

# *St. Mary Catholic Church*

901 N. Center St \* Plano, IL 60545 \* 630-552-3448

## **Guidelines for a Quinceañera**

The Quinceañera celebration is an event in which a fifteen-year old young lady renews her baptismal promises and gives thanks to God for the gift of life, family, and community. Preparation for this celebration is best understood as a time of evangelization for the whole family to form and / or renew friendships between parents and youth, to experience a deeper participation in the life of the community.

To better understand the meaning of the celebration please contact Omar and Rosa Espinosa at 630-965-5358 to begin the spiritual preparation.

A few days before the quinceañera celebration we would like the family members, ladies and chamberlains to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Therefore, they can receive communion the day of the Mass, which we strongly suggest as many people involved as possible.

As you know it is an obligation and need to participate Sunday or Saturday vigil mass and feast days to live our faith as members of the Catholic Church.

We recommend that in these months of preparation to pray more, meditate on the Word of God (New Testament), do works of mercy (there are 7 spiritual & 7 corporal) and deepen the Catholic faith received from the day of Baptism.

If you have any doubts or ideas please contact us here at the rectory or with Rosa and Omar Espinosa. We are here to help you in Christ and Mary Immaculate.

Remember that the Quinceañera is not a sacrament, is a thanksgiving.  
Both parents and the Quinceañera need to know about what the celebration is exactly.

### ***General Information***

Parents may request a quinceañera for their child by contacting our parish office. As a rule, only registered parishioners here at St. Mary can hold quinceañeras in this parish.

The honoree must be baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and must have received First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and be enrolled or confirmed in the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to the time of the ceremony. (Certificates must be provided.)

## ***Timing & Punctuality***

We celebrate quinceañeras on Saturdays at 12 p.m. or 2 p.m. We do not celebrate quinceañeras on Sunday.

Please keep in mind that we have only one priest. It is your family responsibility that the entire party and family members must be here at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony. The schedule for our priest can be extremely busy on the weekends. Your quinceañera will be canceled and/or postponed if you are more than 30 minutes late. Do not embarrass yourself and your family by being late. We have to start on time since often there is another event after your quinceañera. Once again, your quinceañera is important and you should take all the precautions to be here on time, at least 15 minutes prior to the celebration.

## ***Fees***

Some donations are required therefore you must take them into account when planning the budget for the quinceañera. Here at St. Mary's we have only one stipend that covers all costs which include *to book the church, priests and/or deacons, musicians, singers, altar servers and administrative expenses.*

**Non-Parishioner: \$ 1000.00**

**New-Parishioner and / or inactive Parishioner: \$ 700.00** (registered parishioner less than a year or - parishioner that does not contribute)

**Active Parishioner: \$ 550.00**

A non-refundable deposit is required \$ 200 to book the church on the desired date and the remainder should be delivered one month before the celebration.

We do not reject anyone for their financial inability.

## ***Photographers and Videographers***

As a general rule those who take photographs or films should not obstruct the celebration of mass. They must be discreet and respectful of the church. **Pictures taken immediately after the ceremony should take no longer than 30 minutes.** If you wish to include the celebrant in your pictures, it is requested that these be taken first so that he may continue with his other duties.

## ***Flowers***

Flowers and other decorations are allowed (except during Lent). However, under no circumstances should alter or move the decorations of the church. They must put their decorations so as not to obstruct the Church.

Because of other celebrations that may be taking place on that same day, the Church may be decorated no earlier than 60 minutes before the ceremony and removed within 30 minutes after the ceremony ends.

Throwing of confetti, flower petals, rice, birdseed, etc. is not allowed anywhere inside the Church or on the parish grounds. Decorations may not be taped, nailed, glued, tacked or stapled to the end of pews. Some florists have clips that work nicely and other simply tie them. Your cooperation in this is most appreciated. Please inform us if you are planning to leave the flower arrangements in the church.

## ***Flowers to the Blessed Mother***

The quinceañera will complete the ceremony by bringing flowers to the Blessed Mother and consecrating herself. You are asked to bring some fresh flowers to offer to the Blessed Mother. If you have a sponsor for the flowers, they can escort you to place the flowers. The quinceañera places the flowers down and recites one Hail Mary and returns back to the kneeler.

## ***Rehearsal***

Ask everyone in your party to arrive by the scheduled time. This includes the young lady, her court, parents, lectors and anyone who is participating in the Mass. Rehearsal will begin on time and will not exceed one hour.

The rehearsal is a serious occasion requiring everyone's attention and takes place in the church. Please refrain from inappropriate behavior or chewing gum. Appropriate attire for the rehearsal must be observed. Remember that you are in the House of God.

## ***Reconciliation/Confession***

Confessions at St. Mary are Monday through Saturday after the 8 a.m. Mass and Saturdays from 4 - 4:45 p.m. Confessions should be done at least one week prior to the celebration.

## ***Proper Attire***

The quinceañera and her court 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. No tennis shoes or jeans allowed.

Young Ladies: Dress (long or short). Short dress hem should touch 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.

Finally, we look forward to celebrate such a beautiful day with you, and give thanks to our loving God for all the blessings received. For further information, please call our parish office.