



Partnering with Others for 170 Years - A Shared Journey in Faith and Trust

Beginning December 2024, the Ursulines Sisters set out on 'memory lane,' recalling and giving gratitude to God for 170 years of service and witness to God's people in the Diocese of Toledo and beyond. This past year, 2025, small, quiet celebrations were held with the Sisters, Ursuline Associates, faculty, staff, student leaders and administration of St. Ursula Academy, board members of both school and convent, Mary Manse Alums, and others who minister beside and for us through the Convent Offices.

These simple gatherings were held in appreciation of all that the organizations, groups or individuals have contributed to the life of the Ursuline Sisters in the past, present, and looking ahead to what the future may bring. We call to mind

monumental times in our history of opening schools, starting new ministries, building on Cherry and Erie Streets to Collingwood Boulevard with a Motherhouse and Mary Manse College, to St. Angela Hall and St. Ursula Academy then to Indian Road, and to Grand Rapids, Ohio with Nazareth Hall.

Serving in the Diocese of Toledo, Michigan, California, Washington D.C., Peru, Lima, Tiffin, Vermilion, and so many other cities and states in other dioceses, broadened the witness of the Sisters in a variety of ministries and services to God's people. The Sisters set out in faith and trust in God's providence to educate and form the minds and hearts of children and parents, co-workers in hospitals, parishes, jails, and on the streets with the Gospel message.



Sister Rita Mae Johns passes out tote bags to SUA student council members as a token of appreciation.

Walking the journey with the Sisters were so many lay men and women who provided: experience the Sisters did not have; techniques and programs with which they were not familiar; and support, guidance, perseverance, goals and objectives that seemed unreachable. These men and women went beyond just collaborating and cooperating with the Sisters, but who became sharers in responsibility, and grew in relationships of trust and hope. From the days before Social Security, health insurance, investments, and financial and legal advice, these lay colleagues brought the community into a new world, a contemporary

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Save
the
Date

You're Invited to a *Liturgy of Thanksgiving*

You are invited to join the Ursuline Sisters and Associates for a *Liturgy of Thanksgiving* in celebration of 170 years, followed by a luncheon, on Sunday, November 23, 2025 beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Ursula Academy.

Please RSVP by Friday, November 14 by calling the Ursuline Convent Offices at 419-536-9587 or emailing vmyers@ursulinecenter.org. We would love to have you with us in our celebration!



Welcome

Konini is a Greek word translated in Sacred Scripture as fellowship, communion, or partnership. It goes beyond shared belief to shared life in Christ with one another, encompassing mutual sharing of spiritual blessings with commitment to one another's well-being. St. Paul, in Hebrews 10:24-25, tells us that "other believers encourage us and walk alongside us and we do the same for them."

In this issue of the UrsuLine you will read about the way the Ursuline Sisters have and continue to live the spirit of *koinonia* and the charism of St. Angela Merici in partnership with many. These partnerships include our Sisters in community, our Ursuline Associates, friends of the Ursulines, St. Ursula Academy, our lay staff at Ursuline Convent Offices, our Healthcare Team, the Heath Care Facilities where our Sisters are residents, our lawyers and investors, the members of our Ursuline Convent Foundation Board, the former Ursuline Center Board, the Foundation and Board of Trustees of St. Ursula Academy, the members of the Mary Manse College Alumni Board, our alumni and

benefactors. Each of these is part of the extended family of the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo.

St. Angela, who knew the Scriptures by and in heart, echoes in her Last Counsel, the advice of St. Paul 12:6 to live in harmony. She lived her life in partnership with many individuals, including an extended family of those who invited her to live in their homes, her secretary, and the third order Franciscans who missioned her. She used this extended family model by entrusting the motherly and spiritual formation of the young members of the smaller neighborhood units of the Company to widows (Colonelle). The Colonelle, in turn, connected with the Matrons (Lady Governors) who were responsible for management of the entire Company. And the Matrons, when necessary, consulted trustworthy men (in matters of law and finance) that affected the rights of individual members and stability of the Company. We have adapted this family model to our own times and circumstances.

As you read, we hope you see yourself as a member of our extended family with whom we share blessed relationship.

Sister Sandy Sherman
President

Partnering with Others for 170 Years - continued

world that gave life and meaning beyond what was imaginable.

Relationships abounded with continued communication and commitment. Working together led to loyal support and companionship. One hundred-seventy years covered times of great joy and hope, times of building and letting go, times of hardship, growth and expansion, times of discouragement and sorrow. Yet faith and trust in God remained with the Sisters and all who accompanied them along the path.

Knowing that God continues to provide such wonderful donors and supporters who journey together with the Sisters brings joy and deep gratitude for friends who believe in our mission to build the kingdom of God and carry the spirit of St. Angela Merici into a future with happiness. Our history is something to be proud of and our legacy is a story to be shared. We thank God for all who have gone before us and upon whose shoulders we stand who allow us to move into greater trust and faith for the future. We thank YOU!



Sister Sandy Sherman shares a special blessing card with a St. Ursula Academy student council member.

Ursuline Archives of Toledo - Our Story, Our Rich History, Our Legacy

For the past few years, there has been much activity, many boxes, files, documents, letters, and photos circulating in the Archives at the Convent Offices. The Ursuline Sisters have committed themselves to housing and preserving their archives with the Women Religious Archives Collaborative (WRAC) repository, a state-of-the-art, 31,000-square-foot Heritage Center scheduled to open in Cleveland, Ohio sometime in 2026-2027. Groundbreaking took place July 22, 2025. At this time there are 45 Religious Congregations across the United States that look to Cleveland as the new home for their archives.

In mid-July, the archives of Toledo welcomed the help of Sister Susan Durkin, OSU (Cleveland), Executive Director of WRAC, Sarah Lubelski, Lead Archivist for WRAC, Laural Wilson, Archivist for the Ursulines of Louisville, Kentucky, and volunteers Sister Susan Zion, Sarah Brown, SUA 2020 and Bella Swansinger, Junior of Perrysburg High School. They spent four days with Brandi Sharlow, our Archives Processor, organizing files and documents, sorting, discarding, marking items to keep or to pass on, making "to-do" lists and more.

Why all this? The Ursuline story is rich and filled with treasured memories, events, milestones, celebrations, music, art, poetry and so much more. Our community grew from five Sisters who came from Cleveland in 1854 to as large as 280+ in the 1960's. Safeguarding our history and sustaining the spirit and charism of St. Angela Merici in the daily lives of the Sisters tells a story worth preserving and is open to future generations to read and experience.

Letters from Sisters, beautifully hand-written, share the pain and suffering of the early days when they had so little to begin with, as well as the times of hope, joy and laughter of experiences that gave them hope and gratitude to God for being faithful and protective. Through all the trials and errors of creating new life, new



Architect rendering of the Women Religious Archives Collaborative Heritage Center, scheduled to open sometime in 2026-2027.

ministries, buildings, and then having to let go of the same, tells a story of resilience, perseverance, courage, and sacrifice.

The Toledo Ursulines have a wonderful story of Mother Amadeus Dunne and her friend, Mary Fields,



An original photograph of the six Ursuline Sisters who bravely ventured to Montana to start mission schools for Native American girls.

that in itself has become a book by Sister Irene Mahoney, Roman Union Ursuline of the Eastern Province, entitled "Lady Blackrobes." This story of six Sisters from Toledo who volunteered to go to Montana to start mission schools for Native American girls along with the Jesuit schools for boys, is well worth a read!

The 45 congregations committed to sending their archives to the Cleveland repository when they are ready are in the midst of a campaign to raise \$15 million for an endowment

over the next five years to support the collaborative operations into the future. We are so excited about this wonderful opportunity! Our decision to place our archives with WRAC provides a great sense of comfort, knowing that our legacy will be lovingly stewarded for generations to come. The Ursuline Sisters of Toledo's portion of the \$15 million Endowment campaign is \$350,000 and we feel confident we can find supporters to help us make this happen. We hope you will share in our excitement for this project, and we invite you to learn more at archivescollaborative.org. **Because we believe our history is also important to you, we ask you to consider a gift to this worthwhile project to help us preserve our legacy well into the future.**

St. Ursula Academy Carries the Legacy of Education into the Future



SUA Welcomes New Leadership

St. Ursula Academy proudly continues its Ursuline tradition of excellence with the appointment of Lindsay (Lauder) Jordan '02 as Principal, effective July 1. A distinguished alumna, parent, and former Director of Advancement, Lindsay brings a deep understanding of and passion for our Ursuline mission.




Lindsay Jordan '02
SUA Principal

“We conducted an extensive search and found our ideal candidate within our own community,” said Alison Krieger, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “Lindsay’s dedication to our Catholic and Ursuline mission, proven leadership abilities, and heart as an educator made her the outstanding choice to lead our academic program forward.”

Over the past three years as Director of Advancement, Jordan successfully led fundraising efforts that strengthened the school’s financial foundation, expanded scholarship opportunities, and enhanced campus facilities. Her collaborative leadership style and strategic vision have advanced SUA’s mission and will serve her well in her new role.

Lindsay reflected, “St. Ursula Academy shaped me as a young woman, and now I have the privilege of watching it shape my own daughters. My roots and heart have always been in education, and I look forward to working with our exceptional faculty and staff to ensure

“St. Ursula Academy shaped me as a young woman, and now I have the privilege of watching it shape my own daughters.”



~ Lindsay Jordan '02

that SUA continues to provide an outstanding college preparatory education rooted in our Ursuline Core Values. I am deeply honored to serve the school that has meant so much to me and to generations of young women.”

Nourishing the Ursuline Spirit: Educator Pilgrimage to Italy

The Ursuline Spirit and Core Values continue through St. Ursula Academy as staff members Kim Shockey and Jen Guzman participated in an educator’s pilgrimage to Italy in June, sponsored by the Ursuline Education Network (UEN). The pilgrimage was in celebration of the Jubilee Year and to remember St. Angela’s pilgrimage to Rome 500 years ago. Teachers from seven member schools followed a path that included Desenzano, Salo, Brescia, Assisi, Rome, and Florence.



Kim Shockey, SUA Director of Academics, and Jen Guzman, Director of SUA’s Junior Academy, traveled to Italy with the Ursuline Education Network and walked the path St. Angela walked in her time, gaining valuable knowledge to bring back to SUA.

Being able to walk the paths St. Angela walked in her time (1474-1540) were highlights and sacred moments connecting to her love of God and the vision she had of helping women develop their relationship with God in profound ways.

The participating teachers hope to meet over the next several months to prepare an updated curriculum on St. Angela to bring their experiences back into their schools and classroom environment.

Jen Guzman, Director of SUA’s Junior Academy, said, “What I most want to share with our faculty, staff, and students is a renewed appreciation for Angela’s remarkable courage, unwavering faith, and strong commitment to community.

“Angela encountered each person with love and respect for their unique character. She led with compassion, empowering others through her presence and encouragement. She didn’t wait for ideal conditions to act - she trusted in God and moved forward with a clear vision of service. I want our students to truly connect with Angela and see in her a role model who is not only inspiring but also deeply relatable.”

Kim Shockey, Director of Academics, shared, “I would like to bring back that St. Angela established the Company of Ursula to educate young women with a common, united mission. She found the value in sharing the journey with other passionate individuals throughout Italy. St. Angela was a visionary, thinking ahead to the future and how to best serve the people, as many say she was ahead of her time with her actions and company.”

Recognizing Excellence: UEN Faculty Award

Longtime SUA faculty member Dennis Maas was honored with the inaugural Esteemed Educator Faculty Award, named in memory of St. Ursula’s Toledo Principal Nichole Flores. After careful review by UEN’s board, Dennis emerged as the deserving recipient.



Dennis Maas, teacher at SUA and recipient of the inaugural UEN Faculty Award

Pioneering Leadership: SUA’s Leadership Program

We are proud of St. Ursula Academy and how the administration has helped bring the school to new heights – one being the **Leadership Program**. As announced on the SUA website, “In Spring 2021, President Mary Werner and former principal Nichole Flores, who passed away in 2024, announced SUA’s selection as **the first school in the nation** to provide a four-year, applied neuroscience- and evidence-based leadership curriculum for high school girls taught during the academic school day. Advised by some of the world’s top thought leaders in coaching and leader development, the Leadership Program has received international recognition as a ‘leadership and management idea with the potential to change the world.’ (Thinkers50 Radar List 2021).”

St. Ursula Academy continues to honor its Ursuline heritage while boldly looking to the future – welcoming new leadership, immersive educational experiences, and innovative programming that all serve to enrich the lives of young women for years to come.

Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive Makes Huge Community Impact

The Catholic religious Sisters in the Toledo Diocese once again collaborated to sponsor the fifth annual Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive on March 14, 2025 at Walt Churchill’s Market and at the Ursuline Convent Offices. Sisters and supporters collected 7,632 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$4,260 in monetary donations to support the Toledo SeaGate Food Bank. The food bank says that every dollar will provide 4 pounds of food, bringing the total poundage of food collected to 24,672. Toledo SeaGate Food Bank supplies food at no cost to more than 400 pantries and programs throughout Northwest Ohio to supplement their inventories, including many Catholic parish food banks.



Ursuline Associates Debbie Bercher and Sarah Abts accept food donations during the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive.

Participating in this year’s Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive were the Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States, Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sisters of the Visitation.

Your contribution to this worthy project has blessed countless families in our community! Thank you to all who participated in the Catholic Sisters Week Food Drive!



Sister Sandy Sherman, Sister Donna Frey, Val Myers, Sister Carol Reamer, and Michelle Scazzero with a small sample of the food that was collected at the Ursuline Convent Offices to support the Toledo SeaGate Food Bank.



In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Alice Henkel

Sister Mary Alice Henkel, OSU, who led a life of service to others through her work in the medical field, as a social justice promoter and later as an extraordinary poet, passed away at Otterbein Sunset House on October 12, 2024.

Born to the late Arthur and Margaret Henkel, she entered the Ursuline Convent in September 1957.

A graduate of W.W. Ross High School in Fremont, Ohio, Sister Mary Alice earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Baldwin Wallace College in 1954. Her educational journey continued with studies at Mary Manse College, Wabash College, and the Mercy Hospital School of Medical Technology. She also traveled abroad as a companion to fellow Sisters studying in Europe.

Sister Mary Alice served as a lab technician in science classes at Mary Manse College before becoming a medical technologist at Mercy Hospital in 1970. She worked diligently in this role until her retirement in 1994, after which she became certified as a Home Care aide. Sister Mary Alice also enjoyed working part-time at *The Catholic Chronicle* and assisting her fellow Ursuline Sisters with errands and transportation.

A gifted and award-winning poet, Sister Mary Alice published two books of her poetry and often recited works by the classical poets. She enjoyed attending lectures on theological topics, particularly those related to Catholic Social Teaching, including those in the Corpus Christi University Parish Lecture Series. A champion for social justice, she devoted her time to various volunteer activities, supporting organizations such as Women Blessing Women, Family House, Claver House, the Eleanor Kahle Senior Center, Corpus Christi University Parish's Feed Your Neighbor program, and Rahab's Heart, where she served as a beloved street

outreach worker. She also volunteered for many years at the US Senior Open at Inverness Club, Toledo.

Sister Mary Alice was preceded in death by her parents and her close friend, Sister Stephanie Helfrich, OSU. She is survived by her Sisters and Associates of the Ursuline Community.

In accordance with her wishes, Sister Mary Alice donated her body to The University of Toledo, College of Medicine.

Sister Bernarda Breidenbach

Sister Bernarda Breidenbach, OSU (Carol Ann Breidenbach), a dedicated educator and administrator in the Diocese of Toledo, died January 27, 2025 at Rosary Care Center in Sylvania, Ohio.



Sister Bernarda was the daughter of the late Bernard and Anna (Kimmel) Breidenbach. Born and raised on a farm in Tiffin, Ohio, Sister Bernarda and her family were parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Tiffin. She entered the Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart in September of 1964.

Sister Bernarda graduated from St. Ursula Academy in 1964. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the former Mary Manse College in 1973, a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1979, and an Administration Certification from the University of Toledo. She also pursued advanced studies courses at Dayton University and Bowling Green State University.

Holding a special fondness for children and teachers, including parish ministry, Sister Bernarda spent her entire teaching and principalship career in the Diocese of Toledo Catholic schools. She taught at St. John in Point Place, St. Mary in Tiffin, Good Shepherd in Oregon, as well as St. Patrick of Heatherdowns and St. Agnes in Toledo. Sister Bernarda

then held principal positions at Queen of Peace (now known as Queen of Apostles) in Toledo, Immaculate Conception in Bellevue, and St. Richard School in Swanton.

Recognized for her dedication, Sister Bernarda was named "One of Ten Outstanding Teachers in the Toledo Diocese" in 1980 and "Outstanding Administrator/Principal" for the entire Toledo area by the Toledo Association for the Education of Young Children in 2006.

Sister Bernarda served as Councilor on the leadership team of the Toledo Ursulines from 2006 - 2010 and 2020 - 2022, and as President from 2010 - 2014.

The more recent past presented new challenges to her health and mobility. True to her character and vocation, Sister Bernarda turned the page to a new ministry - providing care and hope to fellow residents at Rosary Care Center. Aboard her motorized wheelchair, she visited and ministered to others with her positive attitude.

Sister Bernarda is survived by her sister Marilyn (Edwin) Kokosky, brothers Marion (Gayle) Breidenbach, James (Diana) Breidenbach, Bernard (Sharon) Breidenbach, Jr., and Kenneth (Betty) Breidenbach, her loving nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews, and the Sisters and Associates of the Ursuline Community.



Ministering in our Community

Sister Janice Ann Brown's Commitment to Helping Save Lives

Sister Janice Ann Brown, since the late 1970s, has been giving blood at the American Red Cross on a regular basis. As of April 21, 2025, she has reached the 13 gallon mark. She was inspired by her father, "Curly" Brown who had a history also of donating his blood for others. She says the need of blood for people waiting for surgery or other procedures drives her to keep on a regular donating schedule. Sister Janice Ann contributes her time to the Ursuline Community by driving Sisters to appointments, shopping, delivering mail, and other needed assistance. She also helps at the jail for prayer services when possible. Sister Janice Ann has a heart of gold when it comes to being faithful with recycling and keeping in touch with the Sisters, especially with those residing in nursing facilities. Thank you, Sister Janice Ann, for giving a great example of God's message to be available for any work of charity!



Sister Janice Ann Brown

Ursuline Sisters and Associates Stuff Socks for the Needy

Ursuline Sisters and Associates joined fellow members of the Toledo Area Associate Networking Group (TAANG) in a project aimed at bringing much needed supplies and cheer to those standing on the corners of our community. Described as a "Sock Stuffing Party," Ursuline, Notre Dame, Sylvania Franciscan, Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, and Mercy Sisters and Associates gathered at Rosary Care Center in Sylvania in December 2024 to stuff more than 600 pairs of socks that were donated by the sock company, Bombas, with small items such as candy, gum, band aids, and \$5 McDonald's gift cards. These socks then could be carried in our cars to be given to those who are homeless or needy.



Ursuline Associates Louis and Pat Torda stuff socks during the TAANG Sock Stuffing Party.

Welcome New Associates

The Ursuline Sisters and Associates welcomed two new Associates, Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND, and Laurie Toth, this past year.

Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND shares her journey with many Ursuline connections:

“On April 23, 2024, I began a new relationship with the Toledo Ursuline Sisters, as an Associate. I’ve been in their sphere of influence for much of my life. I was



Sister Mary Jo Szpila, SND, right, was mentored by Sister Nancy Mathias.

baptized in 1949 at St. Patrick Historic Church and then lived in Good Shepherd Parish, both staffed by Ursulines. My family relocated to West Toledo where I attended Gesu School and Notre Dame Academy, both under the direction of the Sisters of Notre Dame. I joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1967.

“At the time of my

confirmation in the 3rd grade, my parents helped me choose a name. Dad’s mother (who I never knew) was called Aniela (Polish for Angela??) and Mom’s maternal grandmother (who I never knew) was called Angeline. Putting those two names together, my parents figured out I could choose to be called Angela. Amazing, yes?

“I attended Mary Manse College in the 70’s to complete my BA degree and went on to teach for 14 years. When assigned as Principal at St. Joseph School, Monroeville, I came into closer contact through mentoring by Sister Nancy Mathias who directed the new principals in the diocese. Five years later I was invited to work in the Diocesan Schools Office, again with Sister Nancy and others. Professional friendships formed there remain to this day.

“I applied for a Pastoral Care ministry opening when it was advertised by Sister Sandy Sherman and her Council in 2016. Through these past nine years as an employee of the Ursuline Sisters, I’ve grown in my understanding of Angela Merici by reading about her, praying through her intercession at the Community’s annual missioning

services, studying the Associate Handbook, paying attention to the SUA reflections on St. Angela in the monthly newsletter, interacting with the Ursulines socially and professionally, and more. Angela’s spirit is in the air I breathe in my ministry with them and for them.

“It is an honor to be accepted as an Associate to the Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart.”

New Associate **Laurie Toth** shares her journey and decision to become an Ursuline Associate:

“I’ve heard that when a person is preparing for the sacrament of confirmation, that they don’t actually pick their saint... but that the saint ‘picks them!’

“St. Angela has been a true friend, a real presence... I believe that working for the Sisters and getting to know them over the years has been a place where she walked alongside... inspiring me to be open to creative, loving, or life-giving opportunities that God placed in front of me! The face of the Ursulines has been an invitation to see her gaze, which is really a gaze up, eyes on The Lord! Which is who we are all seeking, anyway!

“St. Angela’s charism and counterculture responses that opened doors for her has also been embedded on my heart, inspiring me to bring ladies together, start



Sister Margaret Anne Carstensen, Sister Sandy Sherman, Laurie Toth, and Sister Donna Frey rejoice at Laurie’s Associate Commitment Ceremony.

prayer groups, teach children about the saints and virtues, and to travel to holy sites! (to name a few!)

“When discerning whether or not I’d like to become an Associate, it occurred to me that in my heart, I was one in spirit!!

“Thanks be to God!”

We Appreciate Our Benefactors

The Ursuline Sisters are grateful for your generous gifts which help us make a difference in the lives of so many – through various ministries and the care of our retired and infirm Sisters. This list of benefactors includes donations received by the Ursuline Convent from August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025. If we have omitted your name inadvertently, please notify the Ursuline Convent Office, 4045 Indian Road, Toledo, OH 43606 or call (419) 536-9587. If you donated to St. Ursula Academy, your donation is recorded in St. Ursula Academy publications.

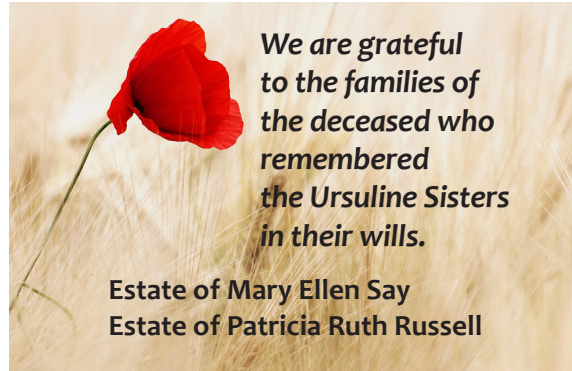
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In Memory Of...

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Coletta Allen	Dorothy Schwanbeck
Barbara E Baker	Joe & Nancy Sellinger
Mari-Lou Beining	Marcia Staczek
Mary Helen Chachere	



Celebrating the Ursulines' 170th Foundation Day

The St. Ursula Academy student body held a special Foundation Day Celebration Mass on December 18, 2024. Pictured here are Sister Donna Frey, Sister Carol Kronfield, SUA President Mary Werner, Sister Nelda Chafitelli, and Sister Claudia Holtz.



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URSULINE *Cherry Blossom* FESTA RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Prize

Patricia Wos Quinto, SUA '78

2nd Prize

Janice Swint Stickles, MMC '69

3rd Prize

Denise Navarre Cubbon, SUA '71

*Thank you to all who helped make the
Cherry Blossom Festa Raffle
a success!*



Mary Manse Alumni Mass & Luncheon

Sunday, October 12, 2025
St. Ursula Academy
4025 Indian Road, Toledo, Ohio

For more information, contact the
Ursuline Convent Office at 419-536-9587.

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