



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 2025

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” This verse is from Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 is a frequent first reading for funeral Masses. In Ecclesiastes, the ancient wisdom scripture writers were trying to pass along the knowledge, wisdom, instruction, and tradition of the faith to the younger Israelites. They do so to us as well. The words of this scripture passage show us God’s presence in all situations. But do we let him into all aspects of our life? Pondering this scripture passage in preparation for a recent funeral, it seems to me this passage applies to Advent too. As we enter Advent, Ecclesiastes reminds us that God weaves all moments—joy and sorrow, waiting and fulfillment—into His eternal plan. Advent itself is a season of holy waiting, a time to prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming, both in Bethlehem and at the end of time. It is a time for us to remind ourselves to let God into our daily lives.

In this rhythm of seasons, we are invited to let the Holy Trinity dwell in every aspect of our daily lives. The Father gives us life and purpose, the Son redeems our time through His Incarnation, and the Spirit sanctifies our ordinary moments. When we welcome the Trinity into our learning, our work, our families, our joys, and even our struggles, we discover that no season is wasted. Each moment becomes an opportunity for grace.

Spring Weekends 2026

Men – June 4-7th
Women -- June 18 – 21st
Maria Stein, OH

Gratefulness is the posture that allows us to see God’s hand in all things. Even in Northwest Ohio’s harvested fields of late fall and early winter, where the earth seems barren, gratitude teaches us to trust that God is at work beneath the surface. Advent gratitude is not passive—it is active, opening our eyes to blessings hidden in daily life: the love of family, the warmth of community, the gift of faith, the hope of Christ’s light breaking into darkness.

This gratitude naturally flows into action through mercy, especially the Corporal Works of Mercy. Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead are not tasks for another season—they are Advent acts of preparation. My home parish of All Saints in New Riegel, recently installed new windows in our church. The beautiful windows are illustrations of the Last Judgement and the Corporal Works of Mercy. They serve as a perfect stop for an Advent pilgrimage. For those who gaze upon them, these windows serve to instruct, inspire, and challenge: A challenge see

God's presence in all situations and a challenge to love our neighbor and even our enemy. They also serve as an examination of conscience as we contemplate how well we live out the Corporal Works of Mercy and what that means for our final judgement. By serving Christ in our neighbor, we make room for Him in our hearts. In a world often marked by division and weariness, mercy becomes the sign that Emmanuel—God with us—is truly present not just in Advent but throughout the year.

As Cursillistas, we are called to let God into all parts of our lives. We are called to live the message of His Incarnate Word with joy and perseverance. Advent is not only about waiting; it is about embodying Christ's love in the here and now. Let us embrace this season with grateful hearts, attentive to the Trinity's presence, and committed to mercy in action. In doing so, we proclaim that every time and season belongs to God, and that His coming is not only near—it is already among us.

De Colores!

Deacon Greg Siebenaller (made my Cursillo in late November 1987)



LAY DIRECTORS

De Colores brothers and sisters in Christ!

We are beginning the “season of giving”, as they call it. Why is it during this time of year? Why is it during advent? Because advent “emphasizes the spiritual and physical generosity of God, who gave the gift of Jesus, and encourages Christians to reflect on and imitate that generosity through acts of service, prayer, and giving to others in need.”

“For God so loved the world, that he gave us his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should have eternal life.” John 3:16

I love seeing how people are more joyful, have more patience with one another and are willing to dig deep into their pockets this time of year, especially, to help those in need. There is a Spirit of giving and joy and hope in the air! The Spirit of the Christ Child.

God loves us so much that he **gave us** his Son. Have you ever thought about it? Really taken the time to absorb how much this love is? Try looking at it through another light... Would you be willing to give up your child for the sins of the world? It's unfathomable to me and makes me want to be the best version of myself I possibly can for Him.

We pray you all make this "season of giving", be a season of living for the Christ Child. May it be a time filled with God's joy, peace, love, and forgiveness. Give from your hearts to bring Him joy. And take time this Blessed season to truly contemplate and share Gods wonderful, amazing love for us all! We are so very blessed!



Christmas Blessings,

Karen Fritsch (kittyrg1967@gmail.com)

Troy Peebles (tpeebles411@yahoo.com)



The upcoming Summer 2026 weekends are 6 months off. I currently have 1 application for each of the men's and women's weekends. I know this is a busy time of the year but in approximately 3 months the teams will start to form. Please consider during this Advent and Christmas time to reflect and pray about making a friend, being a friend, and inviting that friend to make the June weekends.

Send applications to me at:

patmontgomery411@gmail.com

155 E. Keegan St.

Deerfield, MI 49238

419-654-3604

Thank you, Pat Montgomery



Cursillo

If you are interested in serving on a Cursillo weekend, send your application to :

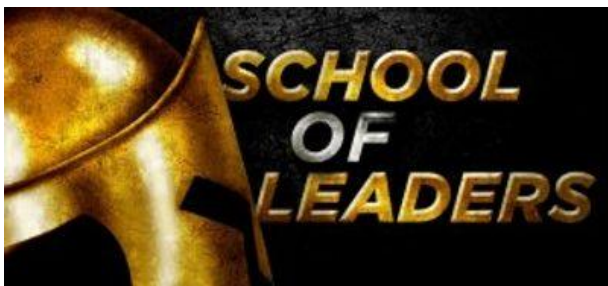
Dave Zaborski(dzaborski411@gmail.com) or
Robert Drewior(robertdrewior774@gmail.com)

Fourth Day / the Rest of your life.

Looks like the cold weather is upon us. We had a small turn out for Focus Day on the 15th. but all who attended had a good day and lots of good soup. We concentrated our talks on the 3-legged stool and how to use all 3 parts to improve our relationship with the Lord and lead others closer to Jesus. Now that we are into Advent, let's use this season to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Let us all try to simplify our lives and concentrate on the spiritual part of Advent and Christmas. Remember to pray, study and help those around us. Take advantage of all the special activities that remind us of the reason for the season. God bless all of you and your families and may your New Year bring you much joy and happiness!
Bill and Betty Obringer and Becky Smeltz.

Toledo Post Cursillo / 4th Day

The next phase, each day building upon the last, going out to to others and to the world. The living out a Christian life in the environment of the real world that Cursillistas encounter everyday. It does not present magic formulas but offers guidelines and direction for continuing conversion after the weekend.



School of Leaders will be on break until January 17, 2026. Wishing you all a blessed and faith filled Christmas Season.

DeColores
Shirley Fitz



Prayer Intentions

We lift up the following individuals and families in prayer, asking for God's healing, comfort, and presence in their lives:

- Cindy Brodman: Undergoing heart catheterization.
- Jesse: Facing a rare health condition and still in need of prayer.
- Emily: Battling breast cancer.
- Rita Walsh: Has passed away; prayers for her soul and for her loved ones.
- Larry: Recovering from lung cancer surgery.
- Nicole: Experiencing multiple health issues.
- Tim Distel: Preparing for or recovering from surgery.
- Linda: Recovering from back surgery.
- Anatra family: In need of prayers and support.
- Melody Reinhart = broken hand

Let us remember these intentions in our prayers, asking for God's healing, peace, and strength for each person and family mentioned above.

Ultreya

Area Ultreya Information

Area 2 - Ultreyas are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 2-3p.m. Jaeger Hall, St Clements Church.

Area 7 & 10 — See you in January.

Area 8 Ultreya -- Do not meet in December



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” – Psalm 107:1

Palanca for Advent and Christmas

As we move through Advent toward Christmas, palanca invites us to lift others through simple prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love. In a busy season, small offerings, an encouraging word, a moment of patience, a quiet prayer become powerful ways to make Christ's presence known. May our palanca help bring hope and light to others as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

De Colores and Merry Christmas!

12/4/2025 12/7/2025 Women's 297 (Spanish) San Juan, Argentina ciolguin@gmail.com

**12/4/2025 12/7/2025 Women's 1243 (Spanish) De Caguas, Puerto Rico
mariasresco1963@gmail.com**

**12/4/2025 12/7/2025 Men's 197 (English) St Louis, MO
pattianderson888@gmail.com**

12/4/2025 12/7/2025 Men's 135 (English) Springfield/Cape Girardeau, MO smcdecolores@gmail.com

Witness:

Let us know how God is working in your life email to – judbrick616@gmail.com

Current openings on Secretariat

For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—



4th Day / POST CURSILLO

Co-School of Leaders

Co- Pre-Cursillo

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.

