

# QUINCEAÑERA GUIDELINES

## Prerequisites

A Quinceañera celebration is NOT a sacrament but a blessing. If the candidate would like to have a blessing only at the end of the regular Sunday Mass, she still needs to follow all the guidelines and inform the parish office a week before or 15th birthday.

If she would like to have private celebration of Mass, the celebration is a privilege permitted and prerequisites must be met:

- Each Quinceanera will be enrolled in religious education classes, at least 6 months prior to the celebration.
- The Quinceanera must be baptized and must have received First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and be enrolled or confirmed in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Non-parishioners will need a letter from their parish concerning enrollment in religious education classes.
- The candidate for Quinceanera must pass the take home exam on the basic catholic faith. This test will be turned in with the liturgical planning form two weeks before the celebration. You will be exempt if you are in youth group for at least 6 months, or serving at Mass as altar server.

## Fee:

- The cost for a member of Cluster is \$350.00. The member should be registered at least 6 months prior to the beginning of this registration.
- Non- parishioner is \$600.00
- The fee will be exempt for those who only want to have the blessing at the regular Sunday Masses.
- You are required to pay all or half of the fee at reservation date. If not paid in full, the remaining is due at least a week prior to your celebration date.

## **Quinceañera Celebration of Mass Guidelines**

- There will NOT be any celebration of Quinceañera on Sunday and any day during Lenten or Advent Season.
- The role of the candidate's escort is more proper to the fiesta than to the Mass. Therefore, the Quinceañera is to be accompanied only by their parent(s) and god parent (s) in the procession, on entering and leaving, NOT by their escort.
- We recommend that the candidate receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) prior to the Quinceañera celebration.
- The throwing of flower petals, rice, confetti, bird seed, etc., is not permitted on Church property, inside or outside the Church, before, during, or after the Mass.
- Only one photographer and one videographer are permitted. However, it can only be done from the right or left side of the sanctuary. They may go into either choir loft area as well. They are NOT permitted to move around, especially in front of people, during the Mass. No photographer may enter the sanctuary space to take photos. No artificial lighting is to be used and the use of flash photography is prohibited during the ceremony.
- Time permitting, the priest will stay for one or two pictures immediately following the Mass.

### **Proper Attire:**

- The Quinceañera and her courts should dress modestly & respectfully demonstrating reverence for our Lord and respect to all in this holy celebration
- Young Men: Dress shirt, tie, dress pants, dress shoes.
- Young Ladies: Dress (long or short). Short dress hem should touch the top of the kneecap when seated. Uncovered shoulders and backs, low cut, or high slits are inappropriate. No strapless or spaghetti straps unless worn with a jacket or shawl.
- If the Quinceañera party is not modestly dressed, they will not be allowed to participate in the Church celebration.

### **Decoration:**

- Flowers in front of the statue of Mary are recommended.
- Uses of plastic clips, tape, Velcro, staples, clamps, floral pins, etc., are not allowed for pew decoration. Bows, greenery or floral sprays may be used only if attached with a ribbon loop.
- Runners are not allowed. The church should be left in the same order it was found.

If the Quinceañera takes place during the season of Advent, Christmas or Easter, the Church decorations may not be disturbed and must remain intact.

- Food, beverages (including alcohol), and tobacco are not permitted inside the Church or on church grounds.
- The following Quinceañera gifts are permitted: Bible, Rosary, medals.
- Since music is a very important part of liturgy, the hymns that will be played need to be liturgical hymns. Secular music, even if it is Christian music, will not be allowed. Visiting musicians/ choirs are allowed but they will need to get in contact with the Music Director a week prior to the quinceañera Mass to discuss what hymns will be played. There is a fee of \$100.00 for using an outside musician. \$200.00 if the candidate is a non-parishioner.