

# La Quinceañera

## What is a 'Quince Años' Celebration?

This ceremony symbolizes the responsibility of a young lady at this age in her life to the human group of which she is a member. The custom is popularly understood today as 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.

While the quince años celebration is not a sacrament, the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist play a vital role in it.

## Quinceañera

A Quinceañera is a time of rejoicing, giving thanks to God and a renewal of one's baptism and communion. It is a time to share with family, friends, and relatives your responsibility to the world as a young Catholic lady. 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."

## Feliz Cumpleaños

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## Check List to Complete

- Talk with the pastor at least six months in advance
- Confirm and record the date of the Quinceañera in the office
- The offering for the parish is **\$400.00**
- The offering for the priest.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation.



## Saint Patrick's Catholic Church

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## Quinceañera Guidelines

### The young lady approaching her fifteenth birthday must:

1. Be a registered member of the parish
2. Be a practicing Catholic attending Mass on Sundays/Holy Days
3. Currently attend Religious Education Classes/attended previous 2 years
4. Be baptized a Catholic.
5. Have celebrated her First Holy Communion.
6. Schedule six (6) months in advance.
7. Attend the workshop when offered.

### Guidelines for the Mass:

The Mass will follow the Mass of the day, with the special prayers for the quince años. Order of procession: cross bearer, padrinos (with gifts; rosary, bible, religious medallion, and flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary), court, quinceañera escorted by her parents, other servers, presider. In those instances when a court is not present, simply the quinceañera is escorted by her parents. It is encouraged that family members and friends do the readings at Mass. Readings and readers need to be selected ahead of time in consultation with the priest.

### Scheduling

No Quinceañera will be scheduled during the Lenten Season. Quinceañeras are to be scheduled on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Time is to be arranged with the priest.

### Meeting with Coordinator

Please schedule a meeting with the coordinator, Mrs. Ramona Torres to discuss the ceremony and book the celebration. Tel: (361) 652-2129

### Fees

The offering for the church is **\$400.00** and must be paid no later than two (2) weeks in advance (an offering for a visiting priest/deacon is separate and to be discussed with that individual). An offering for the priest/deacon is \$50 each. Please make checks payable to Saint Patrick's Church and enclose a note bearing your name and Quinceañera date.

*Note: if you are inviting clergy from outside the parish or diocese, they must be discussed and approved by the pastor.*

### Music, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

These arrangements are your responsibility and should be made well in advance. There are some restrictions as to the music and groups, to be explained by the coordinator.

### Clergy Offering

The offering for the priest or deacon is left up to the individual.

### Hall Rental

The hall may be rented for a fee. Please speak with the office about the terms of the contract.

### Rehearsal

No rehearsal is needed if Mass is to be celebrated.

### Respecting the church

The house of God must be shown the utmost respect. Please:

- no loud or disrespectful conduct
- no food or drinks
- no small children left unsupervised
- no pagers or cell phones should be on – silent mode only

Show an attitude of prayer and respect in the Presence of the Lord.

### Photos, Video, Flowers

Photos and video cameras are allowed in moderation and respecting the church:

- no one is to enter the sanctuary (step up to altar)  
all except young lady must stay on carpet
- please do not attach flowers or decorations to the pews or walls. Tacks or scotch tape is not allowed on pews or painted surfaces.
- No flower petals, confetti, or bubbles are allowed.
- All flowers and arrangements must be removed immediately following the celebration.
- Absolutely no dressing in the church
- Items left in the church will be disposed of