

## ***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 18, 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*

### **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.**

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

### **PARISH WEBSITE:**

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

**PARISH E-MAIL: [smcortona1912@aol.com](mailto: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**

201-641-2988  
Sunday to Thursday



**SUNDAY, January 18, 2026**

**Second Sunday of the Church Year**

5:30 PM (Saturday) Elizabeth Bozzetti

9:00 AM Madonna Danganan

11:30 AM Victor Traverso [7A]

**MONDAY, January 19 (Martin Luther King, Jr.)**

12:00 PM Mike Vrkic

**TUESDAY, January 20**

12:00 PM Maria De Sario

**WEDNESDAY, January 21**

12:00 PM Martino Matesic

**THURSDAY, January 22**

12:00 PM Francesco Ciliberti

**FRIDAY, January 23**

12:00 PM Tony Tarabocchia [3A]

**SATURDAY, January 24**

5:30 PM Dinko & Antonia Tarabocchia

**SUNDAY, January 25, 2026**

**Third Sunday of the Church Year**

9:00 AM Madonna Danganan

11:30 AM Deceased Members of the  
Montany Family

**Memorials  
Bread & Wine  
And  
Sanctuary Candle  
People of Our Parish Family**



**January 11, 2026  
\$4,887**

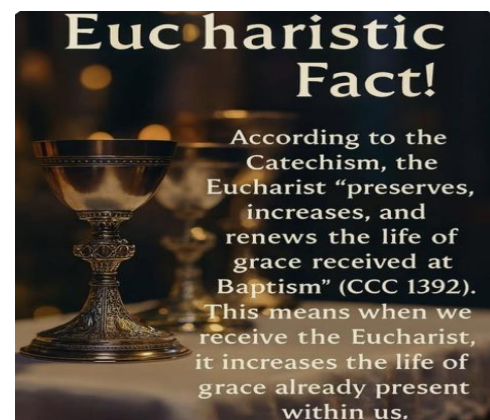


**We lift up to the Lord in our prayers and good works for: the sick, frail and the homebound.**

Catherine Mary Moncello	Anthony Deli
Michele Porta	Valerie Vernay
Camilla Leventhal	Julian Morgan
Nicole Grano	Lena Vitale
Julio Sanchez	Arline Hrbek
Robert Zienkiewicz	Brandon Kingsley
Paula Kelnhofer	Jacqueline Palmadessa
Barbara Demczyszyn	Robin Toscano
Caroline Ruppert Hubert	Ron Ruppert
Robert & Carolyn Salzman	George Stauble
Chris Lynch	Pia Maria Pignataro
Mary Mirrop	Johanna Hanush
Steven Sciancalepore	Michael & Stephen
Tom Greaux	Demczyszyn
Delia Libunao	Pedro Jimenez
Amy Way	Lori Ruppert Hagens
Phyllis Francis	Colette Caminiti
Steve De Martini	Ignazio De Bari



**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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## Sunday

OUR ENTIRE society sees something special about Sunday. Business hours change. Breakfast menus expand. Work hours shrink. Sporting events surface. The newspaper inflates. Movie schedules increase. We expect leisure on Sunday. Part of the weekend, it begins the week and ends the week. It is a sacred day, a time outside normal time when life takes a break. Sunday symbolizes paradise, a place, and pace of leisure and pleasure.

How did all this happen? We Christians owned Sunday first. It is our most important day. On a Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1). On Sundays, his followers met to break bread (Acts 20:7). The Resurrection is our most central belief. We choose Sunday for our primary gathering because the day itself proclaims our faith. Mass on Wednesday or Monday just would not be the same. Sunday is Easter. You can change the day you shop for groceries or go to the bank without much loss. But church is different. It demands a particular day, like a holiday or an anniversary.

If we did not gather for Eucharist on Sunday, we have not proclaimed the Resurrection.

Our definition of "Sunday" includes Saturday night. This does not compromise to convenience. Jesus rose from the dead during the night. So our Eucharist still honors the Resurrection when it takes place at the beginning of that night—namely, on Saturday evening.

If a serious reason keeps you from attending church on Sunday, your pastor may dispense you. Your conversation with him honors your commitment to your community. On a Sunday when you cannot participate in the Eucharist, you may wish to pray the Scriptures of that day and share a prayer at meal with other believers.

Unity, leisure, and prayer characterize a Sunday. Our attendance at church unites us with the believers of our own community and with all Christians throughout the world. Our abstinence from work frees our mind for prayer. Football, food, and freedom are all supplementary to Sunday's main purpose, celebrating Eucharist.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago:  
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# Thank You

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*Your response to the  
Advent Giving Tree  
was overwhelmingly generous.  
Your participation  
has provided a great Christmas  
to needy families in our area and  
beyond. God's Blessing on you  
and on those you love.*



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!**

## **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

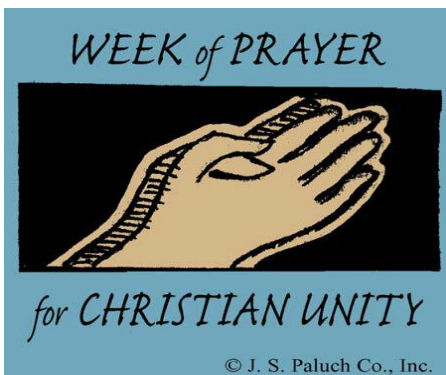
**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading  
of your people  
and bestow your peace on our  
times.**

**Through our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.**



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## **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

“Ordinary Time” began for us this week. On the old calendar, the feast of the Presentation, still more than two weeks away, was the last day of the Christmas season. Sadly, Bethlehem is hardly a place of peace on earth these days. The ancient Christian community has been largely uprooted by political strife. The Church of the Nativity stands (barely) in remarkable disrepair and disorder in Manger Square. The roof is crumbling, the major doorways are blocked, the wiring is faulty, and the worship life is disrupted by quarrels among Eastern Christians.

The church was founded by the Emperor Constantine in 325, destroyed in a Samaritan revolt in 539, and rebuilt by the Emperor Justinian. When the area came under Muslim control in 638, the holiness of the church was respected, and in return Christians allowed Muslims to pray in the south aisle, a right still upheld. Earlier in that century, invading Persians were ordered to destroy all churches, but when they saw the magi carved over the doorway of the Church of the Nativity, they spared it out of respect for their ancestors who bore gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the same city. The Crusaders restored and redecored the church by the twelfth century, and it is their plan that survives. Down a few stone steps is a stone grotto with a silver star marking the place of Christ’s birth: when the star was stolen in 1847 it triggered an international crisis that exploded into the Crimean War.

Since 1852, the church has been shared by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Churches. The Greeks are in charge of the grotto, but don’t enjoy the best of friendships with the Armenians. Catholics have the care of the Chapel of the Manger, and avoid the squabbles by a separate entrance to the Franciscan monastery church of St. Catherine. Pray for peace in Bethlehem!

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

## **CHAINS OF GRACE**

The chains of grace are so powerful, and yet so sweet, that though they attract our heart, they do not shackle our freedoms.

—St. Francis de Sales