



St. Margaret of Cortona Parish

31 Chamberlain Ave Little Ferry, NJ 07643

Phone: (201) 641-2988 Fax: (201) 322-0172

*Serving the Catholic Communities of Little Ferry and Moonachie
In Ministry, Education and Service -- Since August 24, 1912*

December 18, 2022



Reverend Kevin E. Carter,
Pastor

Reverend Michael Otuwurunne,
In Residence

Sister Dorothy A. Donovan, S.S.J.,
Pastoral Associate

Eileen M. Ballone,
Director of Music

Dina R. Tarabocchia,
Parish Secretary

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon

Weekdays: Monday to Friday: 12:00 p.m.

CONFessions: Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

PARISH WEBSITE:

<http://www.stmargaretlfnj.org/>

PARISH E-MAIL: smcortona1912@aol.com

Parish Center Office

Phone: 201-641-2988 Fax: 201-322-0172
Monday to Thursday

Rectory

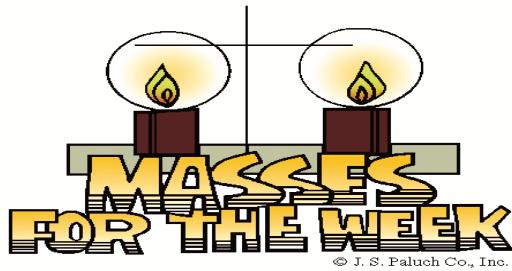
201-641-2988

By appointment only

Religious Education

201-641-2989

Sunday to Thursday



SATURDAY, December 17

**5:30 PM Anna Hightower &
Joseph Nalewaiski**

SUNDAY, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**8:00 AM Nerina Picinich
10:00 AM Daniel & Elizabeth Weir
12:00 PM Sergio Passaro**

MONDAY, December 19

12:00 PM Nicolo Hroncich

TUESDAY, December 20

12:00 PM Ottavia Minervini

WEDNESDAY, December 21

12:00 PM Luciano Lo Sardo

THURSDAY, December 22

12:00 PM Otto & Josephine Baumeister

FRIDAY, December 23

12:00 PM Gioacchino Piccinich

SATURDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

**5:30 PM & 12:00 Midnight
(11:30 PM Christmas Carols)**
People of Our Parish Family

SUNDAY, December 25, 2022

**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day**
10:00 AM & 12:00 PM
People of Our Parish Family

**Memorials
Bread & Wine
Lenkiewicz Family**

**Sanctuary Candle
Luciano Lo Sardo**

GETTING EVEN

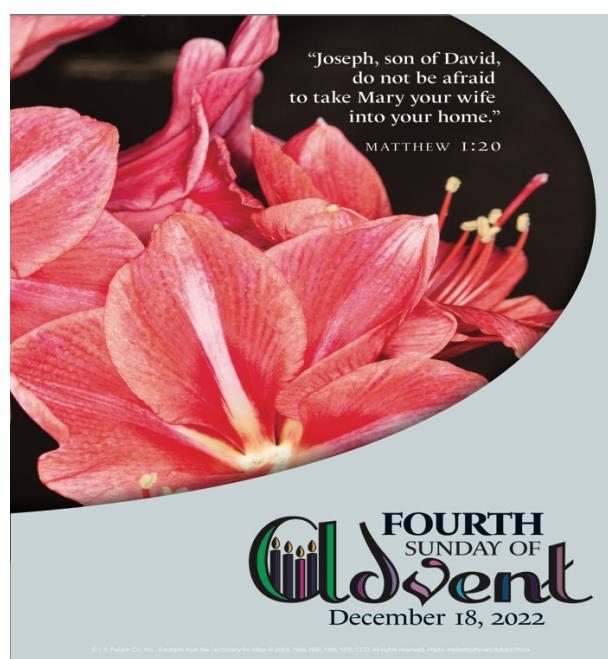
The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

—Anonymous

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

—Charles Dickens





GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL

OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins

Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Friday: St. John of Kenty

Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)





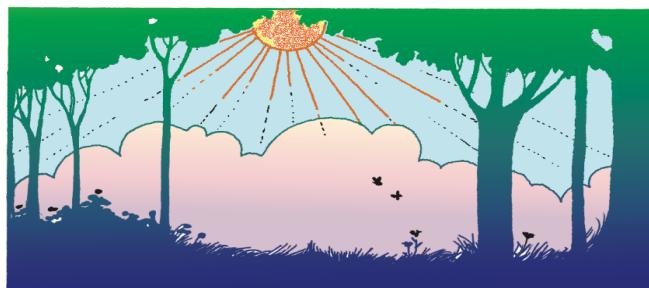
**We lift up to the
Lord in our prayers
and good works for:
the sick, frail and
the homebound.**

John McConnell
Catherine Mary Moncello
Camilla Leventhal
Nicole Grano
Johanna Hanush
Lena Vitalle.
John Thomas Lazur Dersch
Robert Zienkiewicz
Florence Navarro
Paula Kelnhofer
Barbara Demczyszyn
Caroline Ruppert Hubertz
Tom Greaux
John Ratynski
Robert & Carolyn Salzman
Vincent Evelich
James Moran.
Olivia La Forte King
Valerie Vernay

Anthony Deli
Michel Porta
Julian Morgan
Baby Amato Jordan
Philip Dittmar
Grace Ehler
Julio Sanchez
Arline Hrbek
Kevin Michael Francis
Jacqueline Palmadessa
Michael Toscano
Ellie Lombardelli
Brandon Kingsley
Tony Tarabocchia
Victor Ruggiero
Jo Anna Lockie
Dominick Di Buono
David I. Ramos



Victims of terrorism and war; genocide in Syria and the Holy Land, worldwide human trafficking, racism and hatred, domestic abuse and street violence, severe weather conditions and for all those victims who suffered and lost their loved ones, under the COVID-19 pandemic.



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RCIA



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*If there is any adult (18+yrs.)
who wishes to complete
their initiation into the
Catholic Church by receiving
Confirmation and/or Communion
and Confirmation, please call
Sister Dorothy at 201-641-2989.*

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

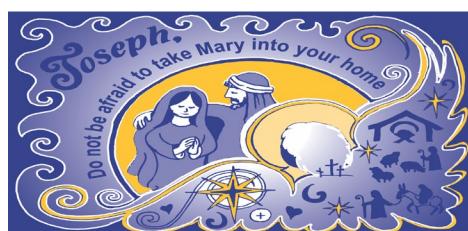
— Saint Ignatius of Loyola



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December 4, 2022

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Saint Margaret of Cortona Church Christmas 2022 Schedule

Christmas Masses December 24-25

Saturday, Christmas Eve:
5:30 PM and 12:00 Midnight
(11:30 PM Christmas Carols)

Sunday, The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day:
10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and
Joseph, Friday, December 30
12:00 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,
(New Year's Day)
January 1, 2023

Saturday, December 31,
New Year's Eve: 5:30 PM

Sunday, New Year's Day
8:00AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM

The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 8

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 17

1:00 pm,

Monday, December 19

at 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Emmanuel

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). The Gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah.

There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help instead of relying on God. He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

In the Gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary came to be pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and in raising Jesus afterwards.

So now we have to choose whom to rely on. Do I act like Ahaz, relying on worldly powers, or like Joseph, who trusted the Lord? If I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions? Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God is with us--in the baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and in the love of our spouse or parents--we could see how close God really is, and let others see in our actions that Jesus is Emmanuel.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

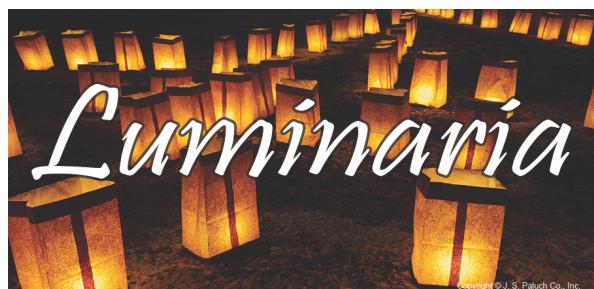
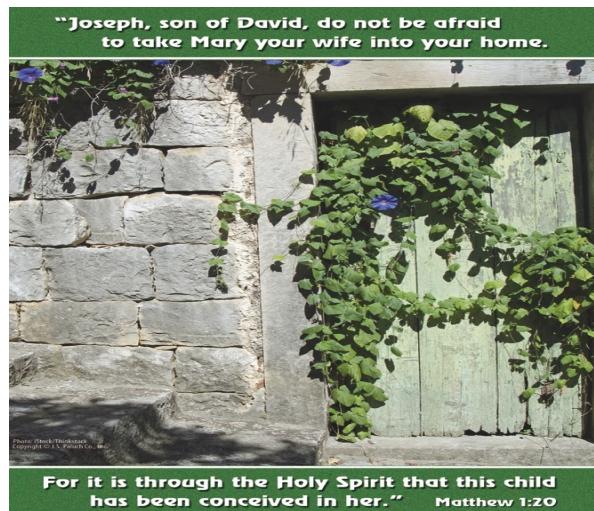
Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). We might need to have a little pity on the Fourth Sunday, however, since the hectic realities of the secular calendar can overwhelm it, particularly in those years when there are only one or two (or zero!) days before Christmas. This year we have the luxury of a whole week! What shall we do with this gift from God? Perhaps a bit more charity or social action on behalf of God's poorest. Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did. Attend daily Mass, Advent reconciliation, or pray the "O" antiphons (which began this Saturday evening). As with every gift, we show true gratitude by using it. Let us do so, as Paul tells us in Romans, for the sake of the name of Jesus, whose coming we await.

WHOSE HOUSE?

Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.



OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Las Posadas (December 16-24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these posadas were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM,

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer for Generosity

*Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.*

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola



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Dina Tarabocchia

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