



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.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2015

On many occasions we celebrate things that have already happened, such as graduation from college. At other times we celebrate things that are just beginning, such as getting married. These latter celebrations are largely acts of faith. We have no guarantees about things that are only beginning. We still may have faith, however, in One who transcends our celebrations.

First reading – Micah 5:1-4a

In the time of Micah, a promise was made to Bethlehem. This obscure town would someday be the birthplace of the Messiah. How the people of Bethlehem must have celebrated this promise! But their celebration was strictly an act of faith, because the Messiah would not come for over 700 years.

Second reading – Hebrews 10:5-10

Each time we participate in the mass, we celebrate Christ's death on the cross. But that celebration is a supreme act of faith because it involves seeing one man's death as the sacrificial atonement for the sins of the world. Let us hope for the redemption of the whole world through Jesus Christ.

Gospel – Luke 1:39-45

Mary and Elizabeth had many things to celebrate. Each had been chosen to bear a child of promise who would do mighty things for God. But their vibrant joy was also a remarkable affirmation of faith. They had no guarantees that their unborn sons would launch the messianic age.

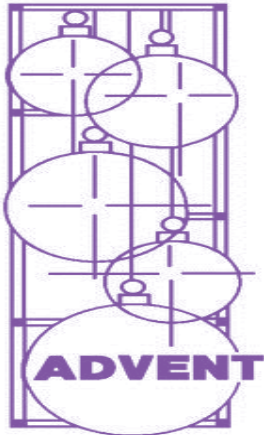
Celebration is the dominant mood of Christmas. The music of the season is everywhere. Our homes are festively decorated and full of good things to eat. Gifts are waiting under the Christmas tree. Visiting family members and friends will add to the celebration of Christmas. Celebrating is natural and gratifying when all is going well. Celebration is often an act of thanksgiving to God for our many blessings. But celebration is also an act of faith. Our faith is not focused exclusively on what God has done. It is also concerned with what God is doing in the present and will do in the future. Celebration is thanksgiving, but isn't it also an act of faith?

Mary and Elizabeth were in a festive mood. Each of them was expecting a child. Elizabeth, the older of the two, had given up hope of having a child. But now she was six months pregnant. Mary had received the angelic announcement that she would bear a son and was to name him "Jesus." Together they were celebrating these anticipated births. They were also celebrating what God would do – in the future – through the lives of their two children. All of this was quite premature, of course. But most celebrations are. Celebrations are almost always acts of faith, in one way or another. A football team scores a touchdown. The players jump into each other's arms, slap one another on the back, and shout for joy. But the game is not over. They have not won. They may still be behind in the score. There is no guarantee that they will win. Even if they do, the season is not over. There will be another game next week. Still, they celebrate. Isn't celebration almost always an act of faith?

For Mary and Elizabeth the final outcome was not in sight. They had no conclusive proof that victory awaited their sons in the future. Caesar still ruled the world. A detachment of his soldiers was stationed somewhere nearby. Sin still held captive every human heart. Both the political and the religious structures reeked with the smell of corruption. These women had no idea what was out there in the future. Had they known, their hearts would have been broken within them. Elizabeth's son would have his head severed from his body and served on a platter by a dancing girl. Mary's son would be nailed to a cross. Still they celebrated. Celebration is nearly always an act of faith.

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

A Week Ahead



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 25

Monday 9:15 AM
Del Hogan
Requested by Mary Lou Olschansky

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Joanne Wojnar
Requested by Bill Croitori

Wednesday 9:15 AM
**Anthony and Caroline DeBrincat
and Al and Mary Diedo**
Requested by Diedo Family

Thursday, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Kaye and Pavco Families
Requested by Joe Pavco

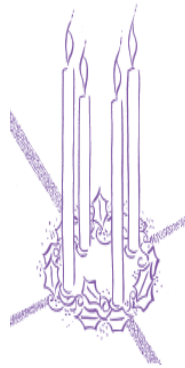
6:00 PM Christopher Ejimadu
Requested by Staff

8:00 PM Wilfrid and Audrey Jacques
Requested by Family

Friday, Christmas Day

10:15 AM Edward and Eleanor Sroka
Requested by Tim Westfall

12:00 PM For All Our Parishioners



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: SG 2:8-14 OR ZEP 3:14-18A/PS 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21/LK 1:39-45

TUESDAY: 1 SM 1:24-28/1 SM 2:1, 4-8/LK 1:46-56

WEDNESDAY: MAL 3:1-4, 23-24/PS 25:4-5, 8-10,
14/LK 1:57-66

THURSDAY: MORNING: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16/
PS 89:2-5, 27, 29/LK 1:67-79

FRIDAY: VIGIL: IS 62:1-5/PS 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ACTS
13:16-17, 22-25/MT 1:1-25 OR 1:18-25
NIGHT: IS 9:1-6/PS 96:1-3, 11-13/TI 2:11-14/
LK 2:1-14

DAWN: IS 62:11-12/PS 97:1, 6, 11-12/TI 3:4-7/
LK 2:15-20

DAY: IS 52:7-10/PS 98:1-6/HEB 1:1-6/JN 1:1-18
OR 1:1-5, 9-14

SATURDAY: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/PS 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/
MT 10:17-22

NEXT SUNDAY: 1 SM 1:20-22, 24-28 OR SIR 3:2-6, 12-14/
PS 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 JN 3:1-2, 21-24 OR COL
3:12-21 OR 3:12-17/LK 2:41-52

Liturgical Publications Inc

(For a list of daily readings: go to <http://www.usccb.org/nab>)

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.

DECEMBER 27, 2015 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

5:00 PM December 26 Fr. Roodbeen

For
John F. Fea
Requested by
Bernadette Fea

Servers

Need Servers

Lector/
Ushers

Lyda DelRosario
5:00B

8:30 AM December 27 Fr. Festus

For
**All Our
Parishioners**

Servers

Need Servers

Lector/
Ushers

Paul Borchert
8:30B

10:15 AM December 27 Fr. Festus

For
Jean Lopus
Requested by
Mary Lou
Olschansky

Servers

Sarah Weber

Lector/
Ushers

Angela McLoughlin
10:15C

12:00 Noon December 27 Fr. Festus

For
**All Our
Parishioners**

Servers

Need Servers

Lectors/
Ushers

Paul Radzilowski
12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

December 24

Team # 4

January 1 and January 2

Team #6



Parish Offices will be closed from December 25 through January 3. If you need to reach someone in the Parish Office, please leave a message on extension 212 and someone will return your call. Thank You!



December 24 and 25

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM

6:00 PM Children's Mass

8:00 PM Choir Mass

Christmas Day

10:15 AM

12:00 PM

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

There are no words that can show our appreciation for the wonderful gifts and gift cards that were purchased for our Christmas Program this year. This has been a year of uncertain times for many and your generosity will definitely help to bring joy into the lives of many in our

community.

Many Thanks to the volunteers who spent Sunday sorting gifts.

MaryAnne ODonohue who is St. Gerald's Rock Star lead the distribution on 12/19 assisting 29 families with food, gifts and toiletries. Thank You! We love you MaryAnne!



The Christian Service Ministry is so important and I am blessed to have had such wonderful volunteers this year!

Food Pantry



Items needed:

Tuna Helper	Canned Spam
Canned Chicken	Canned Ham
Spaghetti Sauce	Cookies
Laundry Detergent	Big Cans Soup
Snacks	Dish Detergent

Place donations in bins located in main entrance of church



WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF

ERNEST ZAWISA

+

FEBRUARY 15, 1939
DECEMBER 11, 2015

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
ERNEST
O LORD,
AND MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

In today's Scripture passages, both the prophet Micah and St. Paul pronounce the coming of the Lord into the world. In the Gospel, St. Luke reports on Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea while both are with child. John the Baptist "leaps" in Elizabeth's womb at Mary's greeting — even before his birth, John is bonded to his cousin, Jesus. Elizabeth acknowledges Mary as the Mother of our Lord. During Advent, Christian stewards strive for a closer connection with Christ. Use this time to deepen your relationship with the Lord: pray daily, reflect on Scripture, and attend Mass regularly to receive Holy Communion.

FORMATION

VOCATIONS AND THE CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sister Barbara Beesley, IHM, from Marygrove College in Detroit will discuss vocations and her call to Social Justice.

Sister Barb says, "Although my fingerprints undoubtedly remain with the FBI, I am saddened to report that my petty crimes of yesteryear no longer exist on record. You'll just have to trust my honesty and vivid imagination about my exploits."

Sunday, January 31, 2016

4:00 PM

St. Gerald Parish Social Hall

All Religious Formation classes will break for the Christmas Holiday beginning December 21st.

Classes will resume Monday, January 4th.



PRAY FOR...

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



Many thanks to the carolers who brought their voices to Ashley Court last weekend. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the time that you spent with them. You definitely brought them the spirit of Christmas!

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

During these final days of Advent, as the Church turns her attention to the commemoration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, we focus more deeply on preparing ourselves for this event. How are you preparing for the celebration? Remember to keep prayer at the "heart" of your Christmas.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy began on December 8. The following is an excerpt from the *Catholic New World – Newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago*. Archbishop Blasé Cupich's column.

This is how Pope Francis described mercy when he announced the Jubilee:

- the word that reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity;
- the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us;
- the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life;
- the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

Throughout this year, I invite you to choose one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy and dedicate yourselves to practicing it individually or as a family. You can take confidence in the promise of Jesus, "the measure you measure with, will be measured back to you" (Matthew 7:2).

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.

Have a prayerful Advent Season, with a few days left.



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

21 9:15 AM Mass	22 9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions	23 9:15 AM Mass	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 pm Mass 6:00 pm Children's Mass 8:00 pm Choir Mass	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> No 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 12:00 pm Mass 8:00 pm AA Meeting	26 NO 3:30 PM Confessions 5:00 PM Mass	27 <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i> 8:30 AM Mass 10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:15 AM Mass 12:00 PM Mass
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UPCOMING LITURGY SCHEDULE

4:00 PM December 24 Fr. Festus		
For Kaye & Pavco Families Requested by Joe Pavco	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski Paul Borchert Ushers Needed
6:00 PM December 24 Fr. Festus		
For Christopher Ejimadu Requested by Staff	Servers	Sofia Mansoori
	Lector/ Ushers	Lyda DelRosario Nancy Stone Ushers Needed
8:00 PM December 24 Fr. Morris		
For Wilfrid & Audrey Jacques Requested by Family	Servers	Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Jim Bergin Mary Power Ushers Needed
10:15 AM December 25 Fr. Festus		
For Edward & Eleanor Sroka Requested by Tim Westfall	Servers	Ashley Grabinski
	Lectors/ Ushers	Caron Kott Thad Radzilowski Ushers Needed
12:00 PM December 25 Fr. Festus		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Need Servers
	Lectors/ Ushers	Fernando Guerra Chris Greig Ushers Needed

**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. 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

(No Confessions Dec. 19 or Dec. 26)

OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"



The **Christmas wafer** is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, 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!**



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.

EVANGELIZATION

EVANGELIZATION... What's your role?

It is our commitment to act justly, protect human dignity, and to share God's love with others. That is evangelization. That is our role in the community. Share by invitation; if you're here, bring a friend to share it with you.

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities: **2016** (all events held in the Social Hall, unless specified)

Saturday, January 9th 6:30 PM (following 5:00 PM Mass) - **Movie Night** (13+ and adult) We will be showing the film **For Greater Glory** starring Andy Garcia & Eva Longoria. Enjoy pizza, pop and popcorn. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

Friday, January 15th any time after **7:30 PM** - **Theology on Tap** (21 & up) at Peterlin's Restaurant 9 Mile & Farmington Rds. Adults gather for friendly discussion of current events and the impact on our lives and spirituality. Need not be Catholic to attend.

Saturday, February 27th @ 8:00 PM - **Adult Date Night** Couples are invited to attend a night of adult fellowship, games and music. Euchre, charades, and other games are planned. BYOB, and a snack to share. Feel free to bring your own game preference.

Become **RADIO-ACTIVE**: listen to *Ave Maria Radio AM 990*; you'll enjoy learning more about faith and practices. Listen, be informed...and **PASS IT ON!**

If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the Evangelization Committee, please call our parish secretary at 248-477-7470 for next meeting date.

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Do not be too quick to condemn the man who no longer believes in God, for it is perhaps your own coldness and avarice, your mediocrity and materialism, your sensuality and selfishness that have killed his faith. *Thomas Merton*

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHAIN

If you know someone who could use our prayers and would like them added to our prayer chain, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 or email stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com and their name will be added to our prayers.



KNIGHTS CORNER

Best Wishes to St. Gerald's Knights and Their Families for a Happy and Blessed Christmas

Best wishes to all St. Gerald's Knights and their families. May this blessed season bring great joy and happiness to you and yours. And may our Council renew our commitment that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ and not a time of great retail sales.

In addition to the celebration of Christ's birth, it also is a time to look back over the year and assess our activities. Among the highlights was the receipt of a coveted Star Award from the national K of C. This award is for meeting our new members and new insurances targets and for programs impacting families, youth and charitable works. In the last six months of 2015 we are on course to match that progress.

A few of our members celebrated birthdays recently that were not recognized properly. Belated birthday wishes go to PGK Patrick Rogers and Louay Mansoor who shared Nov. 3 as a birthday. Michael Dombe celebrated Nov. 5 as did Fred Gerometta Nov. 11. December birthdays were marked by GK Darren Losey (Dec. 1), Giorgio Trolani (Dec. 3), Bill Croitori (Dec. 19), Brett Gierak (Dec. 20) and Michael O'Donohue (Dec. 27). Happy birthday to you all well.

With the New Year just around the corner, remember that Council dues for 2016 are due. If you are wondering about the optional "Take 5" levy, it is a state K of C program that supports 55 charities throughout the state. It supplements the proceeds of the state raffle.

Coming in January is a bus trip Jan. 9 to the Fire Keepers casino outside Battle Creek; another challenge for our spelling bee champions and runners up at the regional spelling bee Jan. 10; our monthly membership meeting Jan. 19, and a Jan. 24 pancake breakfast for the parish.

Check out the Knights pages on the parish website – www.stgeraldparish.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 x 202
Email: timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant.....x 212
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services

Laura Meier, Christian Service Coordinator x 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..... x 203
Email: stgeraldym@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Mary Zelinski, Director of Music 734-516-0133

Maintenance

Mark Koss

Accountant

Kim Shepard

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.

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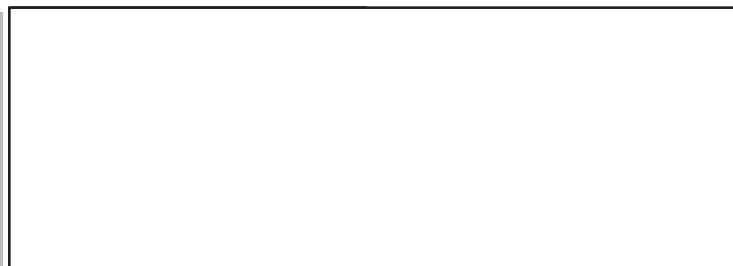
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