

QUINCEAÑERA CELEBRATION POLICY

Cristo Rey Catholic Church, Lansing, Michigan



The Quinceañera celebration has a long tradition in our community and has been celebrated in many ways. It is first and foremost an event of faith in the context of Church and family. The young lady is presented before God and to the community at this new moment in her life. She renews the commitment of her Baptism and Confirmation to live her faith and serve the community. The celebration should reflect the values that the Gospels and our Church teach us. Among them are respect, Church community support, service, the sacraments, family, simplicity of lifestyle, and generosity to the needy. Lavish excess is to be avoided. In all we are to continue the mission of Jesus. These guidelines are presented in this spirit.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

1. The Church should be contacted one year in advance of the celebration. The young lady who wishes to celebrate her Quinceañera and her family are to be active, registered and supportive members of the Church, willing to share their "Time, Talent, and Treasure" in the spirit of biblical stewardship.
2. The young lady should have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion.) She and her family are to be attending Mass regularly.
3. She is to be enrolled and actively participating in Religious Education/Formation, Youth Ministry, RCIA, or Catholic School and continue after her celebration.
4. She and her parent(s) must also attend together all sessions of the Quinceañera preparation program. The classes will be conducted twice a year, in the fall and in Winter. Dates are announced in the church bulletin and information available in the Church office (517-394-4639).
- 5.. She and her parents must know basic teachings and prayers of our faith, for example, be able to explain the meaning and parts of the Mass. Be able to pray from memory the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Creed.
6. She is to write her own Prayer of Dedication and Commitment. In general, this includes her commitment to follow Christ, to be active in the Church, what she is thankful for in terms of faith and family, and her devotion to Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe.
7. She is required to do 20 hours of community service in the Parish.

THE CHURCH CEREMONY

GENERAL POLICY: No Quinceañera are celebrated during the season of Lent.

Two Mass Options

OPTION #1

Have the celebration during one of the regular parish Masses. This is one of the oldest, more traditional and most beautiful ways of celebrating a Quinceañera with your Church family of faith. The celebration must be scheduled with the priest after making arrangements for preparations with the Quinceañera Preparation team.

1. There is no court or attendants (no damas y chambelanes).
2. The young lady is part of the entrance procession of the Mass together with parents and godparents and seated in a reserved pew in the front.
3. After the homily there is a renewal of baptismal promises, blessing, and the prayer of dedication and commitment.
4. Any blessing and presentation of gifts by padrinos takes place at the baptismal font before the beginning of Mass.
5. Flowers can be presented honoring Mary after Communion.
6. When the celebration takes place during a regular Saturday/Sunday Mass a separate donation to the Church for the Quinceañera is not expected. Any donation to the priest personally is a matter of the family's choice.

OPTION #2

Have the celebration during a separately scheduled Mass. The Mass time must be scheduled with the priest after making arrangements for preparations with the Quinceañera Preparation team and meeting all other requirements.

1. Preferably there will be no more than 15 young people in the court in addition to the Quinceañera. This is one of our oldest traditions. All attendants are expected to be Catholic. They must be known by the family of the Quinceañera. The family will take responsibility for all the actions of the attendants and will instruct them in the meaning of the celebration and proper conduct in the church.
2. Parents or Baptismal Godparents are to escort the Quinceañera out of the Church.
3. Scripture readings. Ordinarily there is a first reading, followed by the psalm response (usually sung by the choir), and Gospel. Readings "of the day" are to be used. For a compelling reason one of the readings may be changed.
4. The only symbolic gifts to be blessed and presented by padrinos during the Mass are: a)The medal (medalla or cross) ordinarily an image of Christ or Mary. b)The Bible and Rosary c)The Ring d)The Crown
5. If other gifts are to be presented, they can be blessed 20 minutes before Mass at the Baptismal Font and presented there by the padrinos.
6. A symbolic gift of food for the poor should be presented with the Offertory gifts of bread and wine and later taken by the Quinceañera to a food bank.
7. Flowers can be presented to honor Mary after Communion.
8. MUSIC FOR THE MASS: music for the Mass is to be arranged for by the family. If you want one of our Church choirs, you must talk to them well in advance and pay for this service.
9. Flowers to decorate the Church are optional and are the responsibility of the family. All flowers remain in Church after the Mass.
10. There are to be no stops for pictures during the entrance procession. This is a religious procession. Photos of the procession can be staged before or after Mass.
11. THE DEPOSIT & DONATION TO THE CHURCH are to be taken care of at the time of scheduling the Mass with the priest.
 - A deposit of \$75.00 will be left in the office. The family is expected to clean up everything in the Church and preparation rooms. The deposit will be returned if everything is cleaned and all furniture is returned to its proper place including the kneelers in the church, removal of all boxes, cans, flower petals, papers and all the books in the pews straightened. WE DO NOT HAVE A JANITOR ON STAFF.

- With a separate Mass for the Quinceañera, a donation of \$250.00 is expected. This is made in honor of the Quinceañera to support the work of the Church. Any additional donation to the priest personally is the family's choice. THIS DONATION DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CHOIR FEE.

12. Parents are to instruct the young people and guests in proper behavior to show respect in the Church. These include no gum, pop, food in Church. Always give respectful attention to those leading rehearsals and ceremonies, the meaning of the Mass and communion, no unnecessary talking during Mass.

13. Dress Code for Quinceañera and any young ladies in the court: No low neckline or backless dresses.

LOOKING AHEAD

General Considerations/ Suggestions:

Whether you choose Mass option #1 or #2 we encourage you to consider some very traditional and practical suggestions.

1. Have only young ladies as attendants in your Quinceañera Mass. If there is a dance afterwards, they dance with their fathers, brothers, friends etc. This is more traditional and gives better expression to the fact that it is not a wedding

2. Consider doing the reception in a more family spirit at home or in a hall with a "DJ" rather than an expensive band.

3. Have two or more young ladies celebrate their Quinceañeras together and share the planning and expense in the spirit of family and community.

4. In general, families are encouraged to consider less expensive options such as:

- Beautiful but simpler and more traditional dress for the young ladies.
- The use of limousines and other displays of luxury are strongly discouraged.
- For young men: Instead of tuxedos wear regular suit coats or Guayaveras (traditional dress Shirts).
- Money thus saved can be put aside for future educational expenses or donated to those in need.

5. No Alcohol should be served at the reception, considering this is a party for minors.

6. Parents are to closely supervise the young people throughout the celebration.