



# 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.

## April 2026

Application Forms are on the Website:

[www.cursillo419.org](http://www.cursillo419.org)

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## Spiritual Advisor

Dear friends,

I want to share something that is dear to my heart as a follower of St. Francis of Assisi. This year we celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Francis (October 3, 1226) -which Franciscans are referring to as the Easter of St. Francis. To honor this saint and the impact he still makes on the Church, Pope Leo XIV has declared 2026 an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi. These words are from the Official Proclamation of this year:

“If it is admirably true that “there is no other name under heaven given among men” (cf. Acts 4:12) except Jesus Christ, Redeemer of humanity, it is equally extraordinarily true that between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, in an era of so-called holy wars, relaxed morals and misguided religious fervor, “a sun was born into the world”: Francis, who, as the son of

a wealthy merchant, became poor and humble, a true *alter Christus* on earth, providing the world with tangible examples of evangelical life and a real image of Christian perfection. Our times are not very different from those in which Francis lived, and precisely in light of this, his teachings are perhaps even more valid and understandable today. When Christian charity languishes, ignorance spreads like bad habits, and those who extol harmony among peoples do so more out of selfishness than out of a sincere Christian spirit; when the virtual takes precedence over the real, social discord and violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more uncertain and distant every day; may this Year of Saint Francis urge us all, each according to our own possibilities, to imitate the *Poverello* of Assisi, to mold ourselves as much as possible on the model of Christ, to not let the intentions of the Holy Year just passed be in vain: may the hope that saw us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervor of active charity.”

St. Francis urged all these followers to forgiveness and mercy because of God’s great love. He once wrote to a fellow friar:

*“And in this I want to know if you love the Lord and love me, his and your servant, if you will do this, namely: that there may never be any friar in the world, who has sinned as much as he could sin, who, after seeing your eyes, may go away without your merciful forgiveness, if he asks for it.”*

Francis understood the power of love and compassion and how it is expressed in forgiveness – by God and by us! So extravagant is the love of God! When Lent is over we once again indulge in our favorite food or pastime. Immeasurably more does God indulge in extending love and

mercy toward us! That’s the real meaning of indulgence. Unfortunately, indulgences have, over the centuries, taken on a quantitative character and the faithful may have gotten too caught up by the logistics of gaining an indulgence and missed the main point; e.g., take all these steps and you’ll gain a “thing”

**Spring Weekends 2026**

**Men – June 4-7<sup>th</sup>**

**Women -- June 18 – 21st**

**Maria Stein, OH**

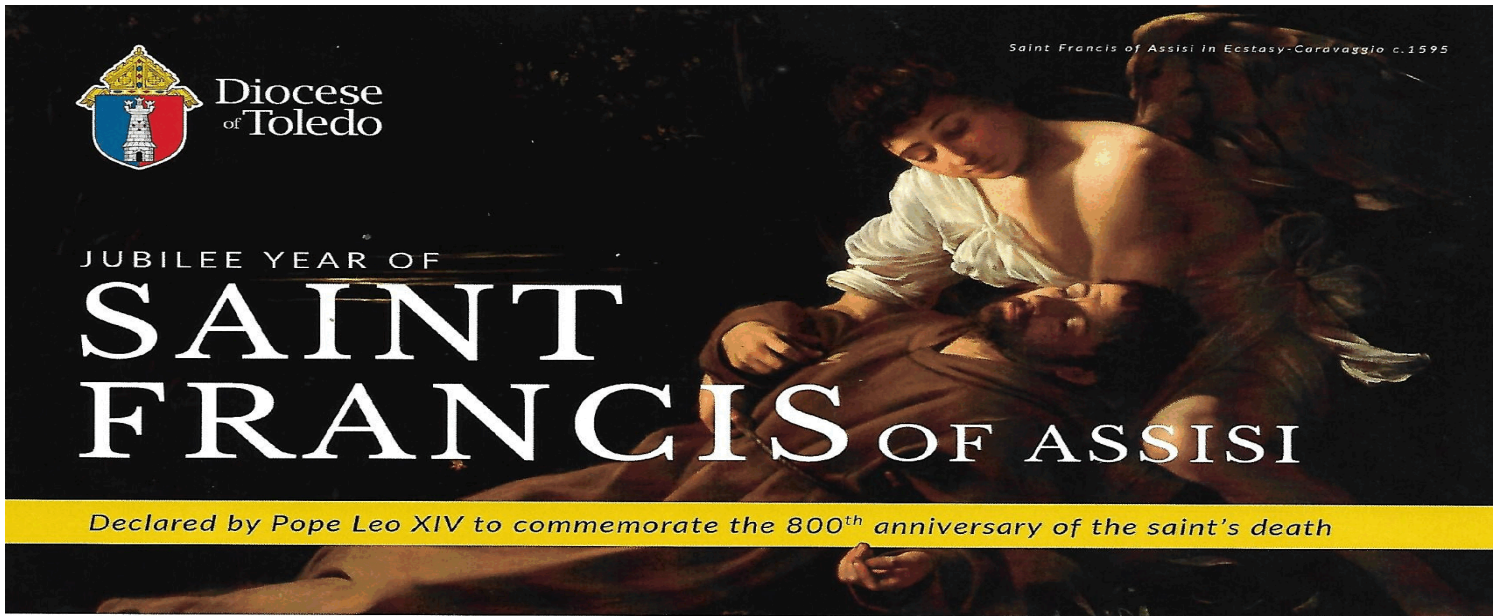
called an indulgence. Maybe we would do better by saying: “Come, with a sincere heart, aware of your need for God’s healing and mercy - and yearning for it, then put “feet” into your desire by showing up, by visiting a pilgrimage site if possible, and you will be graced beyond measure. You will receive forgiveness and you will be strengthened in all you need to be a more faithful follower of Jesus Christ.”


Three pilgrimage sites have been designated in our diocese: the Portiuncula Chapel on the grounds of the Franciscans’ motherhouse in Sylvania, our motherhouse grounds and Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Tiffin, and the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. As Cursillistas many of you have already experienced the grace of these places. God is indulgent here in many ways. Maybe it’s time for a pilgrimage; Cursillistas are already familiar with being pilgrims and after all, the Cursillo movement was born during a pilgrimage to Saint James Compostela in Spain. See information on the enclosed flyer and posted in your parish churches.

During this Jubilee Year of St. Francis may we as faithful Cursillistas along with every faithful Christian, following the example of the Saint of Assisi, become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.

De Colores!

Sr. Edna





Diocese  
of Toledo

JUBILEE YEAR OF  
**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*Declared by Pope Leo XIV to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the saint's death*

## JANUARY 2026 – JANUARY 2027

During this time of grace, extending through January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions. This Franciscan Jubilee Year is a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal. Following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, every Christian is invited to grow in holiness of life and to be a constant witness of peace.

### How to Participate

The faithful are invited to participate in the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Toledo by making a pilgrimage to the following Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites, as designated by Bishop Daniel Thomas:



**PORTIUNCULA**  
*On the Motherhouse grounds of  
the Sylvania Franciscans*  
620 Convent Blvd, Sylvania, OH 43560

Open Every Day  
from 8:00am to 5:00pm



**MOTHERHOUSE  
EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL**  
*On the grounds of  
the Tiffin Franciscans*  
200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, OH 44883

Chapel Open Wednesdays & Sundays  
from 10:00am to 2:00pm with Mass at 11:00am;  
Grounds Open Every Day  
from 9:00am to Dusk



*The Basilica & National Shrine of*  
**OUR LADY OF  
CONSOLATION**  
*The Conventual Franciscan  
Friars of the Province of Our  
Lady of Consolation*  
315 Clay St, Carey, OH 43316

Open 24/7

## LAY DIRECTORS

De Colores Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5*

When googling “Cursillo Movement”, this is what comes up.

The Cursillo Movement is a 3-day Catholic retreat or “short course in Christianity” (*Cursillo de Cristiandad*), designed to deepen faith and train laypeople to bring Christian values into their daily environments. Originating in 1940’s Spain, it focuses on friendship. Prayer, and talks by priest and laypeople, aiming to foster a personal encounter with Christ.

When asked by someone (a potential candidate), what a Cursillo is, what do you tell them? Do you find yourself tongue tied and hesitate, not knowing what to say? Or you know what you want to say, just not how you want to put it into words?

I tell them something like this; It’s a good way to grow your relationship with Christ. The weekend consists of some talks and discussion, down time for yourself, good food and music. You can participate as much or as little as you want, but you may get more out of the weekend if you choose to participate a little more. The weekend is for you, no one else. It’s a chance to grow closer to God! Then, if they ask, I go on to tell them how it starts Thursday evening and ends Sunday early evening and so on. But unless they ask more questions, I just make sure they know I’m available to answer any other questions and can get them more information if they’d like.

Whether you pray for your friend (and potential candidate) before you ask them, or after they ask you about a weekend does not matter. The important thing is giving them to God and asking His guidance along the way.

First and foremost be the light of Christ to everyone you meet. Be the Priest, Prophet and King you were baptized to be! By doing so, by being God’s hands, feet, voice, ears and heart you will attract those looking for Christ in their own life. And these people become friends and potential Cursillo candidates.

Easter Blessings!

Karen Fritsch [kittyrg1967@gmail.com](mailto:kittyrg1967@gmail.com)

Troy Peebles [peebles1007@gmail.com](mailto:peebles1007@gmail.com)





Palm Sunday weekend has just passed. Usually we would be celebrating a men's spring weekend. Now Holy week and Easter is upon us. What a better time to reflect, meditate and pray to Jesus about who he wants to invite and make that friend, be that friend, and invite that friend to encounter Jesus in a very special way on our June weekends. The upcoming Summer weekends are now just 2 months off which means teams are starting their formation. As of now I have 2 applications and 1 possible for the men's and 5 applications for the women's weekends. Come on men, get those applications in!

Candidate and Sponsors applications can be found on the [www.Cursillo419.org](http://www.Cursillo419.org) web site then under The ARK & Forms tab.

Send applications to me at: EMAIL [patmontgomery411@gmail.com](mailto:patmontgomery411@gmail.com) or Mail 155 E. Keegan St. Deerfield, MI 49238 or Text 419-654-3604 or Call me 419-654-3604 and leave a message with any questions and I will call you back.

Pat Montgomery Pre-Cursillo  
[patmontgomery411@gmail.com](mailto:patmontgomery411@gmail.com)  
155 E. Keegan St.  
Deerfield, MI 49238  
419-654-3604

# 4<sup>th</sup> Day

Living in a world  
after the resurrection

## Focus Day

The Miracle of **Chemistry** Workshop  
(Revealing the power and necessity of team formation)

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9am to 3pm (Registration and Fellowship at 8:30am!)

St. Wendelin's Church, Fostoria Ohio

We encourage you to bring  
a sack lunch

Soup and salad will be provided



Bill - prostate cancer treatment, Jamie Southers - in hospital, Tim Distel - eye surgery, Bill Owens - CT scan & biopsy, Duane Rader - heart issues, Annie Blum - recovery from surgery, Bill Owens - lymphoma, Mya - seizure, young couple - looking for a home, Emily - dangerous pregnancy, Jamie Southers - back in hospital, Claudia - pancreatic cancer, Lila Faber - passed away, niece - gallbladder attack.



School of Leaders will not meet in April. We will resume in May.

Shirley Fitz  
Diane Gutschalk



**Area Ultreya Information**

**Area 2** – Ultreyas are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 2-3p.m. Jaeger Hall, St Clements Church.

**Area 7 & 10** – April Ultreya is Sunday the 26th at 7pm in the Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center in Tiffin. Bill and I have a family gathering that day also. We will need someone else to rector.

**Area 8 Ultreya** --.. Area 8 April Ultreya will be held on Monday April 13, 2026 at Resurrection parish in Lexington at 7PM. All are welcome.



As we move into the month of April, we are reminded that spring is a season of renewal, growth, and hope. Just as the earth awakens with new life, our hearts are invited to grow deeper in faith and service. One of the beautiful ways we live this out in the Cursillo movement is through palanca—our prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love offered for others.

Throughout April, Cursillo Weekends will be taking place around the world. We ask you to keep all candidates and teams in your prayers, that each person may encounter Christ in a powerful and life-changing way.

We also ask for your continued palanca for our upcoming local weekends. The Men’s Team will begin their preparation soon for their weekend to be held June 4–7 at Maria Stein. The Women’s Team will begin their preparation meetings on April 16 for their weekend scheduled June 18–21.

Please keep team members in your prayers during this important time of preparation and also pray for our future 4th dayers. Your palanca—whether through prayer, sacrifice, or simple acts of kindness—serves as the spiritual support that lifts these weekends and those participating closer to Christ.

Thank you for continuing to support the Cursillo movement with your faithful prayers and loving palanca.

De Colores!

Alicia & Bob Swartzmiller

4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	San Jose, CA	<a href="mailto:sanjosepalancaletters@gmail.com">sanjosepalancaletters@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 274 (English)	Green Bay, WI	<a href="mailto:gbwomenscursillo@gmail.com">gbwomenscursillo@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 3 (Spanish)	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:amarcella1206@yahoo.com">amarcella1206@yahoo.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 67 (English)	Charlottetown, PEI, Canada	<a href="mailto:Christine@royalstarfoods.com">Christine@royalstarfoods.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 295 (Spanish)	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:sanin.orozco@gmail.com">sanin.orozco@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 487 (Spanish)	Dallas, TX	<a href="mailto:dianabergara5@icloud.com">dianabergara5@icloud.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 392 (Spanish)	Grand Rapids, MI	<a href="mailto:grandrapidscursillo@gmail.com">grandrapidscursillo@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 312 (English)	San Diego, CA	<a href="mailto:cursillosandiego@gmail.com">cursillosandiego@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 73 (Italian)	Assisi, Italy	<a href="mailto:intendenze.assisi@libero.it">intendenze.assisi@libero.it</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 125 (English)	Budatétény, Hungary	<a href="mailto:kondasjudit79@gmail.com">kondasjudit79@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 98 (English)	Worcester, MA	<a href="mailto:worcursillo@gmail.com">worcursillo@gmail.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 139 (English)	Joliet, IL	<a href="mailto:jamesandpaulina@yahoo.com">jamesandpaulina@yahoo.com</a>
4/9/2026	4/12/2026	Women's Cursillo (Spanish)	San Antonio, TX	<a href="mailto:alemangriselda94@gmail.com">alemangriselda94@gmail.com</a>
4/10/2026	4/12/2026	Women's 476 (French)	Outaouais, Québec, Canada	<a href="mailto:palancas.ou@gmail.com">palancas.ou@gmail.com</a>
4/10/2026	4/12/2026	Men's 476 (French)	Outaouais, Québec, Canada	<a href="mailto:palancas.ou@gmail.com">palancas.ou@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 228 (English)	New York, NY	<a href="mailto:jimsantos0624@gmail.com">jimsantos0624@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico	<a href="mailto:irma.consq@gmail.com">irma.consq@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 70 (Italian)	Modena-Nonantola/Carpi, Italy	<a href="mailto:cursillosmo@gmail.com">cursillosmo@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 46 (Spanish)	Providence, RI	<a href="mailto:cursillospvd@gmail.com">cursillospvd@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 150 (English)	Atlanta, GA	<a href="mailto:atlantapalanca@yahoo.com">atlantapalanca@yahoo.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 68 (English)	Charlottetown, PEI, Canada	<a href="mailto:Christine@royalstarfoods.com">Christine@royalstarfoods.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 2 (Portugues)	Jaboatão-PE, Brazil	<a href="mailto:precursilho.ipe@gmail.com">precursilho.ipe@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 393 (Spanish)	Grand Rapids, MI	<a href="mailto:grandrapidscursillo@gmail.com">grandrapidscursillo@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 332 (English)	Manchester, NH	<a href="mailto:palanca@nhcursillo.org">palanca@nhcursillo.org</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 313 (English)	San Diego, CA	<a href="mailto:cursillosandiego@gmail.com">cursillosandiego@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 1085 (English)	Los Angeles, CA	<a href="mailto:Cursillo.LA@gmail.com">Cursillo.LA@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 69 (English)	Bridgeport, CT	<a href="mailto:cursilloprayerline5@gmail.com">cursilloprayerline5@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 156 (Spanish)	Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico	<a href="mailto:tulancingomcc48@yahoo.com">tulancingomcc48@yahoo.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 117 (English)	Rockford, IL	<a href="mailto:rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com">rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com</a>

4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Men's 32 (English/Hungarian)	Vác, Hungary	<a href="mailto:gyogyszertar913@gmail.com">gyogyszertar913@gmail.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's 228 (English)	Lubbock, Texas	<a href="mailto:cursillomovement@outlook.com">cursillomovement@outlook.com</a>
4/16/2026	4/19/2026	Women's Cursillo (English)	Richmond, VA	<a href="mailto:pdugger76@gmail.com">pdugger76@gmail.com</a>
4/17/2026	4/20/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	Springfield, MA	<a href="mailto:mco95comcast@hotmail.com">mco95comcast@hotmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 138 (English)	Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO	<a href="mailto:drimclan@hotmail.com">drimclan@hotmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 115 (Spanish)	Dodge City, KY	<a href="mailto:veliazamudio67@yahoo.com">veliazamudio67@yahoo.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 145 (English)	Atlanta, GA	<a href="mailto:atlantapalanca@yahoo.com">atlantapalanca@yahoo.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 270 (Spanish)	Miami, FL	<a href="mailto:sanin.orozco@gmail.com">sanin.orozco@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 67 (English)	Youngstown, OH	<a href="mailto:wjoyce1796@gmail.com">wjoyce1796@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 426 (English)	Detroit, MI	<a href="mailto:detroitpalanca@gmail.com">detroitpalanca@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 1086 (English)	Los Angeles, CA	<a href="mailto:Cursillo.LA@gmail.com">Cursillo.LA@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 107 (English)	Rockford, IL	<a href="mailto:rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com">rkfdcursillopalanca@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 575 (English)	Richmond, VA	<a href="mailto:valleycursillo@gmail.com">valleycursillo@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Men's 241 (English)	Buffalo, NY	<a href="mailto:bflopalanca@gmail.com">bflopalanca@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Men's 169 (Spanish)	Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico	<a href="mailto:huguinmtzmorales17@gmail.com">huguinmtzmorales17@gmail.com</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 121 (English)	Covington, KY	<a href="mailto:debbi@cranley.net">debbi@cranley.net</a>
4/23/2026	4/26/2026	Women's 265 (Spanish)	Laredo, TX	<a href="mailto:xocaguilar01@gmail.com">xocaguilar01@gmail.com</a>
4/24/2026	4/24/2026	MCC Regional Meeting (Spanish)	Dallas, TX	<a href="mailto:dianabergara5@icloud.com">dianabergara5@icloud.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 111 (Spanish/English)	Bridgeport, CT	<a href="mailto:rosa.vargas32@yahoo.com">rosa.vargas32@yahoo.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 186 (English)	Newark, NJ	<a href="mailto:altanajill@gmail.com">altanajill@gmail.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Men's Cursillo (English)	San Jose, CA	<a href="mailto:sanjosepalancaletters@gmail.com">sanjosepalancaletters@gmail.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 83 (English)	Charleston, SC	<a href="mailto:amarcella1206@yahoo.com">amarcella1206@yahoo.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 439 (English)	San Antonio ,TX	<a href="mailto:palanca.satx@gmail.com">palanca.satx@gmail.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 215 (Spanish)	Rockville Centre, NY	<a href="mailto:alexvasquezfuentes20@hotmail.com">alexvasquezfuentes20@hotmail.com</a>
4/30/2026	5/3/2026	Women's 439 (English)	San Antonio, TX	<a href="mailto:palanca.satx@gmail.com">palanca.satx@gmail.com</a>

**Witness:** *Let us know how God is working in your life email to – [judbrick616@gmail.com](mailto:judbrick616@gmail.com)*

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

### *Current openings on Secretariat*

#### *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](http://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](http://www.cursillo419.org) Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.

