

Rules for the Celebration of a Quinceañera

1. Sacramental Participation

- The girl must be Baptized (must give certificate as proof) and must have received First Communion.
- She should go to Confession before her quinceañera.
- She must be attending Mass every weekend and receive Communion often.
- She must either be in Confirmation preparation or already Confirmed with proof of that Confirmation. If getting a new Baptismal certificate, ask that this information be included.

2. Quinceañera Classes

- She has to attend 6 classes specially designed for quinceañeras which are given only once a year starting on the second Sunday of January for all those girls who will turn 15 that year. No other classes will be given for quinceañeras until the following January.
- Parents and those in attendance (damas y chambelanes) will be required to attend one of these 6 classes.

3. Scheduling the Quinceañera

- At the end of the class the girl must fill out a form with the date and information desired to celebrate her quinceañera. This is important! This allows the priest to set the date in his calendar.
- Quinceañeras are celebrated on the first and third Saturday of the month at 1:00pm—no exceptions. Rarely the priest may be gone or an engaged couple may choose to marry on one of these dates for a good reason. If this was arranged before the quinceañera family reserves with the priest, then she will need to find another date. Other girls who choose the same date will be included in the same Mass celebration, in which case the cost is divided equally.
- After confirming date of quinceañera, if you intend to rent a hall, contact the rectory immediately.
- During LENT, please keep decorations to a minimum. Also, Confessions will not be provided for the whole group the day before, but only for the quinceañera at 12:45pm that Sat. & a short practice.

4. 2 Weeks before the Quinceañera

- \$150 must be given to the church office (rectory) at least 2-3 weeks before the quinceañera to make final reservations.
- Confession should be done for all the youth in attendance. When paying for the quinceañera, the family may request that same day from Father to schedule Confessions the night before the quinceañera at 6:00pm and do a short practice. However, because of the large number of damas and chambelanes, and to help the kids be responsible for themselves, it is advised to have them go to Confession in their own parish churches during regularly-scheduled times (see the Bulletin). They do not have to go to Confession with the priest at St. Patrick parish, only that they go shortly before that date.
- The Family needs to find at least one altar server and one lector—ask those at Sunday Mass.

5. Picking Damas & Chambelanes

- They must behave well in Church
- They must be respectful and good role models—not members of gangs
- They must be willing and able to attend one quinceañera class

6. On the day of the event

- The girl and her attendants should wear a modest dress (no plunging necklines) for the celebration
- There is no “sign of peace” offered before the Lamb of God during Mass. Jesus’ body is being broken on the cross at this time and there is often too much talking and laughing at quinceañeras when the “sign of peace” is allowed. It is the priest’s choice. Please tell attendants about this.
- Photographers need to keep their tripod video camera near the right sacristy door down the step. Those with cameras must not walk around or use a flash during the Mass.