

Quinceañera Celebration St. James Catholic Church



“Te ofrezco, Señor, mi juventud; guía mis pasos, mis acciones, mis pensamientos, concédeme la gracia de comprender tu mandamiento nuevo, el mandamiento de amarnos unos a otros.”

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations are in order for any young woman preparing to celebrate her entrance into maturity and her 15th year of life celebration. This is a very special occasion for you as you publicly consecrate yourself to Christ and to seek to live out his will in a more active way. We do have some directions that you will find in this brochure, but keep in mind the reason for them and this Quinceañera. We want to celebrate your call to be a mature Christian woman in the faith and we thank God for giving us this opportunity. Therefore, in order to help foster this environment, we ask you and those participating to help keep this celebration focused on that rather than the externals so that we can keep the dignity and joy that we intend to have. Please be familiar with the information given in this brochure to help you to understand the process and instructions.

PARISH PROCESS

Requirements:

In order to celebrate a Quinceañera at St. James the following requirements must be met:

1. The quinceañera and her family must be parishioners of St. James.
2. The quinceañera should have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. If she has not received Confirmation or Communion, she must be currently enrolled in the process.
3. The quinceañera must be attending Mass at St. James or have a letter of permission as well as a statement that they are actively participating in their home parish.
4. The quinceañera must complete the classes given by Deacon Raúl.
5. A “Mass Commentary Form” that takes about two months to complete must be completed before the Quinceañera is scheduled.
6. The Quinceañera begins at 3:00 pm sharp. Because there is only a half hour to complete the ceremony, families that show up late will need to reschedule or will be offered a simple blessing.

Quinceañera Dates and Times:

The days and times for Quinceañeras are the third and fourth Saturdays of every month at 3 p.m. Dominga, our secretary, can inform you of the open dates. There will be no more than two Quinceañeras planned on any given Saturday and the first to reserve the date gets to choose any music or decorations. To reserve the date, a \$150 deposit is required. You may choose to make the full \$350 donation at that time or some other time before the Quinceañera.

PLANNING THE QUINCEAÑERA CEREMONY

Procession of the priest and court followed by the quinceañera
Introduction, Penitential Rite, and Opening Prayer
Readings from Scripture
Homily
Offering Prayer of the quinceañera
Blessing of Gifts (Bible, Rosary, Medals, Rings, etc.)
Presentation of flowers for the intercession of the Lady of Guadalupe
Prayers of the Faithful
Our Father and Sign of Peace
Closing Prayer
Prayer of blessing over the quinceañera

Consecration Prayer in English

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the gift of life, for creating me in your image and likeness, and for calling me to be your daughter. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to save me and your Holy Spirit to sanctify me. Help me to say "yes" to you and your love. With your grace I commit myself to serve you and my brothers and sisters all my life.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, I ask for your prayer and help. Since you are my model of faith, help me to continue learning from you what I need to be a Christian woman. Help me to hear the Word of God as you did, holding it in my heart and loving others, so that, as I walk with Jesus in this life, I may worship him with you in Heaven. Amen.

Consecration Prayer in Spanish:

Te ofrezco, Señor, mi juventud; guía mis pasos, mis acciones, mis pensamientos, concédeme la gracia de comprender tu mandamiento nuevo, el mandamiento de amarnos unos a otros. Que tu gracia en mí no resulte vana, te lo pido por Jesucristo, tu Hijo nuestro Salvador y Redentor.

Madre mía, presenta mi ofrenda y mi vida al Señor, sé siempre mi modelo de mujer valiente, mi fortaleza y mi guía, Tú tienes el poder de cambiar los corazones; toma pues mi corazón para consagrarlo, a nuestro Señor y hazme digna hija tuya. Amén.

Liturgical Music

If music is used, it should be sacred music and appropriate for such an occasion. No profane, secular or dance music is allowed. Because of time constraints, if music is used, it also needs to be very brief and can only be used in the beginning, during the flowers to the Virgin, and at the end. Please discuss with Deacon Raúl or Fr. Mike any plans.

Photography and Videography Considerations

Photographers only have a few minutes before and after the Quinceañera for photos because of other services or activities in the church. Thus, a Quinceañera scheduled for 3:00 p.m. may take pictures only from 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Flash may not be used during the ceremony itself. Photographers and videographers are never allowed in the sanctuary (the area behind the steps to the altar area) and should not stop or interrupt the procession for pictures.

Clean Up

The Quinceañera has to end and be cleared out by 3:45. All decorations, flowers, and supplies need to be completely removed, the church needs to be completely cleaned, and the church needs to be completely cleared in order to set up for the 4:00 pm confessions and the 5:00 pm Mass. All trash will need to be placed in the outside dumpster.

Immediately following the ceremony it is important that someone remove all boxes, plastic wrap, clothing, flashbulbs, floral paraphernalia, etc. from the building. There is a dumpster located on the back side of the church building. We also want to remind you and your guests to keep a watch on personal items. We recommend that purses, cameras and presents not be left unattended.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Attire:

Because a Quinceañera is a solemn celebration of Christ's love for his church, the attire chosen for the Quinceañera should reflect Christian values of modesty and decency. All dresses should be appropriate for this ceremony. Low cut and revealing dresses are not acceptable.

Food, etc.:

Absolutely no alcohol, food, drink, gum or tobacco products are allowed anywhere at St. James and that includes the vestibule and bathrooms. Any drug or alcohol use will result in immediate cancellation of the event.

Time:

Because of time constraints, it is not permissible to show up late. Arrive and be ready to go at least 15 minutes before the event. In the event of a late arrival, the priest or deacon with either cancel the ceremony all together or simply say a short blessing because of time constraints. Exceptions are not possible.

Confessions:

It is the responsibility of the Quinceañera and those participating in the ceremony to have any confessions heard in advance of the celebration.

Respectful and Appropriate Behavior:

Out of consideration for those praying and the setting of the occasion, a respectful quiet should be observed by all when in the church. Again, any disruptive behavior or influence of any drugs or alcohol will result in immediate cancellation. Running, loud talking, eating food in church, or disruptive behavior will also not be permitted.

Decorations, Flower Petals, Rice, Bubbles, etc.:

Decorations need to be simple. Lavish decorations and clothes take away from the primary emphasis of the Quinceañera and are not necessary and there isn't time for it anyway. Nothing pinned or taped is permitted and no flowers or decorations that will be used for the weekend Masses can be moved or removed. Flowers are not used in the church at all during Lent.

Flower petals, rice, birdseed, leaves, confetti, bubbles, balloons or anything else is completely out of place in the church or on the premises. It causes a significant cleaning problem, especially on weekends when the custodial help is not here. It is also a safety hazard for the elderly and others who are not sure-footed. Therefore, such items are not permitted.

Cost:

The suggested offering for a Quinceañera is \$350. The deposit will be considered as part of the donation. We ask that you make this offering on the day you reserve the date or well in advance of the Quinceañera. Please make sure that all your plans are set and you understand the requirements to avoid difficulties.