

GRAND TRAVERSE ULTREYA NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST:

- Dec 6-7, overnight team meeting at Augustine Center
- Dec 9, Immaculate Conception (celebrated)
- Dec 25, Christmas Day

**Please bring and
wear your
Cursillo nametag!**

OTHER MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

Dec 1	Antarctica Day
Dec 3	Giving Tuesday
Dec 6	Miners' Day
Dec 10	Human Rights Day
Dec 15	Bill of Rights Day
Dec 18	International Migrant Day
Dec 21	Forefathers Day
Dec 28	Holy Innocents Day
Dec 31	Universal Hour of Peace Day

ADVENT 2019—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls.

The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581

designated that from Nov. 11 (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to England. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential bent.

The Church gradually more formalized the celebration of Advent. The Gelasian Sacramentary, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (d. 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I (d. 604) enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses.

Advent—continued page 2

GRAND TRAVERSE ULTREYA TUESDAY

December 3rd

Christ the King in Acme

Mass: 5:30pm

Potluck: 6:20pm

Ultreya: 7:00pm

Cursillo Prayer Calendar

Dec 1	Jennifer Geiger Jeff Janowiak
Dec 8	Laura Truelove Jim Bourdeau
Dec 15	Jean Corpe Pat Oliver
Dec 22	Karen Derris Peter Fischer
Dec 29	Barb VanBerlo Mike Seaman
Jan 5	Men and Women Candidates

As Palanca people, let us step up our prayers for people to invite to the 2020 Weekends!

The Candidate Application is available on our website at gaylordcursillo.org.

Help for Kitty Liell

A long time parishioner of Sacred Heart parish in Elk Rapids, Kitty Liell was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis two years ago. Now a resident at the Pavillions in Traverse City, she found out two months ago that her insurance provider would no longer cover her physical therapy sessions. Without these sessions several times a week, her prognosis is not good.

A fund raiser has been established to help her get the treatment she needs. Please consider supporting her by visiting [Therapy for Kitty Fundraiser and Birthday Event](#).

Visit our website at
www.gaylordcursillo.org

DIOCESAN ULTREYA SCHEDULE

Cadillac: 4th Tue 6:30pm, St Anne's
Cheboygan: 4th Wed 7pm, St Mary's
Gaylord: 3rd Wed 7pm, St Mary Cathedral
Grand Traverse: 1st Tue 6:30pm, Christ the King
Harbor Springs: 2nd Tue 6:30pm, Holy Childhood
Manistee: 3rd Thurs 6:30pm, St Joseph parish hall
in Onekema
Roscommon: 4th Mon 6pm, St Michael's
Harrisville: *3rd or 4th Sun 12:30pm, St Anne's
Alpena: *3rd or 4th Sun 2pm, St. Anne's

*NOTE: Harrisville and Alpena rotate months

Consider sharing your witness with another Ultreya community. Be assured that they would love to have you volunteer!

**MAKE A FRIEND
BE A FRIEND
BRING A FRIEND
TO CHRIST**

GAYLORD SECRETARIAT

Fr Ray Cotter—Spiritual Director
Fr James Bearss—Asst. Spiritual Director
John Gomolak—Lay Director
Jackie O'Brien—Asst. Lay Director
Sherry Castle—Secretary & Communications
Sue Anderson—Treasurer
Jim Charron—Precursillo Rep
Mary Halek—Cursillo Rep
Joe Kane—Postcursillo Rep
Karen Derris—Day of Renewal Coordinator
Pat Oliver—School of Leaders (CFW) Rep
Sandie Baumann—member at large

Contact: gaylordcursillo@gmail.com

Advent—continued

Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1095) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year.

Despite the sketchy history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning coming.) The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviors first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming (No. 524).

Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back and are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Lords first coming into this world. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the Creed that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him.

A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent wreath. (Interestingly, the use of the Advent wreath was borrowed from the German Lutherans

in the early 1500s.) The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of Gods plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfill the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.

Acknowledgement: Saunders, Rev. William. The Liturgical Season of Advent. Arlington Catholic Herald.

POPE FRANCIS QUOTES

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

Pope Francis

Word of the Day

***stoup*:** A vessel used to hold holy water.

"Didn't you see the light in Jesus' eyes as the poor widow left her little alms in the temple? Give him what you can: the merit is not in whether it is big or small, but in the intention with which you give it."

- St. Josemaria Escriva

ULTREYA CORNER

DECEMBER 2019

Witness:	Susan deManigold
Response:	Pat Gomolak
Setup:	Sharon Johnson, Pat and John Gomolak
Emcee:	Rachel Bunner or Pete VanBerlo
Music:	Pauline Viall, John Gomolak
Opening Prayer:	Rose King
Altar Call Prayer:	Laura Truelove
Altar Closing Prayer:	Ray Hosek or Father Ray
Cleanup:	Everyone
Food support:	Anyone able to bring a dish or beverage to pass

Pope Francis Voices Commitment to Full Communion with Orthodox



You can read the article [HERE](#).

Dispute ideas, pope tells theologians, but don't confuse the faithful

VATICAN CITY - Theologians must explore and debate disputed questions, at times even taking "risks" with what they propose, but those discussions should take place within the academy so as not to confuse the faithful, Pope Francis said.

"Theology must move forward," the pope told members of the International Theological Commission. "It must face things that are not clear and take risks in discussion. However, this is among theologians."

"You must give the solid food of faith to the people of God, not feed the people of God disputed questions," because that could confuse them and cause them to lose their faith, the pope told the group Nov. 29 during a meeting celebrating the commission's 50th anniversary.

Source: <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2019/11/dispute-ideas-pope-tells-theologians-but-dont-confuse-the-faithful/>

CFW3 — The Three Day Cursillo

This workshop will be incorporated into the overnight Team meeting in Conway on **December 6-7, 2019**. This workshop will cover chapter 8, pages 105-136 in *Fundamental Ideas*.

CFW4 — Purpose, Strategy and Method

This workshop will be held just prior to our Ultreya on **January 7, 2020**. It covers chapters 4, 5 and 6 on pages 63-92 in *Fundamental Ideas*. A reprint of the reading assignment will be included with the January Newsletter for those without a copy of the book.

The Cursillo Weekend Application is available on our website or by clicking [HERE](#). **Please! Do not wait until the last minute to get your candidate signed up...**

Pope Francis: The Church suffers with married couples in crisis

Pope Francis received participants taking part in a Formation Course for the Protection of Marriage and the Pastoral Care of married couples in crisis, organized by the Rota Romana. He tells them that the Church always and only seeks the good of those facing marriage difficulties. Read [HERE](#).

On a lighter note . . .

