

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Quinceañera Guidelines

The quinceañera is a celebration of a young girl's fifteenth birthday. The tradition dates back to the ancient native cultures of the indigenous civilizations of Mexico, Central and South America, and continues today in the traditions of the present-day cultures.

Today's ceremony embraces religious traditions and the virtues of family and social responsibility. The ceremony is a celebration for the young lady—who is celebrating her faith and life journey. The Church celebration is to ask God to continue blessing her with the grace needed to live her life faithfully, amid the pressures of the modern world.

The family may choose to include the religious blessing, but this is not a requirement for celebrating the birthday. If, however, a religious ceremony is chosen, it must follow the approved norms and guidelines established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document, *Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday*, which became effective on December 1, 2008. In compliance with this document, the following guidelines and requirements will be followed at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

When Scheduling a Quinceañera Celebration, remember...

1. Quinceañeras are celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word celebration not a mass.
2. The family must be registered and actively participating members of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish.
3. The quinceañera must be currently attending religious education classes (CCE) at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School or be enrolled in St. Joseph Catholic High School, for at least three (3) years, prior to the celebration.
4. The quinceañera must be baptized, have received First Holy Communion, and be actively involved in the parish life of Our Lady of Victory Parish.
5. The quinceañera and her family must be practicing Catholics and attending Mass faithfully on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation here at the Cathedral and; therefore, able to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
6. The parents and the quinceañera must meet with the priest or deacon who will be celebrating the ceremony, in order to discuss and plan the celebration.
7. The offering for the church is \$350.00, to help offset administrative costs and utilities in the church. A \$100 deposit is required at the time the date is confirmed and the balance brought to the Parish Office one (1) month prior to the celebration. This does not include the gift of gratitude to the priest, if the family wishes to offer one. This requirement will not apply to a simpler blessing, after a regularly scheduled Mass, requested on the occasion of a fifteen birthday.
8. Dates can be reserved no earlier than six (6) months, prior to the celebration. Weddings; which are a Sacrament, take precedence; therefore, no firm date will be assured sooner than six (6) months prior to the celebration. This will not apply to a blessing offered to a quinceañera ,after a regularly scheduled parish Mass.
9. Quinceañeras are not held during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.
10. Quinceañeras are celebrated on a Saturday and cannot be celebrated later than 2:00 pm. The celebration will begin promptly at the scheduled time.
11. In order that the date of the celebration be confirmed and entered into the parish calendar, the family must directly speak with the celebrating priest. If a visiting priest will be invited, he must write or call the Parish Office personally to confirm the invitation.

Church Guidelines:

- 1. Musicians /Lectors:** These are the responsibility of the family and arrangements should be made well in advance of the celebration.
- 2. Music:** Selections must be cleared with the priest PRIOR to the celebration. Only liturgically approved music is permitted. No secular or pre-recorded music may be utilized before, during, or after the ceremony.
- 3. Flowers:** The Cathedral is already prepared with floral arrangements, in preparation for the weekend Masses. If other floral arrangements are desired, prior approval must be obtained from the Parish Office.
- 4. Pew Decorations:** The pews in the center aisle may have bows, to indicate that they are reserved for the immediate family, the court, and padrinos. Please, DO NOT use nails, tacks, glue, tape, etc. to attach the bows to the pews. The bows must be removed immediately following the celebration.
- 5. Church Decorations:** Decorations of any kind (banners, balloons, etc.) are NOT allowed. Flower petals, confetti, bubbles, etc. are strictly prohibited.
- 6. Photos/Videos:** Photos and videos are allowed, provided they are not a distraction during the celebration. Flash cameras and video lights are distracting and are not allowed during the celebration. Photographers are not allowed to enter into the Sanctuary (Altar) area or move around excessively, during the celebration.
- 7. Rehearsal:** Check with the priest, if a rehearsal is needed.
- 8. Dress:** The quinceañera may wear a dress of her choosing, while recalling that simplicity and modesty are the main requirements. Strapless dresses, dresses with only one (1) strap, low cut dresses (front and back), short skirts, and high slits are inappropriate for a church ceremony. **Shoulders, FRONT AND BACK, must be covered with materials that are NOT SHEER OR SEE-THROUGH.** Remember this is a church service not a prom. Any inappropriate dress will NOT allowed to participate in the procession or the ceremony. The dresses of the ladies of the court are to follow the same style guidelines as the quinceañera's dress. Tuxedos are not permitted for the gentlemen. Dress slacks, dress shoes, shirts and ties are appropriate. Jackets are optional.
- 9. The Court:** They are to be of high moral value and examples of Christian faith. Catholic court members must be actively practicing in their faith, attending religious education classes or a Catholic high school. Non-Catholic members must regularly participate in the practice of their faith.
- 10. Gifts:** The following gifts may be presented to the quinceañera, during the celebration: crown/ring, Bible, Rosary, necklace with cross or saint medal, and roses for the Virgin Mary.

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
***Quinceañera* REGISTRATION FORM**

Quinceañera 's Name: _____

Date Requesting: 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____

Liturgy of the Word Blessing _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____

Active Registered Member of the parish since: _____

Enrolled in Religious Education Grade/Level: _____ Yrs. Attended: _____

Enrolled in St. Joseph High School Grade/Level: _____ Yrs. Attended: _____

Church of Baptism: _____ City: _____

Date: _____ Certificate Returned

Church of First Holy Communion: _____ City: _____

Date: _____ Certificate Returned

Church of Confirmation: _____ City: _____

Date: _____ Certificate Returned

(If not Confirmed, what year is it scheduled?)

I have read and agree to follow all the requirements and guidelines for Quinceañera Celebrations, as stated in the handout provided for me.

Quinceañera /Young Lady

Parent/Guardian

Date:

Date of Deposit

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO OLV PARISH OFFICE

(Revised May 7, 2014)

