

QUINCEÑERA CELEBRATION

**St. Mary Catholic Church
Diocese of Victoria in Texas
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Revised 10/1/11

QUINCEÑERA GUIDELINES

MUST BE:

Practicing Catholic and attending Mass on Sundays and all Holy Days.

Currently attending Catholic School or CCD: attended for the previous 3 years.

Baptized as Catholic

Celebrated First Holy Communion

Schedule six (6) months in advance

Contributing and registered member of the parish

Living a life of grace, celebrating the Sacrament of Penance before the celebration.

There are two options for the celebration:

Blessing after a normally scheduled Mass. No charge is associated with this blessing.

OR

Mass - not normally scheduled

Expect the following:

No court, escort, padrinos, or gifts other than the rosary, bible and flowers to the Blessed Mother. Only the young lady, parents and baptismal godparents are allowed in the procession.

NO QUINCEÑERA DURING LENT OR ADVENT.

Quinceñeras are scheduled on Saturdays and no later than 12:00 noon.

STIPEND: The stipend for the church is \$300.00 for contributing and registered members of the parish. A contributing member is considered someone who has tithed at least \$750 over the previous twelve months at the time of reserving the date. The stipend for the noncontributing and/or non-registered is \$1000 for the use of the church. This must be paid in full at least one month prior to the Quinceñera celebration. (Stipend for a visiting presider/deacon is separate and to be discussed with that individual. You must make arrangements for his accommodations & meals during his visit here). Please make checks payable to St. Mary Catholic Church and enclose a note bearing the date & name of the Quinceñera.

If you are inviting clergy from another parish or diocese to participate in the celebration it must be discussed and approved by your parish priest.

REHEARSAL: No rehearsal is needed. The parents, quinceñera and her godparents will meet the priest at the entrance of the church at 11:45am. The Mass will begin on time, even if immediate family members have not yet arrived.

"HOUSE OF GOD" Loud and disrespectful conduct is inappropriate; as is food, drinks, gum chewing, etc. Children should be kept seated and not left without supervision before, during or after the celebration. No pagers or cell phones are allowed in church. The more you leave the doors open, the warmer it will be in the church. Please keep all doors closed before, during and after the ceremony. It is important that we remember that when you are in church we are in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament and an atmosphere of prayer and respect should be maintained at all times.

PHOTOS, VIDEO, FLOWERS, ETC: Photos and video cameras are allowed provided they do not become a distraction during your celebration. You are allowed to decorate two hours before the ceremony. Please be careful not to damage the pews or church furnishings when attaching flowers. No tape, pushpins or staples are allowed. Flower petals, confetti, etc. are prohibited inside and outside the church for safety and maintenance reasons. Remove all floral arrangements, ribbons, photography equipment, etc. from the church

immediately following the celebration. No dressing or styling hair in the church.

MUSIC, ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS: These arrangements are your responsibilities and should be made well in advance. No secular music is allowed in church. Assistance is available for providing Lector, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers. (Offering is up to the individual.)

What is a 'Quince Años' Celebration?

The ceremony symbolizes the responsibility of the young lady at this time of her life to the community of which she is a member. The way this custom is popularly understood today is the presentation of the young lady to society. In order to bring out the religious and spiritual dimensions, Catholics celebrate this custom with special emphasis on the awareness and sensitivity of the young lady in dealing with the values, concerns, and challenges of the Christian community.

The quince años celebration is not a sacrament but the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist plays a vital part in this celebration.

Quinceñera

A Quinceñera is a time of rejoicing, giving thanks to God and a renewal of your baptism, communion and confirmation. A time to share with your friends, relatives and especially your parents who are responsible for guiding you and giving you a basic Christian foundation. Pray that the Lord will give you the strength to overcome the temptations of the world and make you a good example of "today's teenager." Michelle P. Montoya