

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Servant Church Of The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road Farmington, Michigan 48336 Phone: 248-477-7470 Rectory Fax: 248-477-3878 Ministries Fax: 248-381-5803 Website: stgeraldparish.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. 12:00 Noon

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, First Friday: 9:15 a.m. Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

> RITE OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; No matter what your current family or marital situation; No matter what your past or present religious affiliation; No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color; No matter what your self-image or esteem; You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at

St. Gerald Catholic Church.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2015

The promise and the demand of the Christian faith are of critical importance, but are relatively simple. Each of us should strive to reach the highest level of our potentialities in serving God, but God will guide us all the way. Such unselfish service quickly becomes its own reward. But we cannot achieve that level of life unless we eliminate some things that hold us down.

First reading – Zephaniah 3:14-18a

The prophet Zephaniah promised the ancient Israelites that God would remove the judgment against them and turn away from their enemies. They were powerless to help themselves return to Jerusalem and restore their land. But God is a mighty Savior who will renew his people in joy and love.

Second reading – Philippians 4:4-7

The apostle Paul assured the Philippians that God is an ever-present help in time of trouble. He urged them to dismiss all anxiety from their minds and to present their needs to God in every form of prayer. He promised that God's own peace would stand guard over their hearts and minds, lending them help when their efforts failed them.

Gospel reading – Luke 3:10-18

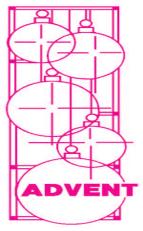
John the Baptizer pointed to the coming Messiah as the true source of salvation. He called people to repent --- to turn away from their own efforts to justify themselves and transform their lives. John knew that humankind needs help from beyond itself. No person can save himself or herself from sin and death

It is sometimes hard to believe in God in today's world. It is especially hard to believe in a God of power and love, isn't it? But it isn't easy to get rid of God either. A casual look at the sky on a clear night can fill us with awe. We find ourselves thinking that *someone* must be behind all of this. We keep running into God-like things – love and loyalty among family members and friends, nobility of character, a willingness to sacrifice oneself in the interest of others. We see such things and we know there must be something here we cannot see. And sometimes in quiet moments there is the feeling that *someone* is there, a mysterious Presence.

So, we believe in God more or less. The evidence is inconclusive. As Voltaire said: "To believe in God is impossible, not to believe in God is absurd." But days come when it is not enough to believe in God – more or less. We need something stronger, a faith that will sustain and empower us. In today's reading, John the Baptist announces the coming of Jesus. He says, "I am baptizing you in water, but there is one to come who is mightier than I. –He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with Fire." John's baptism primarily symbolized repentance before God. But the crowds were desperately wanting and needing something more. They felt that at times perhaps a Messiah who would walk in their midst.

Our spiritual wants and needs are much the same. God is often vague for us too. This, however, should not surprise or deeply trouble us. How else could it be? Here we are, mere mortals living for a few years on one small planet. We cannot fully comprehend this earth, let alone the universe of which it is a part. How could we ever hope to fully comprehend the God who is behind it all? God came into focus in a person who walked among us, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.





WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS **DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 17**

Monday 9:15 AM **Fractured Families** Requested by Friend

Tuesday 9:15 AM For All Our Parishioners

Wednesday 9:15 AM Ed Fenech Requested by Yolanda Fenech

Thursday 7:00 PM William Barnes Requested by Rosa Russenberger

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: NM 24:2-7, 15-17A/PS 25:4-9/MT 21:23-27 TUESDAY: ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13/PS 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/MT 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY: IS 45:6B-8, 18, 21B-25/PS 85:9-14/ LK 7:18B-23

THURSDAY: GN 49:2, 8-10/PS 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/MT 1:1-17 FRIDAY: JER 23:5-8/PS 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/MT 1:18-25

SATURDAY: JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A/PS 71:3-6, 16-17/ LK 1:5-25

NEXT SUNDAY: MI 5:1-4A/PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/ HEB 10:5-10/LK 1:39-45

Liturgical Publications Inc (For a list of daily readings: go to http://www.usccb.org/nab)



Taize Prayer Service Sunday, December 13th

at 5:30 PM

Join us for a service of music, prayer and quite reflection. This hour is exactly what we need to slow down and remember what is

truly important during this holy season of Advent.



St. Gerald Parish Advent Reconciliation Service with individual confession and absolution 7 PM on Monday, December 14

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for weekend of Nov. 29	\$ 6,350.00
Budget Offertory for weekend of Nov. 29	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1—November 29	\$181,153.00
Budget Offertory July 1—November 29	\$205,330.00

DECEMBER 20, 2015 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM Dec	cember 19	Fr. Festus
For Michael Hoots	Servers	Eli Gerhart Isabelle Gerhart
Requested by Mary Lou Olschansky	Lector/ Ushers	Alice Sheehan 5:00B
8:30 AM Dec	cember 20	Fr. Festus
For Ken Buchanan Requested by	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
Tom & Arlene McPhail	Lector/ Ushers	Yvonne Nemeth 8:30A
10:15 AM De	cember 20) Fr. Festus
For All Living & Deceased Morelli &	Servers	Ashley Grabinski Emily Chojnacki
Rotondo Families Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Lector/ Ushers	Nancy Stone Tim Wardle, Jr. 10:15C
12:00 Noon De	ecember 20	Fr. Kaiser
FOR ALL OUR	Servers	Need Servers
PARISHIONERS	Lectors/ Ushers	Maggie Kohler 12:00B
Cominton Colo	116 1	

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

December 18 and December 19

December 24 Team #4



Team # 2

FATHER FESTUS'S NIGERIAN MISSION

Father Festus is planning to continue his Nigerian Mission in January 2016. CORE Nigeria, his non-profit corporation, will be once again requesting contributions for his medical, food pantry and education mission.

There will be a second collection this weekend.

Father thanks you for your continued prayers and support of this worthy mission!

Have you considered putting St. Gerald Church in your Will? Please call Fr. Festus at 248-477-7470. He would be happy to discuss this with you.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed to help out this week with sorting gifts, setting up rooms and also on distribution day. Please call the Christian Service office at 248-476 -7677 ext. 204 or email at csstgerald@yahoo.com if

you are able to help. Many volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE BACK NEXT WEEKEND Just a reminder, if you took a Christmas tag, please return your gift this weekend. Thank you again for helping to support our Christmas Program here at St. Gerald.



HAT AND MITTEN DONATIONS

Please bring a pair of mittens, gloves, hat, scarf or socks to help us decorate the tree in the church gathering space.

GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM GROCERY STORES NEEDED!

We will continue to accept gift cards from Kroger and Meijer to give help during the holiday and throughout the year. Just drop your donation in the Sunday collection basket or bring to the Christian Service Office. Thanks!



Items needed: Tuna Helper Canned Chicken Spaghetti Sauce Laundry Detergent Paper Towels

Canned Spam Canned Ham Cookies Big Cans Soup Cereal

Place donations in bins located in main entrance of church



While you are running around preparing for Christmas, be joyful! You only get to shop, cook, and wrap for this Christmas once! If you enjoy this time, you will feel accomplished, and satisfied. Treat yourself with care and love and you can return that love tenfold! Forget stress and be happy!

Calendar:

Saturday Dec. 12th : Sunday Dec. 13th: Caroling @ Ashley Ct. @ 2:00 PM Gift sorting with Karing Kids and Youth group @ 3-5 PM Merry Christmas!

Friday Dec. 25th:

Blessing of Baby Jesus for Family Creche after all the Masses this weekend

FORMATION

Children of the parish in grades Preschool-6 are invited to participate in the *St. Gerald* Gospel Enactment of the Christmas Story at the 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass



There will be one rehearsal on

Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 AM in the church. Please contact Mary Taylor this week to sign up, 248 476-7677, ext. 201 or taylor.mary04@yahoo.com .



Wanda Reiner Beth McLaughlin Bill Walker Robert Sikorski Ralph Wenski Erin Malloy-Sidaway Sofia Weiland Frank Adams Christopher Gogola Kimberly Plonka Corinne Wedge Wanda Johnson Robin Kafcas Bernie Fox Daron Tilburt Gina Riggi Nancy Kolliker' Andy Mosher

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM ST. ALEXANDER'S FOOD PANTRY

Traditionally, most people take time to count their blessings usually during the month of November undoubtedly because of the Thanksgiving holiday. This year, St. Alexander's Food Pantry feels particularly grateful because of the outpouring of monetary support as well as numerous donations of grocery items that have been delivered to our doors during 2015.

Although we were only open twelve days during the month, we still served 121 families during that time period. In addition to completing our regular monthly schedule, we also prepared and distributed holiday food boxes to 155 needy families in our community.

We continue to appreciate each and every donation and all those who share our mission and our vision.

In addition to the many individual donors during the month, we also received donations from St. Gerald, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fabian, Nardin Park United Methodist, North Congregational, First Presbyterian, Faith Covenant, Farmington Village Co-op, the Senior Division at the Costick Center, Forgotten Harvest, Costco, Starbucks of Downtown Farmington, Luna Entertainment, AFPD, St. Fabian K of C, Our Lady of Sorrows K of C, Chicken Shack of Livonia, Perkins Family Wellness Center in Livonia and Shatomi Kerbawy, the Confirmation Candidates, their parents and the St. Gerald K of C who sponsored a food drive in Downtown Farmington a few weekends ago.

Our outreach ministry has grown beyond the scope and responsibility of a single parish operation and should be considered a community effort since it is supported by churches, organizations and individuals in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and May God continue to bless you and your families.



WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

Let us rejoice today on this Gaudete Sunday! We are nearing the celebration of the Incarnation. "Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice!" - Philippians 4:4

In many dioceses throughout the world, the year of Mercy commences this Sunday. The following is an excerpt from the Archbishop of Chicago, Blasé Cupich.

"The Jubilee of Mercy is a graced opportunity for all of us to appreciate more deeply how the mercy of God has taken hold of our lives and, at the same time, how we can bring that mercy into the world through our own actions and the way we live our lives." "Let us call to mind the words of Pope Francis at this time: "In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strongly and clearly as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love.

May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: "Be mindful of your mercy, O

Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.""



We will begin decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 23, around 1:00 PM, both days. If you are able, come to help out. The poinsettias will be delivered on Monday, December 21. They will be coming from Schwartz's Nursery and Greenhouse in Romulus, Michigan.

The Christmas Memorial Poinsettia fund information is listed below. You have the opportunity to donate towards the Christmas decorations and poinsettias that are purchased for the Christmas church environment. As in years past, we will list the names of those remembered in the parish bulletin and their names will appear on a tree located in the main entryway of the church. The donation is \$10.00 per name. Thank you for your donations. If you wish to contribute to the flower fund, but don't wish to have a name placed, you can note on your check or envelope, "Christmas Flowers."

If you are looking for a place to purchase your live Christmas tree this year, I would encourage you to go to Tryban's Christmas Tree Farm at 24233 Orchard Lake Rd, just North of Ten Mile. They have trees, roping and wreaths. Over the years, they have donated the large evergreen wreaths that have hung inside and outside of our church. Have a prayerful week!

Advent Tea Thank You!

What a success! Many were here last Monday at our annual Advent Tea. We could not have made this evening happen without our volunteers! A great big thank you to the Coordinators of the Advent Diane Gerometta, Caron Kott, Tea: Johanna Ward and Barb Seabolt. Also, many helped with the serving, clean up and hospitality. They were Fred



Gerometta, Tom Seabolt, Tom McPhail, Leeann and Buckley. Scott Paul Oleszkowicz, Paige, Lucas and Kellan Meier, Lilly

Penner, Ciara Braska, Ian Width, Emily Chojnacki and Steven Koponen for providing the beautiful music. We couldn't ask for a more special evening!

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Тном	AS A. CENCER +
	February 8, 1931 December 4, 2015
	ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THOMAS O LORD, AND MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM

ST. GERALD CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS 2015 This Christmas Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial poinsettias in gold metallic pot covers.

Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these poinsettias and other festive greenery.

Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out this form! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office. If you have more than one name, then just make your list and submit that with your name and phone number. Thank you. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our Christmas Edition

 TOT	Our	CIII IN	oma	LIGHTON	**			
(DE	ADLI	NE FO.	R DON	ATIONS	IS MON	IDAY,	DECEMBER	14)

In Memory of:	(Please legibly print name of deceased)	
Remembered by:		
	(Your name)	
Your phone number: (()	

ST. GERALD PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015-2016

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule Daily Mass—M, T, W —9:15 AM; First Friday - 9:15 AM; Th— 7:00 PM

Weekend Mass—Dec. 12-13, 19-20 Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

Christmas Eve—Thursday, Dec. 24 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 8:00 PM Choir Mass

Christmas Day—Friday, Dec. 25 (no 8:30 AM Mass) 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

Feast of The Holy Family Dec. 26 - 5:00 PM, Dec. 27—8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31-5:00 PM Mass New Year's Day, Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God Friday, January 1 - 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

> First Saturday Mass for Life Saturday, Jan 2–9:15 AM

Feast of the Epiphany Saturday, Jan 2 - 5:00 PM, Sunday, Jan 3 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

<u>The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule</u> Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at 3:30 pm

(No Confession Dec. 19) Monday, Dec. 14—Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM

OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

The Christmas wafer is a Central European Christian Christmas Wafers Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, (Opłatki) Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the Host used during a Catholic mass however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the oplatek wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of oplatek with someone is symbol of forgiveness between two people and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. The tradition of sharing the wafer is one of the rich variety of traditions that Poles still celebrate during Christmas Eve Supper, which is the most elegant and pompous evening in the whole year. Why not start a new tradition this year. Oplateks are available in the Parish Office if you are unable to come during the week to pick yours up, please call 248-477-7470 and arrangements can be made. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

EVANGELIZATION

SHARING GOD WITH OTHERS

The Evangelization Committee of St. Gerald is committed to our parish community. The aim is to transform our culture and provide conversation about our Catholic faith. It is a call to holiness. Please share the invitation with others.

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Movie Night (13+ and adult) We will be showing the film *For Greater Glory* starring Andy Garcia and Eva Longoria. Pizza, pop and popcorn. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Many things divide us: language, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, politics, ideology, culture, personal history, temperament, private wounds, moral judgments. It is hard, in the face of all this, to see people who are different from us as brothers and sisters, as equally important citizens of this world, and as loved and valued by God in the same way we are. *Ronald Rolheiser*

BOOK LIST FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY:

- Our One Great Act of Fidelity by Ronald Rolheiser
- Thrift Store Saints by Jane Knuth
- Seeds by Thomas Merton
- St. Katharine Drexel Friend of the Oppressed by Ellen Tarry
- An Introduction to the Faith of Catholics by Richard Chilson
- The Word In And Out Of Season by William J. Bausch
- Evangelical Is Not Enough by Thomas Howard
- A Civilization of Love by Carl Anderson
- How Not To Share Your Faith by Mark Brumley
- The Everyday Apostle by Edward Garesche

Your Christmas Offering

Just a reminder that the Christmas collection is the one collection that the entire dollar amount remains directly here at St. Gerald Parish. The rest of the donations to the parish throughout the year are subject to a 7% assessment by the Archdiocese of Detroit. As always, thank you for your generous support and consideration.

CTND

As you prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, on Christmas, tune into the Catholic Television Network of Detroit (CTND) for programming focusing on the true meaning of Christmas. This week, CTND features Msgr. John Zenz on the third episode in the "Advent Reflections" series, which reflects and expands on the homilies, prayers, and Scriptures of Advent. Thanks to your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal, you can also see "Why We Worship," with Father Greg Usselmann unpacking the untold wealth of meaning within the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and "Journey to Christmas," a program following pilgrims experiencing the Holy Land for the first time. A complete schedule can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website and in The Michigan Catholic newspaper. Since 1987, CTND has broadcast faith-filled programming that informs, educates, inspires, and entertains to homes throughout southeast Michigan. CTND became an affiliate of Boston-based Catholic TV Network in 2011. For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to www.AOD.org.



Effort

KNIGHTS CORNER Some "Say Merry Christmas, It's OK" Buttons Still Available in Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Knights have a few "Say Merry Christmas, It's OK" buttons left over from prior Christmas seasons and will be making them available to parishioners after Sunday masses until the supply runs out. The buttons are part of the national K of C's campaign to keep Christ in Christmas. If you can oversee making the buttons available after Mass – about a 10 minute task – give Program Director Tom McPhail a call at 248-875-1185.

A big "Atta Boys" to Shatomi Kerbawy and Frank Gariepy for again producing the Council's second annual Spelling Bee last weekend. And a big thanks to Rich and Candy Rosowski, Rick and Nancy Stone, PGK Bruce Roberts and Nick Kovach who handled the registrations and the judging. The champion and three runners-up in each of the two age groups will represent the Council in the Jan. 10 regional meet.

Knights were busy last Sunday with the Pictures with Santa and with the first public sale of the 2016 State K of C raffle tickets. Helping prepare for Santa on Saturday were PGK Richard Smith who was the event manager, Len Lemanski and Rich Rosowski. Helping Sunday were PGK Richard Smith, Patrick Rogers, Rich Van den Brul, Frank Gariepy, Fred Gerometta, GK Darren Losey, Jack Davis, Bill Croitori and PGK Bruce Roberts.

Roberts also led the raffle ticket sales which will award the top winner with two weeks in Rome with paid air fare and \$4,000 in spending money. The raffle produces money that the State K of C passes out to many charities during the year. The drawing is scheduled for April 16. If you haven't received your tickets in the mail or need more tickets, see Brother Roberts who is the event manager.

Brother Larry Swanson who is leading the Council's Food for Families project soon will be passing out tote bags featuring the Council color and identification. Larry found three donors for the bags which will be available next month. Many Knights generously make gifts of food to the parish pantry or to the St. Al's pantry. Putting the food items in a Council tote will allow the Council to record the gift and receive credit in the national K of C Food for Families effort.

Check on State and National K of C Activities at www.mikofc.org

ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office Hours

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. Closed Friday. (secretary at lunch Noon—12:30)

STAFF

Reverend Festus Ejimadu, Pastor(248) 477-7470	
Timothy Westfall: Pastoral Associate	
Email: timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com	
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistantx 212	
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com	

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services Laura Meier, Christian Service Coordinatorx 204 Email: csstgerald@yahoo.com
St. Vincent de Paul x 220
Education Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education x 201 Email: taylor.mary04@yahoo.com
Youth Ministry Theresa Smith
Music MinistryMary Zelinski, Director of Music734-516-0133
MaintenanceAccountantMark KossKim Shepard
Ministries Assistant - Purchaser

Ministries Assistant - Purchaser

Cathy Long X 222 Email: clong123@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Rite of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 3:30-4:30PM **Sacrament of the Sick**: Please call the office

Baptism:

Please be aware that first time parents must attend a short baptism prep class prior to the baptism of their child. Arrangements for baptism may be made by calling the Parish Office.

Matrimony:

St. Gerald Parish is pleased to marry registered parishioners and their children. Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance of the wedding date. Please call the Parish Office.

Registration of new members:

Please see Fr. Ejimadu after Mass or call the office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway for your convenience. After you fill it out, just give it to Fr. Ejimadu or drop it off in the Parish Office. Thank you!

RCIA: Would you or someone you know want to become a full member of the Catholic Church? The St. Gerald RCIA group meets each week on Thursdays. Please call Tim Westfall (248) 476-7677 x202 or Fr. Ejimadu (248) 477-7470 for more information.

WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. GERALD CATHOLIC PARISH!

If you are new to the area, we look forward to meeting you personally. If you have not been active in the practice of the Catholic faith, we encourage you to return. If a previous marriage has kept you from receiving the Sacraments, we invite you to call the rectory at 248-477-7470. In many cases, Fr. Ejimadu can work with you to find a favorable solution.

St. Alexander Food Pantry Contact Information Phone: 248-474-8231

Calls taken Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM - to 11:00 AM

ST. GERALD MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gerald Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming, inclusive parish striving to be a reflection of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our faith through reverent and uplifting worship, serving those in need, and living the fullness of the Gospel with all God's people.





4-D-5-3 For Ad Information Call LPi Direct at 1-800-477-4574

www.4LPi.com

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