas, please return your donation and completed envelope by Monday, December 13th.**

**Special Family Mass**

Fr. Peter invites families with young children to attend a special Fourth First Sunday of Advent Celebration next **Sunday, December 19th at our 9:00 AM Mass.** What better way to prepare your children for the celebration of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ into the world, then to participate in the Homily. Being involved at Mass, your children will be reminded of the **REAL** meaning of Christmas and that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

2022 Calendars

Our 2022 Assumption calendars are available in the entry way of the parish hall. This special edition appointment calendar features monthly vocation intercessions and beautiful religious art. Please take a calendar to use and enjoy year round.

**2021 Christmas Mass Schedule**

The clean up and repairs in the church continues each day; however, it is clear at this point, the church will not be ready to use for our Charismas Masses. Masses will continue in our parish hall and due to the limited seating allowed, we are asking **parishioners to reserve your seats for any Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass.** When registering, please indicate the number of people attending and include their names in the comment section. An email via Flocknotes was sent on **Monday, December 6th to registered parishioners. The deadline to register is Wednesday, December 22 by 12:00 PM.** Thank you for your patients and understanding. The revised Mass schedule for Christmas Eve & Charismas Day in the hall is as follows:

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM

5:30 PM

7:00 PM (added Mass)

11:00 PM (Adult Choir)

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

10:30 AM (Adult Choir)

12:00 PM

Assumption Church Giving Tree

This weekend Assumption Parish will continue our Christmas tradition of the Giving Tree. These gifts will be donated to various local charities in our area serving children, teens, adults and seniors.

Due to the limitation of space in the parish hall, a small tree and a bin with tags can be found in the entry of the hall. Take a tag or two as you enter or leave the hall. We will also, once again this year have a our VIRTUAL Giving Tree at: tinyurl.com/OLAGivingTree2021. Please help us with the collection of gifts by following the guidelines below:



- **Purchase the gift**
- **Place in gift bag, please do not wrap**
- **Attach original gift tag**
- **Return gift(s) by the tree/table in the hall by Sunday, December 19th by noon or use our drive-thru drop-off offered on Sunday, the 19th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00p.m.**

Thank you for your participation. Your gift will make someone very happy this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all our parish families who will be traveling this Christmas to be with family and friends.



Prayer for Safety for All Travelers

Sweet Jesus we pray, Your heavenly protection upon all traveling this Blessed Christmas Season...please guide them to their destinations and bring them all safe back home. Protect their travels and their homes and may this Blessed Christmas bring a deeper love and devotion to Your Most Sacred Heart...Amen



Due to the restriction and limitations in the parish hall, this year's Lessons & Carols has been **CANCELED**.

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/>.

Center of Mercy Reconciliation

As a Center of Mercy parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport, we offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation each week on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM**. As Catholics we have the gift of Confession to restore our relationship with God and share in His glory. This is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. **In addition, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be offered during this time as well, as long as there will be people present during this time to adore our Lord.

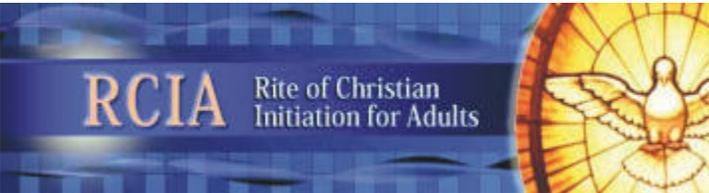
Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

Share the **JOY** and **LOVE** this Christmas!



R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Who is it for?

It is for you:

- If you have not been Baptized or received First Communion/Confirmation
- If you as an adult want to know more about your faith
- If you feel your faith is just a habit and you want to know more

It could be for:

- Someone interested in knowing about the Catholic faith
- Someone who might consider becoming a member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who has no church to call their own
- Someone who is a member of another faith community and has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith

Please contact the Faith Formation office at **203-367-1108** or by email at our.lady.assumption@snet.net for more information.

Parish Finance Council

The Council has completed the **OLA 1st quarter review (7-1-21 to 9-30-21)** covering statements of financial position and activities. As always, these reports have been filed with the Diocese and are now available to all parishioners. Reports can be found on the table in the parish hall entry way. Please take home a copy. Our parish continues to be fiscally sound and the Parish Finance Council members join Father Cipriani in thanking you for your continuing support.

Ron Fiske, Chairman, Parish Finance Council



Newly Baptized:

Last weekend we welcomed

Madeline Antoinette Maghini

Cayden James Spadaro

into the Roman Catholic Faith, through the saving waters of Baptism.



Congratulation,

Michael Guarino & Catherine Conklin

Who were married on December 3rd by Father Peter Cipriani. May they cherish each other with a sincere love.



Gospel Meditation: December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPi

Living Joy with Chris Stefanick

On **December 15, St. Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield** will host the acclaimed Catholic speaker **Chris Stefanick**. With evidence, experience, and common sense, Chris presents 9 rules to empower his listeners to overcome the obstacles keeping them from the unspeakable joy of God. This is a diocesan wide event and seating is limited. Cost is \$15 (book included in the price) Register today by following the link below:

<https://formationreimagined.org/event/living-joy/>

Readings for the Week

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/ Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18 |
| Monday: | Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Matthew 21:23-27 |
| Tuesday: | Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Matthew 21:28-32 |
| Wednesday: | Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Luke 7:18b-23 |
| Thursday: | Isaiah 54:1-10/Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Luke 7:24-30 |
| Friday: | Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:1-17 |
| Saturday: | Jeremiah 23:5-8/Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Next Sunday: | Micah 5:1-4a/Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45 |

Communion Antiphon

"Take courage, and do not fear; our God will come and save us." - Isaiah 35:1

Redemptoris Mater Seminary Christmas Concert

Redemptoris Mater Diocesan Missionary Seminary of Bridgeport invites you to their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 19 at St. Matthew Church, 216 Scribner Ave., Norwalk. The concert starts at 7:00 PM and will be offered at no charge with a suggested donation of \$25 that can be paid online at www.rmbridgeport.org or at the Church prior to the event. Immediately following the concert there will be a reception. If you plan to attend the reception, please respond to events@rmbridgeport.org or call Erika Silva at (917) 288-6116.

Safe Return Network

Safe Return Network was developed to assist emergency personnel in locating community members who suffer from conditions which make them susceptible to "wandering" and safely returning them home. The network places critical information at the fingertips of First Responders to help identify, locate and return your loved one home. There are no age restrictions. For additional information, **contact Officer Anthony Krushinski at akrushinski@fairfieldct.org or call (203) 254-4800. To register, visit fpdct.com/safereturn.**

Holiday Remembrance Service

Please join **Shaughnessey Banks Funeral Home, 50 Reef Rd. Fairfield**, for their annual Holiday Remembrance Service on **Wednesday, December 15th at 2:30 PM**. They will light candles to honor loved ones during the holidays. Poems and prayers will be read and light refreshments served. Invite a family member or friend who might need comfort during this time. All are welcome Please **RSVP by December 13th at 203-255-1031 or send an email to sb@sbfairfield.com.**



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