

# *Marriage Preparation*



*...all the days of my life...*

*Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church  
Garfield, NJ*

*Rev. Peter J. Palmisano  
Pastor  
pjmt88a@aol.com*

*Rev. Marco Vitrano  
Parochial Vicar  
marcov.zing@gmail.com*

*Evan Tintle-Charpentier  
Parish Music Director  
evanmakesmusic@gmail.com*

*Susan Toms  
Rehearsal Coordinator  
mytysuu@aol.com*

*Office (973) 772-2295  
Fax (973) 478-4389  
www.mtvirgin.com*

## Welcome

*The parish family of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church offers to support and guide you as you prepare for your wedding. There are many things to be done in preparation for your celebration of this Sacrament. To insure the sanctity of your wedding, please review this carefully.*

*Your spiritual development as a couple is the most important aspect of your marriage preparation. As you enter the church and come before the altar, you are recounting the steps which many others have taken. These steps represent a new identity which, will be centered on a relationship built on faith in God and faith in each other.*

*Marriage is a sacrament. We are here to help you prepare for this profound experience of God's love that will be showered upon you on your wedding day and every day of your married life.*

*The sacraments are essential to the life of the church. Therefore, adequate marriage preparation is necessary to the reception of the sacrament of matrimony.*

## *Sacramental Preparation*

We recommend that you celebrate the sacrament of penance, particularly prior to your wedding. This sacrament affords you the opportunity to experience the forgiveness of the Lord and the strength to resist temptation.

We also recommend that you attend Mass every Sunday, so that you may be strengthened by the Eucharist. By making Jesus number one in your life, you will be truly preparing for the sacrament of marriage. Your presence is important, not only for one another, but also for the parish community. It speaks volumes.

## *Documents from Civil Authorities*

The marriage license is obtained from the town of the bride. One witness (over 18 years old) will also be needed when you apply for the license. The witness must know both the bride and the groom. **APPLY NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE.** If the ceremony is scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday, the application should be made no later than the preceding Monday.

## *Documents from the Church*

Persons not baptized at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church must contact the church of their baptism to obtain an **updated copy** of their Baptismal Certificate. This copy is not returned. Because marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament, either the best man or the maid of honor, preferably both, should be practicing Catholics.

## *Documents from the Church*

1. PNI - Pre-Nuptial Investigation
2. FOCUS Inventory
3. Pre-Cana Certificate
4. God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Certificate
5. Rehearsal **\*\* *The civil license and all stipends must be brought to the rehearsal.***

Archdiocesan policy requires that each couple attend ***both Pre-Cana and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage.*** Plans to attend these conferences should be made well in advance. To register and for additional information, go to:

[rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/family-life/marriage-preparation](http://rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/family-life/marriage-preparation)

and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Family Life Office at 973-497-4328. You will receive certificates from the Archdiocese stating that you have completed both programs. Please bring the certificates to your follow-up meeting at Mt. Virgin.

Wedding rehearsals are scheduled by Susan Toms, our Rehearsal Coordinator. Rehearsals may be scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, after 6:00 PM. Thursdays and Fridays are not available. It is important that everyone in your wedding party be prompt. The rehearsal will last approximately one hour. **Your civil license and all stipends must be presented at the rehearsal,** along with the wedding programs.

## *Music*

Evan Tintle-Charpentier, our Director of Sacred Music, is available for music consultations over the phone, or in person either before or after Mass, if arranged in advance. Please email her at **evanmakesmusic@gmail.com** or call her at (201) 978-4885 to discuss your music choices. Because couples need to select music which reflects the dignified worship of God, **secular music is not appropriate.** *Music must be selected four weeks before the date of your wedding.*

“**Bench fees**” are in place for our hired musicians. The hired church musicians are entitled to all appropriate wedding music fees, which are calculated into their annual salary. We have a bench fee for all weddings at Our Lady of Mount Virgin. If a substitute musician or cantor is brought in, the bench fee for Evan Tintle-Charpentier of Our Lady of Mount Virgin still applies. Therefore, any outside musicians you may invite, as substitutes, are to be paid separately.



## *Flower, Photography, Church Fees, Miscellaneous*

Floral decorations should include no more than two baskets, which can be placed in front of the main altar. It is customary to leave flowers for decoration of the church during the weekend. No form of tape or adhesive may be used to secure the decorations to church furnishings. Please advise your florist. Runners are permitted, but not necessary or encouraged. Truly, they become a hazard!

During the Christmas and Easter seasons, the church sanctuary is already decorated with floral pieces. Purchasing extra is not necessary. Also, please consult with the parish as to whether or not there is a wedding before yours, on the same day. This will ensure for tasteful decoration and could possibly save you money.

In choosing photographers and videographers, please know that they must not distract those who attend the ceremony, or the bride and groom. We do not allow pictures or videos to be taken from within the Sanctuary. This is to ensure both reverence for God and the prevention of unnecessary distractions.

### *Offerings and Stipends - Cash Only*

*(Please use marked envelopes provided in your folder)*

Church offering: \$500.00

Organist/Cantor stipend: \$350.00

Sacristan offering: \$ 50.00

Rehearsal Team: \$ 50.00

Priest Offering: At the discretion of the couple

**\*\*\$1,500.00 (all inclusive) for non-parishioners.**

### ***The Throwing of Rice, etc.***

The throwing of rice at the end of the ceremony is prohibited. We believe that many people do not have enough food to eat and that it is wrong to waste the rice, being a basic food item that can be shared with the needy. We suggest using bird seed. Please inform your guests of this policy. Flower girls are permitted to drop flower petals down the aisle.

### ***Proper Attire***

It is important that the wedding party select attire which is consistent with **virtue and modesty and appropriate to the dignity of Christian worship.** Sweetheart top dresses, which completely expose the shoulders, are not appropriate church dress. Shoulder covering is appropriate.

### ***Please Note***

A priest will prepare you along the way and celebrate your marriage. However, in the event of an emergency or conflict, the other priest may have to step in. Get to know your priests. See you at Mass!

### ***In Closing***

Finally, we ask that if you will be living in Garfield after your wedding, that you notify the parish of your new address. If you are moving, we encourage you to register at the local parish in your new neighborhood. Your faith life must be continually nurtured in an environment conducive to spiritual growth.

*We thank you for your kind cooperation and invite you to call us regarding further clarifications and/or questions.*

***God Bless You on the Journey***

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday

8:00 AM

5:00 PM

### Sunday

8:00 AM

9:45 AM (Italian)

11:30 AM

### Monday & Wednesday

8:00 AM in Main Church

### Friday

7:00 PM in Main Church

### Tuesday & Thursday

12:00 Noon - Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel

111 Jewell Street in Garfield

### Confession Schedule

Saturday

4:00 - 4:45 PM - Or upon request

*Our Lady of Mount Virgin*

*188 MacArthur Avenue*

*Garfield, NJ 07026*

*Office (973) 772-2295 - Fax (973) 478-4389*

*www.mtvirgin.com*

*January 2020*