



THE ARK

Toledo Diocesan Cursillo Mission Statement: Cursillo is a Catholic Lay Movement embraced by the Diocese of Toledo to bring hearts closer to Jesus Christ in order to transform society and be of service to the whole church. It is our mission to form small Christian Communities to deepen Spirituality in ourselves and in others.

December 2024

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

Advent Season: Watching and Waiting for Christmas

Advent is the Season of four weeks before Christmas, marking the beginning of the Christian year. This year, Advent begins on December 1st, the first Sunday of December. Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and refers to Christ's coming in two ways: His first coming as a baby in Bethlehem and his second coming at the end of time. Advent is a time of preparation, anticipation, and hope for Christians who celebrate the birth of Jesus and await his return.

Watching and waiting are two essential themes of Advent. They remind us of the long history of God's people who waited to fulfill God's promises and watched for his signs of salvation. They also challenge us to be alert and ready for

Christ's coming into our lives and the world. Watching and waiting are not passive or boring activities but active and joyful ones. They involve prayer, reading of Scripture, serving others, and sharing the good news of Jesus.

There are many ways to watch and wait for Christ during Advent. Here are some suggestions:

- Lighting an Advent wreath is one way to watch and wait for Christ. An Advent wreath is a circular candle holder with evergreen branches and four candles, one for each week of Advent and sometimes a fifth candle in the center for Christmas. The candles are usually purple or blue, the colors of royalty and hope, and pink for the third week, representing joy. Lighting an Advent candle each week symbolizes the growing light of Christ as we approach his birth.

- Participate in your parish's daily Mass, not just on Sundays, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Advent is a beautiful season to watch and wait for Christ. It invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for his coming, anticipate his presence and power in our lives and the world, and hope for his final and glorious return. Advent is a season to celebrate the



Spring 2025
Weekends

Men's - March 6-9

Women's April 10 - 13

coming of Christ, the light of the world, who shares in the darkness and will never be overcome.

- A third way to watch and wait for Christ is to practice charitable acts. Advent is a time to share our blessings with others, especially those in need. We can generously give our time, talent, and treasure to support the mission of the Church and the works of mercy. We can also reach out to our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. We can

show them the love of Christ in Word and deed. By doing so, we prepare the way of the Lord and make room for him in our hearts and homes.

- As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us remember the reason for his coming: to save us from our sins and to bring us into his kingdom of light and love. He is the fulfillment of all the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament. He is the Word made flesh, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. He is Emmanuel, God with us. He is the gift of the Father's love for us. Let us rejoice in his presence and adore him with grateful hearts. I pray that this Christmas will be joyful for you and your loved ones. I pray you will experience the peace and joy only Christ can give. I pray that you will share his love with those around you, especially the poor, the lonely, and the marginalized. I pray you will grow in faith, hope, and charity throughout the New Year. May God bless you abundantly and keep you in his care. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Brother Daniel Hall, CSSR



Lay Director

John & Kathy

Happy December!

I love this time of year when there is so much celebrating! Thanksgiving leftovers have just been finished, and Christmas cookies and candies are being made. Festive music is playing EVERYWHERE, and people generally look a little more joyful, even if they also look a little more tired with all that needs to be done for the holidays.



Advent, which takes up most of December, is meant to be a time of celebrating, too. The readings from the beginning of Advent remind us that Jesus' second coming could occur at any time, that we don't know the day or the hour, but that it is a reality. For us who follow the Lord and try to live the life He outlined for us, it is exciting to think of the time when Jesus will come again. The readings from the end of Advent follow the Scripture of the first coming of Jesus as an infant, with Mary's incredible story of an angel asking her to take on the role above any role that has ever been given, to become the mother of God. And Mary's response? From Luke 1:38, "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" Mary's words encourage us to listen to God's invitations for our lives, opening our hearts to accepting our roles in the ongoing salvation of the world.

What are you preparing for during this time of Advent? Peace for many in my life is a common prayer for me: peace in families, peace amidst the busyness of the season, peace for those struggling with serious illness, peace for those learning to live without loved ones who have passed to eternal life. There are many who need the peace of Jesus. Let us take the opportunities to share the peace of Christ that we experience with those for whom peace is difficult to find, so that perhaps they can find peace this Christmas!

Know that you are in our prayers for a Blessed Christmas! DeColores!

Kathy Otermat

John Lyons

Pre-Cursillo

Hope the holiday season finds you well. We are looking forward to seeing friends and family. Should also be seeing more seats filled at Mass.



It seems that most people are more friendly and talkative over the holidays. Makes it easier to make a new friend. Could be a good starting point to Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ.

Give it a try and let us know how it works for you. There is still plenty of time before the spring weekends.

Men's weekend is March 6 thru 9, 2025 and the Women's is April 10 thru 13, 2025.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Don't forget that candidate and sponsors applications can be downloaded from the Cursillo 419 website. You can e-mail or snail them to us. Let us know if you need any assistance with the applications.

De Colores,

Helen & Gary Keel Pre-Cursillo hkeel@buckeye-express.com 419-476-9347

Cursillo

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Jesus Is The Reason For The Season. Cursillo Teams will be forming after the first of the year. If you would like to be on a Cursillo Team please get your Team Applications to Robert Drewior(robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or Dave Zaborski(dzaborski411@gmail.com)

Merry Christmas Happy New Year
Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski

PRAYER VINE

Prayers for the month

Deacon Ben Valdez - passed away, a couple - considering divorce, friends' great grandbaby - UTI & in hospital, son - prayers to get thru a difficult time, Kathy Varga - continued recovery from heart surgery, family member - bleed on the brain, sister-in-law - colon cancer, prayers for success of upcoming Jesus Thirst film in Fremont, 11 year old - surgery to remove a lung growth, a lady with cancer, Peggy - pneumonia from COPD, friend - hoping for job opportunity, niece - sinus surgery.



School Of Leaders

School Of Leaders will be on break until January 18, 2025. We wish you a very joyful, healthy, and faith filled Christmas Season. Enjoy your Family and friends.

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA

Santa lives at the North Pole
JESUS is everywhere

Santa rides in a sleigh
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water
Santa comes but once a year
JESUS is an ever present help
Santa fills your stockings with goodies
JESUS supplies all your needs
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
JESUS stands at your door and knocks and then enters your heart
You have to stand in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name
Santa lets you sit on his lap
JESUS lets you rest in His arms
Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is,
"Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name,
He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and
He even knows how many hairs are on our head.
Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly
JESUS has a heart full of love
All Santa can offer is HO HO HO
JESUS offers health, help, and hope
Santa says "You better not cry"
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you"
Santa's little helpers make toys
JESUS make new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle....but...
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength
While Santa puts gifts under your tree
It's obvious there is really no comparison
We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about!
We need to put Christ back in Christmas.
JESUS is still the reason for the season!!!





December Ultreyas

Area 2 Ultreya's are on the 2nd Sunday of each month. 2-3 pm Jaeger Hall St Clements church.

Area 7 and 10 Tiffin Area –No December Ultreya. Jan. 26th is our next Ultreya for Seneca County area.

Area 8 No Ultreya in December!



FOURTH DAY

Wasn't the weather in November glorious? It was also a busy month with reunion Ultreya, Focus Day and Thanksgiving. We were so glad to see so many of you living your faith and attending as many of the Cursillo activities as you could squeeze into your schedules. We combined Thanksgiving and the Eucharist with the help of Sister Edna, Joanne Costa and all those who spent the day with us. We were reminded how intertwined the Eucharist and Thanksgiving really are.

Cursillo activities usually are on recess during December because of how busy everyone is. But that doesn't mean we are in recess with our piety, study and action. Continue to do palanca and lead others closer to Christ especially as Christmas draws near. We wish you all a happy and blessed Advent. Your brother and sisters in Christ, Bill & Betty Obringer, Becky Smeltz and Angie Mehling



PALANCA

Please share what you are doing for Palanca!
email to = Palanca419@outlook.com
Jack B. Reuter, Palanca Chair

witness : share how God is working in your life = email to = judbrick616@gmail.com

For your information and reflection

Current openings on Secretariat

School of Leaders



-- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—

The current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position you assume/step into.

Please reflect on these openings and hear the Holy Spirit to be the Hands, Feet and Voice of Jesus, you can continue to grow in your faith!

'What a shame it would be if someone came looking for Christ and only found us! But what a blessing if they came looking for us and found Christ!!'

Eduardo Bonnin, Founder Cursillo Movement

NATIONAL CURSILLO INFORMATION: www.natl-cursillo.org Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

*Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

