

# Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

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Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

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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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

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### *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

### - Living Manger Scene -



**Recently, I went to the house of a dear friend whose father had passed away.**

The house was literally a Christmas Hallmark Village not in miniature but in life size, God-sized form...so many decorations, and as I was told, each one having attached to it its own memory of a place the family had visited, a movie they had watched together or interests they had...Star Trek, Grand Canyon, Star Wars, Charlie Brown, Dr Seuss...each ornament its own story celebrating and magnifying the joy of being a family and each one's unique individual identity.

And yet, I was told that despite all the wonderful decorations, they insisted that no matter what, the first thing that goes up and the last thing that Ed put away is the Manger Scene.

How many homes do you walk into...how many Churches or greens do you pass...so many Manger scenes and yet how often do we actually stop and not only look but actually gaze at the scene or better yet by way of quiet prayer and reflection, place oneself in the Manger scene?

First of all...it is a family scene...parents and a new born baby...are we drawn to that baby...like the little drummer boy to play for him or the three wise men who travel a far to bring that baby precious gifts...do we kneel with Mary and Joseph in homage, adoration and profound thanksgiving for the gift Christ is...the gift family is?

I was brought before a Modern Day Manger Scene come to life at of all places Ed's Funeral Service. There was Ed's son standing before the American Flag decorated Coffin of his deceased dad, but what my eyes and heart were really drawn to is where his left hand rested...on the womb of his very pregnant wife...and she, with both of her hands upon his, together holding their child.

Alive not simply with breath but the hope, peace, comfort and healing joy that a baby's developing new life signifies...wrapped in the warmth and love of his mother's body and father's protective devotion, and doing so before a coffin...staring into the ugly and depressing face of death which dares to tempt anyone who loves and believes to lose faith, lose hope, lose Christmas Spirit

This powerful scene reminded us that Christmas comes only through the darkness and weariness of an extended Advent:

*Oh, holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn*

Not only at that moment did I sense the soul's worth but saw that worth in that Modern Day Family of Joseph and

Mary pregnant with child, pregnant with the hope and joy of new life despite the death they were confronting.

How often would Joseph and Mary be standing in that similar protective togetherness posture of Ed's son and pregnant wife, was Joseph not standing before a Roman Official who represented the empire whose yoke of slavery threatened to choke the hope and life out of them, as one day the Child he was protecting would stand before another Roman Official receiving the death sentence that was meant for us?

How similar are those swaddling clothes to that American Flag, drawing attention to a God who so loves us that He allows Himself to be dressed in diapers...to experience cold, hunger, rejection...no room at the inn...and worse much worse...as that Flag draped coffin reminded Ed's family...war is real...its ugly and needs brave people to fight them so evil does not win out.

When the birth of Christ is announced, a threatened King Herod orders the destruction of all Bethlehem children and those close by under two, so many children lost...so many families destroyed, and as Joseph took His family and fled into Egypt, would not His strong protective hand remain always upon the womb of His pregnant wife, hers always on His...protecting that child as we each day for ourselves and more so for our families must protect our faith in Christ which Hell and so many cultural Herods seek to destroy.

I am sure Ed's son stood before that coffin with great pride and had to be saying thank you for the gift of his life, because one day so many years ago, his own father and mother loved each another enough to have him, so that he and his wife could love one another enough to have their child soon to be born.

Should not this be our attitude not only before the Infant placed in the wood of the Crib but before the Man and Savior nailed to the wood of the Cross, that profound gratitude, that you lived and died Jesus, so that I might live and love...not just for a hand-ful of Christmas seasons...but forever?

How proud Mary and Joseph must have been of their Christ baby and Messiah and how proud must God the Father have been of His Son's willingness to endure so much, risk so much, love so much who considered us His absolute greatest cause and good and so be willing to sacrifice Himself for all of us...so that we now can be clothed in the majestic glory of Almighty God by way of the Christmas gift of the Incarnation...decorated, ornamented and clothed in the divinity and beauty of a God who so loves us that He gave to us the gift of His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 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.



**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

**Weekday Masses**

Mon. 12/20 7:30 a.m. Barbara Zumstag  
5:30 p.m. Helen Rusak  
Tues. 12/21 7:30 a.m. Paul Gardella, Sr.  
5:30 p.m. Leonard Iwanski, Sr.  
Wed. 12/22 7:30 a.m. Special Intention  
5:30 p.m. John Kirk Pollins  
Thurs. 12/23 7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family  
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of Lawrence Rybicki  
Fri. 12/24 7:30 a.m. Frank C. Galletti

**Friday 12/24 Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Christopher Robles  
5:30 p.m. For the Intentions of our Christmas Flower Offerings  
7:00 p.m. Special Intention  
11:00 p.m. Carol Masciola

**Saturday. 12/25 Christmas Day**

7:30 a.m. Anna, William & Eugene Yarkosky  
9:00 a.m. Deacon Kevin Moore  
10:30 a.m. Jose Fraga  
12:00 p.m. Dr. Edward McPadden

**Sunday, December 26th**

7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family  
9:00 a.m. Krystyn Waupotitsch  
10:30 a.m. Barbara K. McLaughlin  
12:00 p.m. JoAnn Tomis



*Our Sanctuary Light  
Will burn this week in  
Loving Memory of  
Jose Fraga*

*Our Devotional Light  
Will burn this week for in  
Loving Memory of  
Doris & Leonard Iwanski, Sr.*



Due to the early submission required for this bulletin, the December 8 Holy Day offertory, offertory and second collection for December 11 and 12 will appear in our next bulletin.

There will be two collections for Christmas: My Christmas Offering & My Christmas Gift.

There is no second collection for Sunday, December 26th

### Thank You

#### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico	Nicholas DeMaio	Jamie Mack
Paul Alvarez	Michael Devaney	Noah Martinez
Josephine Amiot	Larry DiPalma	Kaitlin McLaughlin
Christopher Amiot	Tricia Duffy	Norma Mc Nerney
Lorraine Artale	Dolores Kuczo	Rita Meyers
Ellie Art	Dcn Joe Gagne	Frank Minardi
Rita Bellavance	Diane & Anthony	Meghan Moore
Carol Bertanza	Gilbertie	Leroy Moye
Michael Black	Charles Gordon	Al Panico
Gene Bullard	Holly Graham	Craig Renzulli
Eleanor Bruckmann	Leanne Gransden	Gerry Ressigue
Francisca Campos	Amy Hanson	John Salgado
Letitia Ciccio	John Howley	Donna Schmidt
Brian Coleman	Clare Kelleher	David Van Vlack
Lucille Costello	Harold Liskov	Patty Vitola
		K.J. Webb

#### 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 sent 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.

#### 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.



We wish to thank all of those who made contributions to our Christmas Flowers collection in memory or honor of your loved ones. Names of contributors and those being remembered will be listed in our January 2nd bulletin. If your envelopes were received after the December 13th deadline, an addendum listing will be published in January.



#### 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. If you have not registered to attend one of our Masses, the deadline is Wednesday, December 22 by 12:00 PM. Please do not attend a Mass with registering, the comfort and safety of our parishioners is our utmost priority.** 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

#### 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.

#### Assumption Church Giving Tree

Thank You, once again, to all who contributed to our Giving Tree this year. **This Sunday, December 19th is the final day to return your gifts before noon by the tree in the parish hall or use our drive-thru drop-off offered from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** The gifts will be distributed this week to all agencies, and organizations who have requested gifts. Many who will now have a brighter Christmas due to your generosity.



A special thank you to all who made the giving tree possible: from those who planned and organized this event, to those who printed the tags and sorted the gifts. God bless you all for making Christmas that much brighter for those less fortunate.

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



#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**Saturday, January 1st** is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Since the Feast Day falls on a Saturday, it is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Our Mass celebration will be at our **daily 7:30 AM Mass and our 4:00 PM Vigil Mass.**



#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Will take place on **First Friday, January 7th**, following the 7:30 AM Mass and will conclude on **Saturday, January 8th**, prior to the 7:30 AM Mass. **Due to Masses on Friday at 9:00 AM, and 5:30 PM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 8:45 to 10:00 AM and 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM.** All are welcome to spend an hour with Jesus.



*Congratulation,*

**David Pabis & Sara D'Addario**

*Who were married on December 11th by Father Peter Cipriani. May they cherish each other with a sincere love.*

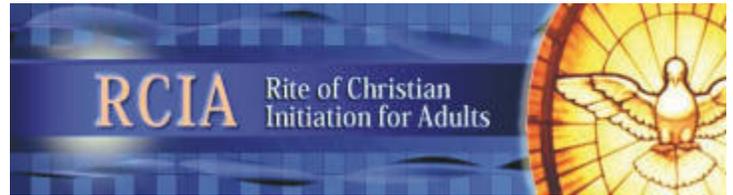


*Newly Baptized:*

*Last weekend we welcomed*

**Sawyer Iris Accettullo  
Love Maelle Hooper-Campbell  
Scarlett Isabella Mujica  
Aria Rose Renna**

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



#### 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](mailto:our.lady.assumption@snet.net) for more information.

#### 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/>.

#### 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!





### Gospel Mediation: December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©LPi



### Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Micah 5:1-4a/Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45
Monday:	Isaiah 7:10-14/Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a/ Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Luke 1: 39-45
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 1:24-28/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Luke 1:46-56
Thursday:	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Luke 21:28]/Luke 1:57-66
Friday:	Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Luke 1:67-79
Saturday:	Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Isaiah 9:1-6/Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Luke 2:11]/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14 Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12/Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12/ Titus 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20 Day: Isaiah 52:7-10/Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Hebrews 1:1-6/John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday:	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14/Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Luke 2:41-52 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/Psalm 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/Luke 2:41-52

### Communion Antiphon

**“A Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.” - Psalm 19:2**

### Missionaries to the Family

Bishop Caggiano invites you to learn more about the **Missionaries to the Family, an initiative to revitalize the domestic church.** The initiative includes: a year of Catholic Formation, 3 retreats, spiritual direction and service to couples and families. The informative presentation will take place on **Thursday, January 27th at St. Pius X Catholic Church (Fairfield) with Steve Bollman, Founder of Paradisus Dei.** Free dinner will start at **7:00 PM**, followed by the presentation and Q&A session. **RSVP by January 20th by email to [marisa.creixell@paradisusdei.org](mailto:marisa.creixell@paradisusdei.org) or call (281) 763-7541, please provide your name, phone number and/or email address.** For general information, please visit <https://paradisusdei.org/missionaries-to-the-family/>

### 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](mailto:akrushinski@fairfieldct.org) or call (203) 254-4800. To register, please visit [fpdct.com/safereturn](http://fpdct.com/safereturn).**

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