



# STS. ANNE & JOACHIM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Teach the Truth, Serve the Poor, Worship God

December 21, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Christmas Mass Times

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br><i>Wednesday, Dec. 24</i> | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br><i>Thursday, Dec. 25</i> |
| <b>4:00PM</b>                                     | <b>7:45AM</b>                                    |
| 9:20PM CAROLING                                   | <b>9:15AM</b>                                    |
| <b>10:00PM</b>                                    | <b>11:00AM</b>                                   |

## PARISH INFORMATION

- 5202 25<sup>th</sup> St. S., Fargo, ND 58104
- 701-235-5757
- www.stsaaj.org
- stsaaj@stsaaj.org

### Mass Schedule

**Monday-Friday:** 7:00 am and 12:10 pm  
*(Friday 7:00 am in Magnificat Chapel)*

**Saturday:** 8:30 am and 5:00 pm *(anticipatory)*

**Sunday:** 7:45 am, 9:15 am *(incense)*,  
11:00 am, 7:00 pm

### Reconciliation Times

**Mon-Fri:** 6:30 - 6:55 am, 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Tuesday:** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Saturday:** 8:00 - 8:25 am and 4:00 - 4:50 pm

*Available by appointment.*

## Couples TRIVIA NIGHT & HAPPY HOUR

@ SUITE SHOTS events room  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
FREE TACO BAR! NO RSVP NEEDED

FOR MORE DETAILS, SCAN THE QR CODE!

## STEWARDSHIP

- Visitor Giving:**  
[www.bit.ly/visitorgift25](http://www.bit.ly/visitorgift25)
- Parishioner Sunday Offering:**  
[www.bit.ly/parishgiving25](http://www.bit.ly/parishgiving25)
- Parish Endowment at Catholic Development Foundation:**  
[www.bit.ly/cdfendowments](http://www.bit.ly/cdfendowments)

Visitors



Parishioners



## Couples night Out

Social Hour | Dinner | Door Prizes | Speaker

Feat. Jerome Richter

February 7th, 2026 @ 5:30pm  
Avalon Event Center

Clergy**Fr. Luke Meyer**, Pastor

(701) 612-2472 | luke.meyer@fargodiocese.org

**Fr. Joseph Littlefield**, Parochial Vicar

(701) 612-2473 | joseph.littlefield@fargodiocese.org

**Fr. Kyle Metzger**

Shanley Principal &amp; Diocesan Vocation Director

**Fr. William Slattery**

Shanley &amp; Sacred Heart Chaplain

**Deacon Pat Breen**

pat.breen@fargodiocese.org

**Deacon Michael Dodge**

michael.dodge@fargodiocese.org

**Deacon Ted LeMier**, Director of Adult Catechesis

(701) 612-2474 | tlemier@stsaaaj.org

**Deacon Ben Seitz**

ben.seitz@fargodiocese.org

Ministry Staff**Sarah Bofferding**, Director of Catechesis

(701) 612-2476 | sbofferding@stsaaaj.org

**Patrick McGuire**, Director of Music

(701) 612-2477 | pmcguire@stsaaaj.org

**Sue Ripplinger**, Sacramental Prep & Parish Outreach

(701) 612-2478 | sripplinger@stsaaaj.org

**Peter O'Donnell**, Director of Marriage & Family

(701) 612-2481 | podonnell@stsaaaj.org

Business Staff**Emily Dietz**, Marketing Coordinator

(701) 612-2480 | edietz@stsaaaj.org

**Tyler Eastvold**, Property Manager

(701) 612-2479 | teastvold@stsaaaj.org

**Mary German**, Administrative Office Specialist

(701) 235-5757 | mgerman@stsaaaj.org

**Jenn Hulstein**, Business Manager

(701) 612-2475 | jhulstein@stsaaaj.org

**Connie Savageau**, Events Coordinator

(701) 951-2470 | csavageau@stsaaaj.org

**Alfred Schwalbe**, Director of Operations & Stewardship

(701) 936-8822 | aschwalbe@stsaaaj.org

Parish Leadership**Pastoral Council:** Meets first Tuesday every other month

Ryan Modahl

**Finance Council:** Meets third Monday of each quarter

Doug Restemayer, Lay Director

**Knights of Columbus:**

Kyle Keller, 11930gk@gmail.com

**St. John Paul II Schools Advisory Council:**

Jim Breen

**Parish Nurse Coordinators:**

Becca Wahlen Lester, RN, bexwahlen@gmail.com

Rachael Wahlen, RN, wahlen58@gmail.com

*Please email or text when contacting the Parish Nurses.*Office Hours**Monday-Thursday:** 8 am - 5 pm**Friday:** 8 am - 4 pmSacrament of Holy Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays during any Mass, or at 10:30 am or 12:15 pm. To schedule a baptism, contact Sue Ripplinger in the parish office. A preparation class is offered the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Christ the King room. Please contact the parish if you need to attend.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

If you are engaged or would like to learn more about the sacrament of holy matrimony at our parish, please contact the Sue Ripplinger, our wedding coordinator. Information about weddings at Sts. Anne and Joachim can be found online here: [www.bit.ly/catholicwedding](http://www.bit.ly/catholicwedding).

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one need anointing, please contact Sue Ripplinger in the parish office. For emergencies at Essentia Hospital, call the Essentia chaplain during the day; at night and on weekends, call the Rectory emergency line at (701) 612-2482. For other hospitals in the city, please contact their chaplain for the quickest response.

Homebound Ministry

If you are homebound and unable to attend Mass, please contact Deacon Ben Seitz to arrange Holy Communion visits to the home.

Eucharistic Adoration & Exposition

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is offered at the parish from 7:30am Monday until 7:00am Friday. If you are interested in being assigned an hour for adoration, please contact Sue Ripplinger.

Prayer Requests

Have a friend, family member, or personal Intention you would like others to remember in their prayers? Send an email to [prayers@stsaaaj.org](mailto:prayers@stsaaaj.org) for dedicated members of our parish to lift up your petition together. To join the prayer group, you may also send an email or contact the office.

All parishioners are listed on page 4. To be added to this public list, contact the parish office.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

*Interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Or are you considering converting to Catholicism? Then OCIA might be for you!* The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program is the Church's formal process into the Catholic Faith. OCIA class sessions begin each August and January. Check out [www.bit.ly/becomecatholicere](http://www.bit.ly/becomecatholicere) for information on the January 2026 initiation session.

Join Our Parish

Looking for a spiritual home? We'd love to welcome you into our parish family! Stop by the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space after any Sunday Mass to learn more and register. You can also join by calling the parish office or visiting us during the week.

Assisted Listening System

A new wifi based assisted listening system is available for use in the main church. Download the ListenWifi App, connect to the Listen Wifi network, and our feed should populate.

Livestream Mass Available

Livestream is temporarily only available for the Sunday 9:15am Mass. Keep checking in for updates related to offered masses. Find them on Facebook, YouTube, or [www.stsaaaj.org/media/livestream](http://www.stsaaaj.org/media/livestream).

# LITURGICAL MINISTERS CALENDAR: December 27-28

|                       | Saturday, 5:00 PM   | Sunday, 7:45 AM   | Sunday, 9:15 AM  | Sunday, 11:00 AM   | Sunday, 7:00 PM   |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Proclaimer</b>     | Gary Kubalak (1)<br>Colleen Whalen (2)  | Noah McBroom (1)<br><b>Volunteer</b> (2)  | Patrick Nistler (1)<br>Loriann Johnson (2)   | Mary Kay Schott (1)<br>Ann Watson (2)  | <b>Volunteer</b> (1)<br><b>Volunteer</b> (2)  |
| <b>Usher</b>          | Lisa Backen<br>Catherine Wagner   | Mark Thelen<br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>   | Barb Badinger<br>Christopher Gaddie<br>Rita Visser<br>Brian Visser   | Colette Bellerud<br>Larry Bellerud<br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>   | <b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>  |
| <b>EMHC</b>           | Michelle Moore - Body (1)<br>Brian Moore - Body (2)<br>Priest - Body (3)<br>Larry Zahradka - Body (4)<br>Lynnae Tiedman - Body (5)<br>Steven Spanier - Body (6)<br>Catherine Wagner - Body (7)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Body (8)<br>Marianne Cardwell - Chalice (1)<br>Deacon Breen - Chalice (2)<br>Michelle Emineth - Chalice (3)<br>Richard Wiese - Chalice (4) | Dori Picard - Body (1)<br>Jim Picard - Body (2)<br>Priest - Body (3)<br>Elizabeth Thelen - Body (4)<br>Rob Asheim - Chalice (1)<br>Deacon Breen - Chalice (2)<br>Erica Dahl - Chalice (3)<br>Brenda Breen - Chalice (4) | Kathleen Weigel - Body (1)<br>Sharnae Vetter - Body (2)<br>Priest - Body (3)<br>Tyler Losinski - Body (4)<br>Cory Badinger - Body (5)<br>Barb Badinger - Body (6)<br>Rita Visser - Body (7)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Body (8)<br>Devin Wirth - Chalice (1)<br>Deacon Seitz - Chalice (2)<br>Patrick Nistler - Chalice (3)<br>Christopher Gaddie - Chalice (4) | Donna Schneider - Body (1)<br>Tom Schneider - Body (2)<br>Priest - Body (3)<br>Karen Gehrig - Body (4)<br>Chris Gehrig - Body (5)<br>Michael Schommer - Body (6)<br>Don Schott - Body (7)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Body (8)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Chalice (1)<br>Deacon Seitz - Chalice (2)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Chalice (3)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Chalice (4) | Brittanie Watson - Body (1)<br>Deacon LeMier - Body (2)<br>Priest - Body (3)<br><b>Volunteer</b> - Body (4) |
| <b>Greeter</b>        | Cynthia Leininger<br>Curtis Leininger<br>Nicole Snyder<br><b>Volunteer</b>  | Cindi Koch<br>Ben Sorenson<br>Jennifer Sorenson<br><b>Volunteer</b>   | Cory Badinger<br>Dani Johnson<br>Kathryn Shorma<br>David Shorma  | Jeanette Heilman<br>Duane Heilman<br>Stacey Schommer<br>Michael Schommer   | <b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>  |
| <b>Gift Bearer(s)</b> | Jessica Wiese   | Shawn Gray  | Gerard Keller  | Thad Ellsworth   | <b>Volunteer</b>  |
| <b>Altar Server</b>   | Abe Emineth<br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>   | Christian Sandy<br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b><br><b>Volunteer</b>   | Lincoln Burcham<br>Landon Burcham<br>Judah Carr<br>Robert Rolling<br>Elijah Streitz<br>Charlie Streitz<br>Grant Streitz<br>Vincent Wirth   | Camden Ellsworth<br>Jaden Ellsworth<br>Daniel Libbrecht<br>Alanna Libbrecht  | Easton Adams<br>Sawyer Adams  |



## FISHERMAN MARIAN CONSECRATION



Fisherman candidates from three parishes joined together with their families for the annual Fisherman Marian Consecration on Friday, December 12. Following the Mass and Consecration, a dinner reception was held in the social hall.

## STEWARDSHIP

### December 14, 2025 Contributions

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes              | \$16,320.00        |
| Online Giving          | \$4,978.03         |
| Plate                  | \$1,982.67         |
| Immaculate Conception  | \$1,748.00         |
| <b>Total Offertory</b> | <b>\$25,028.70</b> |

## MASS INTENTIONS

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Mon: 7:00 am   | +Calvin Ambrust     |
| 12:10 pm       | +Rena Kimball       |
| Tues: 7:00 am  | +Joe Lothspeich     |
| 12:10 pm       | +Mary Jean Schulz   |
| Wed: 7:00 am   | +Ethel Binstock     |
| 4:00 pm        | Parishioners        |
| 10:00 pm       | Parishioners        |
| Thurs: 7:45 am | Charlie Hanish      |
| 9:15 am        | Parishioners        |
| 11:00 am       | +Jana Exner         |
| Fri: 7:00 am   | Marge Ehlers        |
| 12:10 pm       | City of Fargo       |
| Sat: 8:30 am   | +Clayton Drake      |
| 5:00 pm        | +Amanda Leininger   |
| Sun: 7:45 am   | +Souls in Purgatory |
| 9:15 am        | Tim & Marie Olson   |
| 11:00 am       | Parishioners        |
| 7:00 pm        | Ruth Schwalbe       |

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EVENT



### 2nd Annual KofC Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, January 10th, Wildcard Weekend

**\$10 all you eat**

Doors open at 5:30pm

All Knights are welcomed to join the competition  
Community is welcome to eat and judge the contest  
Proceeds will support the New Life Center

Ssts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church

# CATECHESIS IN THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

## Living the Christmas Season

Sarah Bofferding, Director of Catechesis

Christmas is near! Our culture has been celebrating Christmas for a while, but we, as a church, are just beginning our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord this Thursday. Next week, trees and decor will be taken down by most of those around us. My challenge to families is to extend your celebration of Christmas, as the Church does, until January 11 (the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord). Here are a few ways to celebrate the Christmas Season in the home:

- Keep your Christmas tree, Nativity scene, and decor up!
- Plan small celebrations for the feasts in the Christmas Season (Mary, Mother of God and Epiphany)
- Play and sing your favorite Christmas hymns



## PRAY FOR OUR ILL PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our ill parishioners:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ben Andersen       | Sharon Lange       |
| Linda Beare        | Marjorie Mathison  |
| Marilyn Birkholz   | Chad Mears         |
| Nicholas Braun     | Mary Mears         |
| Rachel Briggs      | Pat Meier          |
| Faye Cooch         | Samantha N.        |
| Brandi DesMarais   | Michael Pirmantgen |
| Paul Dietz         | Mary Kate Rafferty |
| Michael Dullea     | Donna Sinner       |
| Marilyn Gilbertson | Carol Ann Stadstad |
| Joe Johnson        | Mary Wangler       |
| Jessica Kerzman    | Mason Winkelman    |
| Michael Knight     | Eugene Nyhof       |

If you would like your name added or removed, please call the parish office.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 21

|                   |              |             |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Coffee and Rolls  | after Masses | Social Hall |
| Church Decorating | 2:00 pm      | Main Church |

### Monday, December 22

### Tuesday, December 23

|             |         |             |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Confessions | 6:30 pm | Main Church |
|-------------|---------|-------------|

### Wednesday, December 24

|                        |          |             |
|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Parish Office Closed   | 12:00 pm |             |
| Christmas Eve Mass     | 4:00 pm  | Main Church |
| Christmas Eve Caroling | 9:20 pm  | Main Church |
| Christmas Eve Mass     | 10:00 pm | Main Church |

### Thursday, December 25

|                              |                              |             |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Parish Office Closed-All Day |                              |             |
| Christmas Day Masses         | 7:45 am, 9:15 am<br>11:00 am | Main Church |

### Friday, December 26

|                                 |          |                   |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet | 12:45 pm | Magnificat Chapel |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|

### Saturday, December 27

|                     |              |             |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Sunday, December 28 |              |             |
| Coffee and Rolls    | After Masses | Social Hall |

## SAVE THE DATE

“Flannery O’Connor” Book Event by Roxane Salonen  
 SAVE THE DATE!! Roxane Salonen, author of *Finding Flannery*, will host a discussion and book signing event at Sts. Anne & Joachim Social Hall on January 13, 2026.

## Christmas Flowers Decor

Christmas flowers and decorations for Sts. Anne and Joachim Church will be supplied in part through generous donations given by parishioners in memory of deceased loved ones or in honor of the living.

If you wish to make such a memorial, use the form below. Your donation can be placed in the collection box anytime over the next few weeks or turned into the parish office.

Make checks payable to Sts. Anne and Joachim, clearly marked for Christmas decorations, and place in the collection basket, mail, or drop off in the parish office.



In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please publish my gift in the bulletin:    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No

## UPCOMING EVENTS



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY  
MOTHER OF GOD  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

DEC. 31

5:30PM

JAN. 1

9:15AM

11:00AM

## McCHOIR'S MUSIC CORNER

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Patrick McGuire, Director of Music

“Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.” (*Isaiah* 7:14) We sang this at communion today, and heard it at the end of today’s first reading, and in the gospel acclamation, and once more in Matthew’s gospel passage today!

As a result of the emphasis on this verse, the hymn we sang at offertory was a meditation upon Mary’s role in bringing Jesus into the world, “Portal of the World’s Salvation.” This hymn suits our purposes quite well today, highlighting numerous Old Testament prophecies about Jesus’ coming into the world. Verse 3 of course includes the passage from *Isaiah* that we are focusing on: “Jesse’s Branch received its Flower, Mother of Emmanuel...” Next week we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with great joy and delight—as a final ‘preparatory meditation,’ we call Mary to mind and reflect on her role in bringing the Savior into the world.



## ST. JOHN'S WINE BLESSING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH  
11:00 - 11:30 AM

BRING ANY BOTTLES OF  
WINE YOU WOULD LIKE  
BLESSED ON THE FEAST OF  
ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE  
AND EVANGELIST TO THE  
GATHERING SPACE!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christmas Adoration Schedule

Adoration will conclude at 7:00 am on Friday, December 19, 2025.

Adoration will resume at 7:30 am on Monday, January 5, 2026

### Christmas Eve Mass Seating Request

Due to the large crowd at 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass, seats may be reserved until 3:45pm; then ushers will begin seating those waiting in all pews of the church. Overflow seating will be in the Social Hall where live video and audio will be displayed.

### Holy Baptism

Congratulations to our recently baptized!

*Sophia Elanor Ryan*  
daughter of Logan & Samantha  
December 14, 2025

### Holy Matrimony

Congratulations to our recently married!

*Zacheriah & Jamie Greene*  
December 13, 2025

**IGNITE  
THE NIGHT**

**1.7.25**  
**7:30-8:30 PM**

encounter. adore. connect.

Join us for praise, worship, adoration and prayer teams.



# St. John Paul II Catholic Schools

## Scrip Sales

SCRIP are gift cards that ANYONE can purchase to use for their everyday shopping needs of gas, groceries, clothing and dining out. These cards make great gifts for Christmas, Easter, anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, or any other occasion that you may need a gift card for. Proceeds from the sales benefit Sts. A&J students and JP2 Catholic Schools. SCRIP Cards are available after December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>st</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> masses.

## Enroll at St. JP2 Schools

Contact Lori Hager in the Office of Admissions.  
701-893-3271 | [lori.hager@jp2schools.org](mailto:lori.hager@jp2schools.org)  
[www.jp2schools.org/admissions/](http://www.jp2schools.org/admissions/)

## Teaching Open Positions

- Substitute Teachers - All Locations

To apply visit [www.jp2schools.org/careers/](http://www.jp2schools.org/careers/) or call 701-893-3231 for more information.

## UPC Codes for JP2 Schools

Please save the UPC codes from "OUR FAMILY" products from Family Fare and drop them off in the white box located on the JP2 Catholic Schools Wall

## AROUND THE DIOCESE



## World Wide Marriage Encounter

Nov. 21-23, 2025 Alexandria, MN  
Mar. 7-8, 2026 Edina, MN  
Mar. 20-22, 2026 Jamestown, ND  
Apr. 18-19, 2026 Brainerd, MN

Considering it? Visit [WWME.org](http://WWME.org) to register now! Application fees increase in 2026, but if you register in 2025 (even for a 2026 weekend experience) you can get the current registration fee!

## Sacred Items of Olive Wood - Sales at West Acres Mall

Our friends from the Holy Land are selling their olive wood products at West Acres Mall, Fargo near the food court. Please consider buying some of your Christmas gifts from them. As you may know the war in the Holy Land started on 10/7/23 and is still going on. Most of the Christians in the Holy Land working in the tourism industry as a result of the war have their only income from olive wood sales to Christian families abroad. We appreciate your support.

## Advent Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 21 - Cathedral of St Mary

## Job Openings at Fargo Diocese

- FT Communications Assistant/Assistant Editor for New Earth
- PT Formation Assistant for the Office of Youth Discipleship

More information at <https://fargodiocese.net/jobopenings>

## Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation Fundraiser

With a mission to deliver life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land, the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation--a primary work of the Order of Malta, a lay religious order of the Catholic Church--exists to support the inspiring work of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem. Located just 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ, this Catholic teaching hospital is a state-of-the-art maternity and neonatal critical care center serving women, infants, and children throughout the Holy Land. The Hospital stands as a beacon of hope for poor and at-risk families in the Bethlehem region, nearby desert villages, and refugee camps. The Hospital and its mobile clinic provide quality medical care to all, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. No one is ever turned away. Please visit [birthplaceofhope.org/donate/](http://birthplaceofhope.org/donate/) to learn more and contribute to this charitable work.

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Jeff Collins Financial Advisor RFP  
Brien Krank Financial Advisor RFP  
701-235-0119  
300 NP Avenue, Ste 108  
Fargo, ND 58102  
[CollinsandKrank.com](http://CollinsandKrank.com)

# Family First Dentistry

Dr. Renee Sellers, General Dentist  
701-929-4200  
4575 23rd Ave S, Suite 1200  
Fargo, ND 58104  
info@familyfirst-dentistry.com



# PRO-LAWN

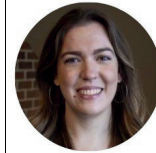
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# Lacey Denise

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parishioner



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# SMP Health

St. Catherine

A Catholic Health Care Ministry providing skilled nursing care & rehabilitation for short or long term stays.

SMP Health-St. Catherine North  
(701) 277-7999  
1351 Broadway N. - Fargo  
smphealth.org/stcatherinenorth

SMP Health-St. Catherine South  
(701) 293-7750  
3102 S. University Dr. - Fargo  
smphealth.org/stcatherinesouth



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more information at 701-373-1008.

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