

Divine Mercy of Our Lord Catholic Church Quinceañera Guidelines

Requirements

The family needs to be registered in the Church office and actively participating in church activities for at *least 1 year before the actual date of application for the celebration*. Furthermore, they are expected to be regularly attending church and using their contribution envelopes. (the family needs to have at least a total of \$570.00 in contributions on the year before the celebration)

- **The member cost for a Quinceañera is \$400. The only way we have of tracking member participation is through use of parish tithing envelopes or names and addresses on checks. If you are not doing either of these, there is no way to verify family participation. And you will be charged the non-member rate of \$700.**

The Quinceañera needs to have received the sacraments of **Baptism, Communion and Confirmation** (or be in confirmation classes now). If these sacraments took place at another church, please provide us with a copy of the certificates for those sacraments.

The parents and the Quinceañera need to attend a Quinceañera Preparation Class, either here (offered twice a year only) or at another church (bring Certificate or Letter of Attendance at the class to our Church office) – class dates and times to be announced.

The Quinceañera needs to be an active member of the parish Youth Group or involved in another approved community activity (CCD teacher or helper, Church ministry during Mass, Community Helper in Church Office, etc.) All sacramental, CCD and School fees must be currently paid.

The parish 1) Director of Religious Education, 2) Youth Group Coordinator, 3) Quinceañera Coordinator and 4) Church Secretary all need to approve the application forms.

The family needs to choose one of the Quinceañera Celebration Options available at Divine Mercy Catholic Church and sign the application form in agreement to the terms.

Quinceañera Celebration Options

A: Liturgy of the Word is celebrated by a Deacon.

1. Only parents will escort the Quinceañera, in Sunday-best attire or in formal dress
2. Attendants (damas y chambelanes) are allowed as long as they actively participate in the ceremony.
3. As many participants as possible are to promptly attend the one hour rehearsal at 5:00 pm on the Friday preceding the celebration.
4. As many participants as possible are to be practicing Catholics and have celebrated the Rite of Reconciliation (confession) within two weeks prior to the celebration.
5. There will be no communion.
6. Two lectors from our parish will be assigned for the readings.
7. Three fresh flower arrangements for the altar will be provided for and additional fee of \$180.00, the flowers will be ordered by the Ladies Altar Society using church discount. The three flower arrangements are to remain in the church. All flowers on the altar must be natural and not artificial.
8. The Quinceañera will provide flowers (her choice) for her to present to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
9. Ribbons or artificial flowers are allowed as pew decorations only if special plastic hooks are used; **no** tape is permitted. All extra decorations must be picked up 15 minutes after the ceremony ends.
10. **No video or pictures are allowed to be taken from the altar space.** No extra lights for video will be allowed. You will be given 15 minutes after the ceremony to take additional video and or pictures.

11. **No arch, carriage, limousine or ostentation display** of extravagant celebration is allowed.
12. Video Cameras, Photographer and Music (music must be played by one of the church's choirs) will be allowed only at the minister's discretion.
13. You may make arrangements with the parish Music Minister to provide music for the celebration for an additional fee of \$100.00. **No outside musicians may be used and no Mariachi music is allowed.**
14. A **\$200.00** refundable **deposit** is required when the reservation has been approved and the reservation date is confirmed in the Church calendar. **(Deposit is not refundable if XV Anos is cancelled by the party)** This deposit will be refunded if all rules are followed and the celebration and the rehearsal start at the designated time.
15. The fee is **\$400.00** which must be payable in full **2 weeks before** the celebration (*\$300.00 to the church & \$100.00 to the minister*).
16. Non-members fee is \$700.00 for celebration with a \$200.00 deposit.
17. During Lent, absolutely no celebrations are permitted.

B: Mass of Thanksgiving is celebrated by a Priest.

1. The Quinceañera can wear formal dress (**shoulders must be covered by the dress or a shawl, no exceptions, the celebration may not go on if this requirement is violated**) or Sunday-best attire.
2. Attendants (damas y chambelanes) are allowed and must be practicing Catholics and have celebrated the Rite of Reconciliation to receive communion.
3. Immediate family members are to have celebrated the Rite of Reconciliation (confession) within 2 weeks prior to the celebration.
4. Two lectors from our parish will be assigned for the readings.
5. There will be no pew decorations, arch, rehearsal, limousine or carriage.
6. **The following ministers are to be designated by the Quinceañera Coordinador.** (2) Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, (2) Lectors from this parish to assist at mass.
7. 3 altar servers from our parish (**a donation of \$30.00 from the family is expected for the altar servers**)
8. Three fresh flower arrangements for the altar will be provided for and additional fee of \$180.00, the flowers will be ordered by the Ladies Altar Society using church discount. The three flower arrangements are to remain in the church. All flowers on the altar must be natural and not artificial.
9. The Quinceañera will provide flowers (her choice) for her to present to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
10. No video or picture taking from the altar space is permitted. You will be given 15 minutes for additional video / picture taking at the end of the ceremony.
11. A **\$200.00** refundable **deposit** is required when the reservation has been approved and the reservation date is confirmed in the Church calendar. **(Deposit not refundable if XV Anos is cancelled by the party)** This deposit will be refunded if all rules are followed and the celebration and rehearsal start at the designated time.
12. The fee is **\$430.00**, which must be payable in full 2 weeks before the celebration (\$300.00 to the church, \$100.00 to the minister, & \$30.00 for altar servers).
13. The Non-members fee is **\$730.00** for celebration with a \$200.00 deposit.
14. During Lent, absolutely no celebrations are allowed.

C: Blessing within a Regularly Scheduled Parish Mass

1. The Quinceañera, in Sunday-best attire, is seated with her parents, and is called before the altar after communion for a blessing.
2. Absolutely **NO** attendants (damas y chambelanes) are allowed.
3. The Quinceañera and her family must have celebrated the Rite of Reconciliation (confession) within two weeks prior to the celebration
4. There is **NO fee or deposit**. The application must be completed and approved 1 month in advance.

Proper Conduct

The church is the House of God, a sacred place; therefore, anyone in the church, especially the Quinceañera party, should maintain a respectful reverence at all times. There is no gum chewing, eating or drinking allowed inside the church. Please make sure to turn off cell phones and pagers in the church.

Proper Attire

Modest and respectful dress by the Quinceañera and her party is expected at all times. Any Quinceañera party member inappropriately dressed will not participate in the celebration (this includes uncovered shoulders and backs, low cut, short dresses, or high slits.) **The shoulders of the Quinceañera must be covered, if the dress does not cover the shoulders she must wear a shawl. Compliance with this requirement is mandatory the service will not be celebrated if this requirement is violated.**

Traditional Gifts

These traditional gifts are optional, not required. The Medal symbolizes the religious expression of her faith. The young lady is placed under the protection of the person represented by the image of the medal. It is usually an image of the Virgin Mary, a crucifix or a favorite saint that has special meaning to the Quinceañera.

The Quinceañera presents flowers to the Blessed Mother. These flowers symbolize the newness of her commitment and responsibility to the community. Flowers symbolize new life at any event.

History of the Quince Anos Celebration

The “Quinceañera” is a “thanksgiving celebration” for the gift of life and a moment to bless and pray for the girl / boy who has reached the age of 15. It is a great opportunity to evangelize and to welcome back in the Church those who have been away.

Quinceañeras has its roots buried deeply embedded in Mayan and Aztec history. In Mayan and Aztec history, we learn that at the age of about fifteen, young women were considered mature enough to wed and begin a family as well as take on adult responsibilities. What we do know is that with the invasion of Spaniards and the conquest of South America, the traditions and religions became blended and the traditional Quinceañera as we know it today was born.

Today, this tradition has pastoral implications of evangelization of youth and their families. In the Diocese of Dallas several parishes have participate in the training of adults to prepare young people, their faith companions and their families for meaningful Quince Anos Celebrations.

The parents are asked if the Quinceañera has been an active member of the family, participating in chores and helping at home.

The godparents (grandparents) are asked if the Quinceañera has been living a Christian life in accordance with her faith.

This is in reality a confirmation and testimony of how the young person is living the promises made on her behalf at her baptism. She is now ready to take up the commitment and promise on her own.