



PLANNING A QUINCEAÑERA CELEBRATION AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Among several Spanish-speaking countries and among many Hispanics in the United States there is the custom of celebrating the passage from childhood to adolescence with a ritual that expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and that asks for a blessing from God for the years ahead. This celebration may take place within Mass or outside of Mass.

Requirements:

In order to celebrate a quinceañera at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, the following requirements must be met:

- The quinceañera and her family must be registered parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.
- The quinceañera must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation (or currently be enrolled in program to receive Confirmation).
- The quinceañera and her family must actively participate in the parish and attending Sunday Mass.
- The quinceañera should present a copy of her Baptismal, First Communion and Confirmation certificates before the celebration of the quinceañera.

Scheduling a Quinceañera Celebration:

Scheduling a Quinceañera Celebration begins with completing a “Quinceañera Celebration Registration Form” and submitting it to the Parish Office, along with any required deposit. The Thanksgiving Mass or Blessing is then scheduled in the church calendar. Dates may be scheduled at least three months in advance of the desired date. The “Quinceañera Celebration Registration Form” is available in the Parish Office.

The Liturgy:

A Quinceañera celebration is celebrated at a Mass or Liturgy of the Word (Blessing outside Mass). The celebrations are on Saturdays at 3:00pm only and there are no celebrations during Lent. The Liturgy starts exactly on time; otherwise, your event will be shortened or even canceled.

Preparation Meetings:

A planning meeting with our coordinators will take place one month prior to the rehearsal date. The rehearsal prior to the ceremony; must be attended by all those involved in the ceremony (Quinceañera, Parents, Godparents, Damas and Chambelanes). The rehearsal for Quinceañera Celebration is scheduled the Friday before the ceremony from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Reconciliation/ Confession:

Confessions should be done at least one week prior to the celebration. No confessions are heard before the Mass or at the rehearsal. Please check our website (www.olssa.org) for the confession times at our church.

Music:

All musical selections are to be of a religious nature. Notify our office of your choice of musicians and songs one month prior to the celebration. It is your responsibility to pay the musicians.

Photography and Videography:

Our church is sacred space, consecrated for celebration of the sacraments, worship and prayer. Photographers and videographers hired for Quinceañera Celebrations in the church are required to conduct themselves accordingly, in a reverential and respectful manner. Following are the requirements for photographers and videographers at all Quinceañeras Celebrations at our church:

- Picture taking after the ceremony is allowed until 4:15 p.m.
- During the ceremony, the photographer is not to enter the sanctuary of the church but may move up and down the side aisle of the church, as long as this presence is unobtrusive. Please coordinate with the organist and other musicians, so as not to obstruct their view or activity.
- A stationary video camera may be set up on either side of the sanctuary, out of the way of activity. Please coordinate with the organist and other musicians, so as not to obstruct their view or activity.
- Please refrain from conversing during the ceremony so as not to cause a distraction for those attending.

Decorations:

You are responsible for knowing what our guidelines are and communicate them to your florist. Decorations for liturgical feasts take priority. It is your responsibility to check concerning Feast Day or seasonal decorations. The parish does not guarantee that there will be flowers already provided by the church unless you make arrangements in advance to donate the church flowers that week. This is done through the parish secretary.

- Extra flowers and decorations including pew bows, may not be in place during the regular parish Mass and must be removed after the Quinceañera Celebration.
- Only live flowers and plants are permitted.
- Tacks, tape, or wire may not be used.
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church furnishes altar candles only.
- No extra candles that risk heat or wax damage to carpet, floors, or surfaces are to be used.
- Candles are *NOT* permitted on any window sills.
- Paper floor runners are not permitted.

- No water, wax, foliage, or tape is to be allowed to contact the rugs or floor.
- Please provide your own baskets for any programs that are distributed.
- The Priest or the Church Coordinator may move or remove decorations if they pose a problem or become a safety hazard.

Dress Code for Quinceañeras Celebrations:

Cocktail dresses, party dresses and other dresses that are revealing and immodest are always inappropriate. Keep in mind the following recommendation for anyone participating in a Quinceañera Celebration, including the Quinceañera herself, her dama(s), her mother, and her madrina(s). In particular, dresses for those participating in a Quinceañera Celebration—

- May not be above the knee.
- May not be strapless or backless.
- May not be transparent.
- Must have a modest neckline (no showing of cleavage).

Day of Ceremony:

Everyone involved in the ceremony must arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled time. The liturgy will begin promptly at the scheduled time.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Thank you for your cooperation!