



St. Margaret of Cortona Parish
31 Chamberlain Ave Little Ferry, NJ 07643
*Serving the Catholic Communities of
Little Ferry and Moonachie*
In Ministry, Education and Service -- Since August 24, 1912
(Destroyed by Sandy - Oct 29, 2012 – Restored in Christ Aug 4, 2013)

January 25, 2026



Reverend, Kevin E. Carter,
Pastor
Reverend Michael Otuwurunne,
In Residence
Reverend Victor P. Kennedy,
Weekend Assistant
Eileen M. Ballone,
Director of Music
Dina R. Tarabocchia,
Parish Secretary

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

MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: **9:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**
Weekdays: **Monday to Friday:** 12:00 p.m.
Mass Guild – First Saturday of the Month – 12:00 p.m.
CONFESIONS: Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.
PARISH WEBSITE:
<http://www.stmargaretnj.org/>
PARISH E-MAIL: smcortona1912@aol.com

Rectory
201-641-2988
By appointment only

Religious Education
201-641-2988
Sunday to Thursday

Conversion of St. Paul

THE CONVERSION of St. Paul is one of the Bible's great stories. A man who persecuted Christians joins the group he was targeting. The story appears several times in the New Testament. Saul was traveling on the road to Damascus when he was struck by a blinding light and fell to the ground. Unable to see, he heard the voice of Jesus ask, "Why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). Saul in turn asked, "Who are you, Lord?" (Acts 9:5). Housed by a disciple named Ananias, Saul learned about Jesus Christ, was baptized, and became known as "Paul." Through his travels, preaching, and writing, he became the most influential of all the followers of Christ. The conversation during his vision symbolizes the stance between God and the average human person: God asks why we do what we do, and we try to penetrate the mystery of God.

The Catholic Church celebrates a feast day in honor of Paul's conversion every year on January 25. There is no historical evidence linking this date to that event. The earliest appearance of January 25 on the Church calendar seems to have commemorated the anniversary of the day that the relics of this apostle were moved from the catacombs to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls of Rome. The date later became associated with his conversion, probably because of the universal appeal of Paul's story.

As a feast day, the conversion outranks most other weekdays, but when it falls on a Sunday, the Ordinary Time liturgy takes precedence. However, Pope Benedict XVI made mid-2008 to mid-2009 a special year commemorating the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul, and in honor of this event, he authorized the celebration of the Conversion of St. Paul on Sunday, January 25, 2009.



Music is an extremely important part of the liturgy at the Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona. We are looking for enthusiastic music lovers and musicians to join our music ministry. The choir sings every Sunday at 11:30 am and other liturgies throughout the year. Rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7:30 pm beginning in September and through the month of June. No experience is necessary.

Some of the blessings of being an active choir member include: **Spiritual Growth:** Singing draws us deeper into prayer and the Word of God. **Service to God and the Church:** Through music, we become vessels of grace for the community. **Unity and Fellowship:** Choir life builds friendships, teamwork and a sense of family. As a choir member you Boost your self-confidence / Get a great workout/ Be part of a team and improve your memory.

Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Call Eileen ~ 201-843-1097 or see her after Mass!



Family Life Ministry
ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

2026 ANNIVERSARY MASS

Important: There is only ONE Anniversary Liturgy for all couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 50th, or 60+ Catholic wedding anniversary. This liturgy will be celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on **Sunday, May 3rd at 3 PM** at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

Kindly submit one registration form per couple by **April 14th**. Please note that this Mass is for couples celebrating their **5th, 25th, 50th, or 60+ years of Catholic marriage**.

Couples celebrating anniversaries other than their 5th, 25th, 50th, or 60+ years are welcome to attend; however, we cannot guarantee that a certificate and gift will be available at the Mass. We will do our best to recognize and honor all couples in attendance. Once we receive each submission, we will acknowledge receipt of the reservation directly to the celebrating couple after the April 14th deadline and provide them with additional details and directions to the Cathedral Basilica.

To register, go to —
<https://rcan.org/family-life/>
or complete the registration form below.

Please make sure all email addresses are correct and names are spelled correctly to avoid any certificates with misspelled names.

COUPLE'S LAST NAME:

WIFE'S FIRST NAME:

WIFE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:

HUSBAND'S FIRST NAME:

HUSBAND'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:

DATE OF MARRIAGE (MM/DD/YYYY):

_____/_____/_____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

COUPLE'S PARISH NAME & CITY:

THIS COUPLE IS CELEBRATING:

- 60th Anniversary
- Golden Anniversary (50 years)
- Silver Anniversary (25 years)
- 5th Anniversary (5 years)

WAS THIS MARRIAGE CELEBRATED AS A CHRISTIAN SACRAMENT?

Yes No

Submit this completed form to any of our priests or at the Parish office.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

One of the most unusual Catholic churches in the world is in Amsterdam: Our Lord in the Attic, or as the locals say, “Ons Lieve Heer op Solder.” What looks like a beautiful narrow brick mansion alongside a canal is a clever disguise for a very well-preserved seventeenth-century home and a secret church. During the Reformation, the Netherlands was divided into Protestant Holland and the Spanish Netherlands, now known as Belgium, a Catholic stronghold. Protestant reformers seized all the Catholic parishes in Holland and “de-Catholicized” them. New laws forbade the celebration of the Mass in public. St. Nicholas Church was renamed “Old Church” by the new owners, and the dispossessed Catholics got to work “hiding” St. Nicholas Parish in the upper floors of this mansion. Other Catholics did the same thing, but this is the only hidden church that survives today. Sunday Mass is still celebrated here.

It's a beautiful hideaway, with nothing spared in regard to marble, gilding, a pipe organ, and classic Dutch painting. A few steps away, the Old Church, begun in 1250, stands emptied of the statues and carvings of its Catholic days, its windows replaced by plain glass. The new tenants gave up when it came to the ceiling, which is still painted with saints, biblical scenes, and merchant ships. The Dutch reformers were tolerant sorts, and as long as the Catholics kept out of sight, they were out of mind. Catholicism was at last tolerated in Holland after 1853, but in 1924 when the International Eucharistic Congress was held in Amsterdam, processions of Catholics were still forbidden in the streets. Today, Roman Catholics are about 19 percent of the population, and there's no need for any of them to hide in the attic.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GIFT

What I am is God's gift to me. What I become is my gift back to God.

—Anonymous

