



January 2026 Newsletter

Check out our website at <https://www.buffalocursillo.com/> You will find dates and information on Ultreya, Weekends, Reunion mass schedule, Newsletters, Applications, and much more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Second Touch 2026:	January 31 – February 1 (Stella Niagara Center for Renewal) (see School of Leaders article)
Spring 2026 Weekends:	Men's Weekend #240, February 12 th – 15 th , 2026 Women's Weekend #241, March 12 th -15 th , 2026
Virtual Ultreya:	Bethany Ultreya meets virtually on Zoom the 2 nd and 4 th Thursday each month. This is ideal for those who cannot get out and those who have moved out of town. Contact Lynn Lomanto for the meeting information; Lomantolynn@gmail.com

***** Please see the end of the newsletter for calendar of events *****

Lay Coordinator Report:

Happy and Blessed New Year to all!!

As I write this, I am sitting at my kitchen table looking out the back window over a beautiful sunny snow covered landscape and can not help asking how do I deserve to be so blessed by God that he has given me this gift today. The first day of the new year with blue skies, white fluffy clouds, and freshly fallen snow glistening in the sun.

The truth of the matter is that I don't deserve it, but God was kind and generous and gave it to me. Gifts from our Lord, God, King of the Universe – wow! All He asks, I think, is that I appreciate and cherish this freely given gift being grateful for the Love that He showers on me each day and then to share that Love with all around me.

God's gifts are not given by accident or happenstance, but part of His plan for each of us to bring us closer to Him. So here's a question, is Cursillo a gift to you? I hope in this new year that which started on your weekend be it last year or years (and years and years) ago is still felt and cherished as that unique treasure given only to you by Jesus through His hands and heart shown to you by your sponsor. If that fire still burns, fiercely or as just a smoldering ember, then I urge you to share it, give it away, ignite someone near to you or far away. You may find, as I did by sharing this wonderful day outside my window with you, that by sharing your gift of the Holy Spirit in your life that you found in Cursillo, you may find your

treasure glisten more brightly as Jesus looks at you and says well done my good and faithful servant, thank you for bringing your friend to me.

De Colores

Chuck Stephan #206

Lay Coordinator

Cell: 716.817.3969

Spiritual Advisor Report:

Happy New Year! We begin a new year, new opportunities, new challenges, new goals, perhaps resolutions. I begin my term as Buffalo Cursillo Spiritual Adviser with many thanks to Deacon Dave Clabeaux for all he has done for me and the Cursillo community.

We celebrate 250 years of the birth of our great country this year “One nation **under God**, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” taken from the Pledge of Allegiance which is not recited nearly often enough any longer.

We each have a role in upholding our great nation as being under God’s guidance and direction. I was struck by the words that I think are good words for us to live by: January 1 from *Jesus Calling* from Sarah Young. Jesus speaking to each of us, “Come to Me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being *transformed by the renewing of your mind* (cf. Romans 12:2). As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. *I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future* (cf. Jer. 29:11). Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My presence.”

May you each be blessed in this coming year and give your own *fiat* to God’s Will in your life and we will truly change the world around us one person at a time. God Bless you all!

Deacon Marc Leaderstorf, Weekend # 151

Treasurer Report:

Thank you Cursillo Community for your generosity in 2025! God’s continued blessings in 2026.

Mike Cucinotta

Treasurer

Historian Report:

Our Historian, Carol Stier (Buffalo Women's #7), is taking a well-deserved break. Historian reports will return at a later date. Thank you Carol, for all you do to remind us of the great Cursillo history.

Carol Stier
Buffalo Cursillo Historian
(716) 692-1606

Pre-Cursillo Report:

Hi everyone and Happy New Year to you!

The Cursillo weekends are fast approaching. Men February 12th and Women's March 12th. I know everyone is still in Holiday slooooow mode, but let's all set a goal for 2026 to let the Holy Spirit guide us to what really is important BRINGING FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CHRIST.

The upcoming Men's chili (not chilly) info night will be held January 13th at 6:30 at Langley Hall, 7580 Clinton St. corner of Clinton and Girdle Rds. Elma.

Women's will be on January 20th at 6:30 at the home of Catherine Friedman, 64 Kristen Meadows East Amherst, come join us for fun fellowship and lots of sweet treats!

These info nights are so important and they are a casual, friendly way to introduce others to Cursillo. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to those who want their lives to be changed for the better.

HAPPY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!
God Bless,

De Colores!

Sherry Misso
Pre-Cursillo Coordinator
shermiss@hotmail.com 716-984-0163

Cursillo Section:

CURSILLO SECTION

Season's Greetings! No, we are not delayed in offering good wishes for the holidays. We are welcoming in the start of the 2026 season of Cursillo Winter Weekends. They are fast approaching. In addition to the Second Touch Weekend (January 30, 31 and February 1), the upcoming Men's Weekend is February 12-15; the Women's Weekend is March 12-15. See below for the Men's team names and their roles on the Weekends.

Just as we prepare weeks ahead of time for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, we also need to prepare well in advance for the Cursillo Winter Weekends. Preparation includes first and foremost

praying for the teams of men and women presenting the Weekends (those who reteamed and those who recently joined), the candidates, their sponsors, those who are encouraging candidates to come, and those who are hosting Information Nights (see elsewhere in this newsletter for dates, times and locations of the Information Nights).

Additional preparation involves hours of activity by the Team Selectors, Talk Advisors, Palanca Team Coordinators, Kitchen Coordinators and Building Coordinator. Further preparation consists of inventorying and replenishing supplies, building setup, Ultreya and Prayer Group meal preparation, offering palanca (Mass attendance, Adoration hours, rosaries, other spiritual exercises), and writing palanca.

There is something for everyone to do, not just the teams and coordinators. If you are physically hindered or wintering in a warmer climate, monetary donations are always welcome in addition to your prayers and palanca. Please offer to do something for the Weekends. We are community and need to support every aspect of the Weekends. Reach out to us, Diane Putt or Denise Daniels, the Cursillo Section Coordinators for direction where you may offer your time and talents if you are not already committed to a task. Our contact numbers are below.

Remember - - CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU.

Happy Cursillo Winter Season and Ultreya!

Men's Team:

Marty Ruhland – Rector and Total Security

Mark Miller – Assistant Rector, Piety and Study of the Environment

Pat Mahaney – Ideal

John Desimone – Layperson: Christian in the World

Dustin Bliss – Study

Alex Hartman – Action

Mike Emery – Leaders

Randy Rakoczynski – Christianity in Action

Dennis Conklin – The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo

Jerry O'Donnell – Warden

John Ferrell – Warden

Taylor Gavigan – Warden

Bill Kita – Liturgist

Paul Johnson – Liturgist

Dcn. Matt Hens – Spiritual Advisor

Dcn. Mike Hahn – Spiritual Advisor

Dcn. Pete Walders – Spiritual Advisor

DeColores,

Denise Daniels - (716) 823-5453

Diane Putt - (716) 380-0187

Post-Cursillo:

Post Cursillo Report January 2026

And so we begin a new year but if you didn't get that special Christmas present, then treat yourself. Second Touch Weekend at the Stella Niagara Center of Renewal in Lewiston, NY. It's an excellent way to recharge your Cursillo batteries. The theme this year is "Becoming the Good News". Imagine becoming that beacon of light that draws others to experience Cursillo.

And besides, there is no football on this weekend so you have one more good reason to attend.

There are many opportunities on the schedule to share the good news with others. We have 3 Meet and Greets planned for January and February. Great opportunities to be a friend and bring a friend to learn about Cursillo. You can also bring a friend to grouping or an Ultreya. The Hacketts are having a Christmas Party open house on Sunday January 18th. All are invited. Check the attached Cursillo Event schedule for more details.

Smile, Ask someone to join you in a Cursillo event and be the Good News of Jesus Christ.

De Colores,

Pat Mahaney 716 481-3715 pmahaney2@gmail.com

Greg Wiltrout 716 870-7986 gwiltrout7

School of Leaders:

Buffalo Cursillo is somewhat unique in our long standing tradition of holding what we call the Second Touch weekend retreat. This takes the place of our School of Leaders in January. There are only a few short days remaining to sign up for this special event. It is held at the Stella Niagara Retreat Center in Lewiston NY from Friday afternoon, January 30th through Sunday morning, February 1st.

There are multiple ways of attending:

- \$220: Full weekend (includes two nights' accommodation and six meals)
- \$100: All day Saturday only
- \$40: Dinner and Ultreya only (please note that due to security restrictions this year, walk-ins for Ultreya won't be permitted. You need to let us know now that you plan to attend Ultreya)

The theme for this year is new and fresh. "Becoming the Good News". Come and see!

Marty Ruhland
School of Leaders Coordinator

Secretary:

God is saying to you today: “You are impacting more lives than you realize. Someone is watching you. Someone will be saved because of you. Somone will keep pushing forward because of your faith. Someone will learn to trust Me because of your example. One day, when you stand before Me in Heaven, you will see the countless lives you’ve touched – and it will amaze you! Keep walking in faith, keep shining your light, because I am using you in ways beyond what you can see.”

Karen Trimper
Call/Text: 716-867-8962
Email: karentrump@gmail.com

Prayer Request:

Entered into their 5th Day:

If you know of a Cursillista who has died, please call Carol Stier at (71) 692-1606 so she can add the person to this column.

Notify Marty Ruhland (716-481-0662), rdservices@roadrunner.com) for any names to add or remove from the prayer list.

Ken Drzymala	Pam Hornung	Jim Youngers
Jen Mical	Jean Claire Buchbinder	Cathy Agugliaro
Kathy Kaminski	Chelsea Ellis	Tim Hiedle
Bill Gross	Laura and Angelo Ciavarella	Kathy O’Keefe
Lois Weber	Marie Gannon	Denise Bressette
Dcn Gary Terrana	Mike Ryan	Diane Coughlin
Arthur Ruhland	Timothy McCann	Gary Banas
Bob Yager	Joan Roberts	John Agugliaro
Cole Koons	Mary Flannagan	Marcia Moretti
Lynn Fetes		Cheryl Besant
Cathy Derrick	Corinne Giermek	Bobby Lovenetti
Mary Mercurio	Dcn Joe Barr	Linda Orszulak
Fr. Joe Badding	Patrick Johnson	Elie Wieleba

Buffalo Cursillo Ultreya Schedule

Ultreya	Date	Time	Location	Contacts
Bethany Cheektowaga & surrounding area	1/13/26 2 nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Zoom Contact Lynn to be added to the email list	Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123
Come to the Well Clarence area	1/20/26 3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Chris for location	Jack & Christine Thomann 716-583-2324 (Chris – m) 716-583-2320 (Jack – m) cmtpsalms139@gmail.com
Full of Grace Elma area	1/28/26 Last Wednesday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Marty for location	Marty Ruhland rdservices@roadrunner.com 716-481-0662 (m)
Pueblo de Paz Warsaw area	1/18/26 Christmas Party	7:00 PM	St. Michael's Church 171 N. Main St, Warsaw	Liz Wascak 585-237-5155 ewascak@yahoo.com
Rainbow Vineyard Northtowns area	1/13/26 2 nd Tuesday 1/27/26 4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	St. Jude the Apostle Parish 800 Niagara Falls Blvd North Tonawanda	Carolyn McNamara 716-694-5949 716-867-8962 Carolyn Ruhland 716-912-2890 caruhl73@verizon.net
Southtowns Southtowns area	skip 1 st Thursday 1/22/26 3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM	Member House Contact Mary Ann for location	St. Andrew's Permanent Group Mary Ann DeMaria 716-512-4765 mdemaria@roadrunner.com
St. Brendan on the Lake Lockport area	1/8/26 1 st Thursday 1/28/26 4 th Wednesday	7:00 PM	St. Brendan on the Lake (conference room)	Contact Lynn Lomanto lomantolynn@gmail.com 585-409-4123

Upcoming Cursillo Dates	
Cursillo	Reunion Masses
January – Men's info night: Jan. 13 th @6:30pm Langley Hall at Church of the Annunciation, Elma Women's info night: Jan 20th @ 6:30pm 64 Kristen Meadows East Amherst	None scheduled yet
Men's Weekend #240 February 12-15, 2026	Women's Weekend #241 March 12-15 , 2026
2/7 – 4:00 pm Support Mass for men's weekend at St. Teresa of Avila, Akron, NY 2/11 - Set-up for Weekend 5:30 pm 2/12 – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. 2/14 – Break-in 7:00 pm, arrive by 6:45 pm 2/15 – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Men only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass	3/ – 4:00 pm Support Mass for women's weekend 3/ - Set-up for Weekend 5:30 pm 3/ – Registration from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Sponsors & community prayer service at 8 pm. 3/ – Break-in 7:00 pm, arrive by 6:45 pm 3/ – Las Mananitas – 6 am (Women only) - 3 pm Closures with community mass
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY	
School of Leaders (Workshop)	Other Opportunities
Topic: Speaker: Date: No School in December Time: Location: Organizer: Marty Ruhland (716) 481-0662	Second Touch January 30th – February 1, 2026 (see school of leaders article above)

OutBound Palanca January 2025

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Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
2024-12-19	2024-12-22	Men's 91 (English)	Worcester, MA
2025-01-09	2025-01-12	Women's 156 (Spanish)	Philadelphia, PA
2025-01-09	2025-01-12	Men's 109 (English)	Harrisburg, PA
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario
2025-01-23	2025-01-26	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	La Paz, Bolivia
2025-01-31	2025-02-02	Women 's 382	New York, NY
2025-01-30	2025-02-02	Women's 128 (English)	Savannah, GA
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Women's Cursillo (English)	Windsor-Essex, Ontario
2025-02-06	2025-02-09	Men's 63 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
2025-02-13	2025-02-16	Men's 391 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Men's 8 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 92 (English)	Rochester, NY
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 61 (Spanish)	Palm Beach, FL
2025-02-20	2025-02-23	Women's 392 (English)	St. Paul & Minneapolis, MN
2025-02-27	2025-03-02	Women's 9 (Spanish)	Joliet, IL