# 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 25, 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*

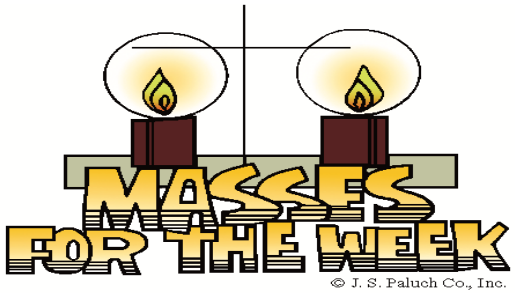
**MASS SCHEDULE:**
**Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 p.m.
**Sunday:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon
**Weekdays: Monday to Friday:** 12:00 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

**PARISH WEBSITE:**
http://www.stmargaretlfnj.org/

**PARISH E-MAIL:** smcortona1912@aol.com

| Parish Center Office | Rectory | Religious Education |
|---|---|---|
| Phone: 201-641-2988 Fax: 201-322-0172 | 201-641-2988 | 201-641-2989 |
| Monday to Thursday | By appointment only | Sunday to Thursday |




**SATURDAY, December 24. Christmas Eve**
**5:30 PM & Midnight**
***(11:30 PM Christmas Carols)***
**People of Our Parish Family**

**SUNDAY, December 25, 2022**
**The Nativity of The Lord**
**Christmas Day**

**10:00 AM 12:00 PM**
**People of Our Parish Family**

**MONDAY, December 26**
**12:00 PM Albino Scrivanich**

**TUESDAY, December 27**
**12:00 PM Maria Vlacancich**

**WEDNESDAY, December 28**
**12:00 PM Sergio Tattoli**

**THURSDAY, December 29**
**12:00 PM Larry Felberg**

**FRIDAY, December 30**
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
**12:00 PM Peter Annunziato**

**SATURDAY, December 31 New Year's Eve**
**5:30 PM People of Our Parish Family**

**SUNDAY, January 1, 2023**
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,**
**New Year's Day**

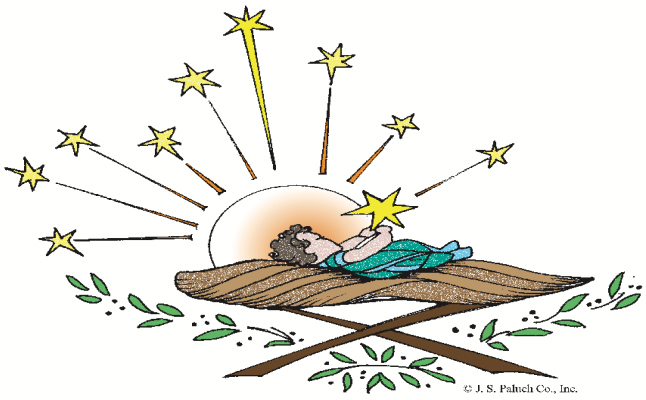
**8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM**
**People of Our Parish Family**

# Memorials
## Bread & Wine
## And
## Sanctuary Candle
## Barry & Louis Balala

**LOVE**
**Let those who never loved before,**
**love now:**
**Let those who always loved,**
**love the more.**
**—Anonymous**

**LEARNED AT HOME**
**The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.**
**—Henry Drummond**

**WINTER WILD**
**It was winter wild**
**While the Heav'n-born child**
**All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies.**
**—John Milton, On the Morning of Christ's Nativity**




**December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**WHAT ALL THE WAITING HAS BEEN FOR**

**Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.**

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).**

**Psalm — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).**

**Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).**

**Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).**

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins**

**Tuesday: St. John**

**Wednesday: The Holy Innocents**

**Thursday: St. Thomas Becket;**

**Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity**

**of the Lord**

**Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**Saturday: St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve**

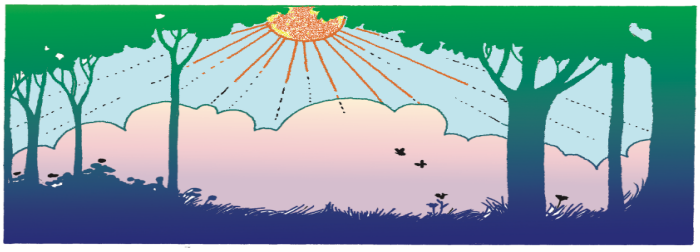
**Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

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

Catherine Mary Moncello
Michel Porta
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
Jo Anna Lockie
Dominick Di Buono
David I. Ramos
Anthony Deli
Valerie Vernay
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
James Moran
Olivia La Forte King

### John McConnell

**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 at the Manger: With the Shepherds**
**Your Good News was sung by angels**
**to these lowly ones in the night.**
**Look on us in our lowliness.**
**Let us rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ,**
**now and forever. Amen.**

# 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**

## *CHRISTMAS*

*A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!*

*—From God's Word Is Our Joy*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

The four Gospel portraits of Jesus take very different approaches to his origins. Mark has no record of Jesus' ancestry, except for his connection to John the Baptist. Matthew traces his genealogy back to Abraham; Luke even farther back, to Adam. The Gospel of John outdoes them all, tracing Jesus' origins back to the time before time, before the world was created! Jesus is the eternal Word of God. The Greek term for "Word" is logos, and it is a word with deep implications. The logos exists before creation, because all of creation came to be through the logos and, in turn, the logos will become the light of all it has created. This is what makes Christmas a season light and life. May our lives radiate this light, reflecting the life-giving Word-made-Flesh. Let our discipleship truly and fully make incarnate once again the Word-in-flesh whom we celebrate and adore: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

## THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### Christmas Time

The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine.

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Dina Tarabocchia

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**
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