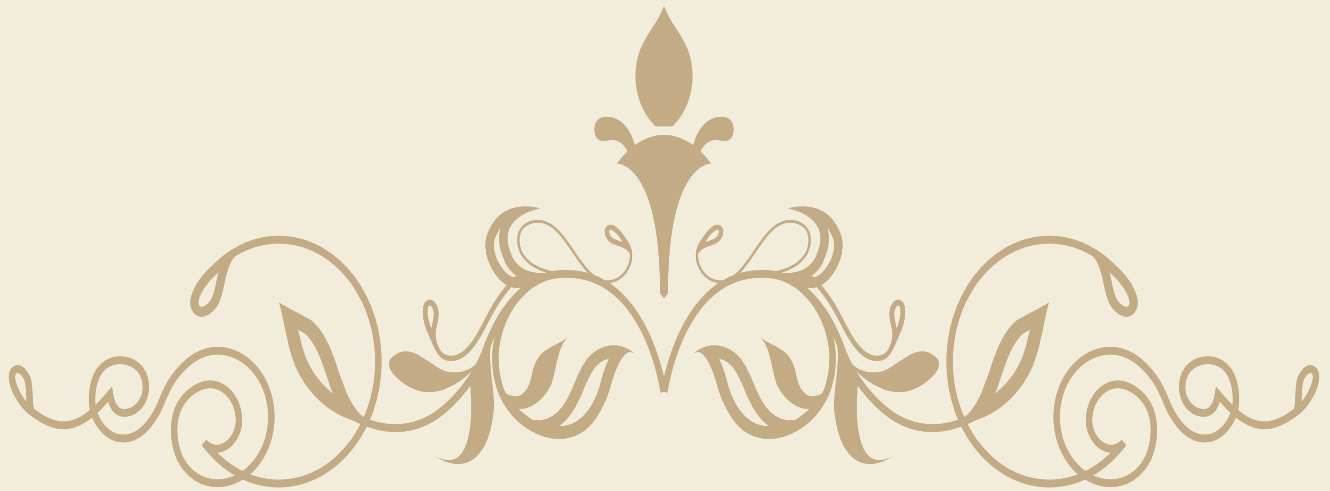


*Our Lady of the Rosary Church*  
QUINCEAÑERAS



Clerics Regular of St. Paul ~ 1629 Columbia St. ~ San Diego, California 92101-2501 ~ (619) 234-4828



Quinceañeras at Our Lady of the Rosary



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## The Nature of a Quinceañera

The quinceañera is a traditional celebration of life and gratitude to God on the occasion of the fifteenth birthday of a young Hispanic woman. The ritual emphasizes her passage from childhood to adulthood. The family usually requests a Mass or a blessing to be held in the Church. The rite is frequently celebrated in the Americas, including Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It is frequently requested by Hispanic Catholics in the dioceses of the United States of America.

In the presence of family and friends, the young woman (the *quinceañera*), often accompanied by young men and women of her Choice, (*damas y chambelanes*), enters the Church in procession, together with her parents and godparents. If she has prepared the readings, she may serve as the lector for at least one of the readings. After the Liturgy of the Word, the quinceañera makes a commitment to God and the Blessed Virgin to live out the rest of her life according to the teachings of Christ and the Church by renewing her Baptismal promises. Then, signs of faith (medal, Bible, rosary, prayer book) may be blessed and given to her. A special blessing of the *quinceañera* concludes the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After Mass, the young woman is presented to the

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community. The ritual continues with a dinner and sometimes a dance in her honor.

In order to maintain a necessary spirit of reverence for the house of God, the following guidelines are to be observed by **all families/parties** planning to celebrate a Quinceañera at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

## **Quinceañera Formation**

- Young ladies wishing to celebrate a quinceañera are also expected to regularly attend Sunday Mass and are expected to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their preparation. As a general rule, the quinceañera wishing to celebrate her Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary must be baptized and have already received the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation (or must supply a letter that she is signed up for religious education in order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation).

## **Ministers of the Quinceañera**

- Ordinarily, the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary (or his delegate) will preside at a quinceañera celebration. A relative/acquaintance of the quinceañera who is a priest or deacon may, if the family prefers, preside at the quinceañera. In that case, but always subject to the prior approval of the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, the visiting priest or deacon must provide a certificate from their diocese stating that they are in good standing. **Please note: All policies here stated are to be followed, even when a visitor is asked to preside.**

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- If you wish to provide Altar Servers, Lectors or Eucharistic Ministers, please make your request with the priest and arrange to give them a donation for their services, where applicable. Normally, NO servers will be assigned to a quinceañera celebration.

## *Community Service*

The candidate for quinceanera must perform six (6) hours of community service at a Fr. Joe's Village. You must complete this at least two weeks prior to your quinceanera date. Please contact the Fr. Joe's Village to establish the date for this service. At the conclusion, you will receive a letter/certificate.

## *Regarding Offerings to the Parish*

- The required fee for having your quinceañera here in our parish is \$500. Please note that the fee includes the following: the use of the church, the ceremony, and the use of either the upper or lower hall if needed. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required to reserve officially the date and time. The deposit is due two (2) weeks following the initial scheduling of a date being set. If for any reason the quinceañera is cancelled, the amount paid will be converted to a tax-deductible contribution. In this case, we will send you a donation letter for the amount paid to the church
- The date and hour of your quinceañera is not confirmed until the \$500 fee is paid in full AND the community service is rendered. If not paid in full, the remaining stipend is due at least 30 days prior to your celebration date.

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## Scheduling the Quinceañera

- NO other scheduling plans should be made before contacting the Rectory Office. The quinceañera date is tentative until it has been documented that young lady has received the aforementioned sacraments (the pastor reserves the right to refuse the quinceañera if the the conditions are not followed).
- The family of the quinceañera must consider it their personal responsibility to provide documents and attend to requirements in a timely manner. Please keep the priest informed of the status of your preparations, changes of mail address and telephone number, etc., in writing via email to [parish@olrsd.org](mailto:parish@olrsd.org). These communications should include names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of the contact person for the event.
- Quinceañeras are celebrated on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00 am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. No rehearsals are scheduled for quinceañera celebrations. On their quinceañera day, quinceañera families generally are scheduled for a two hour period in the church. Thus, if a Saturday celebration begins at 9:00 am, the family is allotted two hours in church (9:00 am – 11:00 am).
- Please arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony. Before departing the church, please remove all unwanted items and make sure you take everything with you that should go.

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## Showing Reverence in God's House

- When coming to the Church for the quinceañera, please remember that the church is the house of God. It is consecrated for sacred use only. Talking and visiting should take place outside of the church. Please be especially mindful of the fact that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in our church, and should be treated with great respect and dignity. Likewise, the sanctuary of the church, as well as its furnishings, are all consecrated for specific purposes. They are to be treated with proper respect, and may not be moved or used for anything outside of the liturgy. Most especially, the altar itself is to be treated with great respect: It is consecrated and is a symbol of Christ himself. Absolutely nothing may be placed on the altar, except the bread, the wine and the book necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist.
- To prevent damage to the pews and other surfaces in the church, we ask that nothing be attached with tape, sticky tack, push tacks, glue, wire or paperclips.
- No balloons, butterflies or any other type of flying object may be stored or used in church or the vestibule.
- **No glitter is allowed in the Church (talk to your florist about this). If glitter is found, the family must provide a non-refundable \$500 cash deposit prior to the service for the sake of cleaning the church.**
- Food, chewing gum, and drinks of any kind are not to be brought and consumed in the church. The use of alcohol and tobacco is strictly and absolutely prohibited at any time on, or near parish property by persons

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participating in the quinceañera ceremony. This includes anyone connected with the occasion.

- **The use of cell phones is prohibited inside the church proper.**
- **Men and boys are to remove their hats.**
- Because we celebrate our liturgies in God's house, a modicum of respect is expected for the parties celebrating the quinceañera. For those in the quinceañera procession, modest dress is required, with no exposure of shoulders, chest or clothing above the knee. Strapless and low-cut gowns, though fashionable and popular, are not appropriate at a Catholic setting. If you select a strapless or low-cut gown, we ask that you also select a stole or short jacket to wear during the religious ceremony. **The celebrant reserves the right to cover those who are not dressed modestly in church.**

## *Other Options & Concerns for the Quinceañera Ceremony*

- ***Candelabras*** ~ Ordinarily, candelabra are not to be rented and brought into the church for use.
- ***Receiving Line*** ~ Usually, time does not allow for a receiving line at the church. It is preferred that your receiving line is held at your reception.
- ***Rice, Bird Seed and Confetti, Rose Petals, Sparklers, Doves, etc.*** ~ Throwing rice, bird seed, etc., creates a safety hazard. Such materials are neither to be thrown in Church nor on the parish grounds.



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## Liturgical Texts

The readings and prayers used during the liturgy must be taken from the approved liturgical books. The priest or deacon will always read the Gospel passage. You may select someone to read the first and second readings.

## Music for the Ceremony

Our Lady of the Rosary Church has a music policy for quinceañera music which is to be followed at all times. Music must be suitable for the sacred nature of the Liturgy. Families must discuss music options with the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church before making any other music arrangements or plans. If you choose to engage guest musicians or instrumentalists for your quinceañera, please keep in mind the following considerations:

- [1] Does your guest have a thorough knowledge of the workings of Catholic liturgy?
- [2] Is your guest a confident, flexible, and skilled musician?
- [3] Do you personally know that your guest is a successful soloist for quinceañeras?

Most guest singers and instrumentalists are comfortable with a brief rehearsal on the day of the quinceañera. As a general rule, Our Lady of the Rosary Church will not be able to photocopy or distribute music to guests; they will need to purchase their own music, and will need to provide accompaniment parts to the organist, if the music is not already available. Arrangements for guests are to be made well in advance of the quinceañera and will be subject to the approval of the pastor.

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## The Theology of a Quinceañera Celebration Regarding the Celebration of the Eucharist

The Liturgy is always first and foremost the action of Christ. Thus, the principal actor in the liturgy is always Jesus Christ, the high priest, who by his own sacrifice on the cross has shown the Father perfect praise. As members of his body, we share in his sacrifice of praise. The unity of posture and gesture, like the unity of voice is both a sign and a help to building up of the Eucharistic assembly. The General Instruction explains that the people of God are to shun any appearance individualism or division, keeping before their eyes that they have only one Father in heaven and accordingly are all brothers and sisters to each other. (The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2003).

***Genuflection*** – Genuflect on the right knee when entering and leaving your pew at the beginning and end of Mass. The genuflection is made as a sign of reverence and adoration of Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament and reserved in the Tabernacle of our Church.

***Bows*** – Only two types of bows exist in the current Roman rite: A bow of the head and a bow of the body, also called the profound bow.

***Bow of the head*** – A bow of the head is a sign of honor and respect made at the naming of the Trinity (in blessings and Trinitarian Doxologies), at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Saint in whose honor the Mass is being celebrated. A bow of the head is also made before

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receiving the Eucharist.

***Profound Bow*** – A Profound Bow is made in respect. All make a bow of the body to the altar when approaching it or passing it and during the recitation of the Creed, in recognition of Christ incarnate, at the words, “By the power of the Holy Spirit... and became man.”

***Sign of the Cross*** – We make the Sign of the Cross twice during the Mass: At the beginning of the Mass and at the Final Blessing. In addition, the “little Sign of the Cross” is made at the beginning of the Gospel, on the forehead, on the lips and over the heart (that the Word of God be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts).

***Standing*** – The assembly stands for the Entrance Hymn, the Opening Rites, the Gospel Acclamation and the Verse, the Gospel, the Profession of Faith, and the Prayer of the Faithful. After the Preparation of the Gifts, the Celebrant invites the people to pray, with the words, “Pray, brethren, that our Sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.” In response to the invitation, the people FIRST STAND and then say, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.” This change is one of the differences we need to be attentive to in the Mass. Remain standing until the end of the Sanctus. Stand again once the Final Doxology and Amen have been concluded and maintain this posture until the conclusion of the Agnus Dei Once Communion is finished; then stand from the Prayer after Communion until the end of Mass.

***Sitting*** – The assembly sits for the Readings from Scripture, the Homily, the Preparation of the Gifts and after Communion (once the Eucharist is put away and the Tabernacle door is closed).

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***Kneeling*** – The people kneel from the conclusion of the Sanctus until the conclusion of the Final Doxology and Great Amen. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Deacon will kneel from the Epiclesis until after the elevation of the Chalice.

***The Lord's Prayer / Our Father*** – The Bishops of the United States specifically asked for the permission to have the people join the Priest in extending their hands in what is called the Orans position. This position of extended arms during public worship belongs to the priests alone. Likewise, the custom that has found its way into the Liturgy of joining hands during the Lord's Prayer was also rejected as an appropriate gesture, since it places improper emphasis on the communal aspect (horizontal dimension) of the liturgy at a moment when the focus of the Community should be on the immediate preparation of the reception of Holy Communion, with our attention directed toward Christ who is about to give us Himself as food for our journey. The custom was first observed in alcoholics anonymous groups and then it found its way into use in the Catholic Church through the Charismatic Renewal; but, it has never been prescribed or approved for use at Mass. What is supposed to be emphasized at that point in the Mass is the vertical dimension of the Liturgy, our (personal and communal) encounter with the Lord in the Eucharist. When participating in the public worship of the whole Church our own likes and dislikes, our own preferences should give way to being of one mind with the Church. At Mass, we are to do as the Church intends, to worship as the Church worships, and to safeguard the Liturgy as a priceless treasure entrusted to our care.

***The Reception of Holy Communion*** – Care should be taken to receive the Eucharist with utmost care and devotion. Christ is really and truly present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist.

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[1] Approach the minister of communion conscious of what you are doing, and who you are receiving. When the person in front of you is receiving make a proper sign of reverence by bowing your head (with hands folded), you may also make the Sign of the Cross. Then, step forward to receive.

[2] You may receive either on the tongue or in the hand. Either way, stand close enough to the minister. If receiving on the tongue, extend your tongue to receive the host. If receiving in the hand, extend BOTH hands, one under the other so that the minister can see and reach them easily to place the host in your hands. Stand close enough to the minister of Communion. Then, step aside, take the hand from beneath the hand holding the host, and place the Eucharist reverently into your own mouth. Both hands should be clean and free (no keys, tissue, purse, children, rosaries, hymnal, etc. to endanger the Eucharist) to receive the host. If not, the option of receiving on the tongue is perfectly acceptable.

[3] Respond audibly, “Amen,” to the minister’s invitation, “The Body of Christ.” This is the proper and called for response by the Church. Anything else is inappropriate and fails to express the unity and faith called for at this moment. Please do not change or add to the asked for response, “Amen.”

[4] Church teaching is clear: Christ is fully present – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity – and is fully received under either species of the consecrated host or of the consecrated wine. The common practice in the Western Church is to communicate only the consecrated host. However, at times, and at the discretion of the Pastor of the Parish, the Precious Blood may be offered to the faithful. If you opt to receive the Precious Blood, take the chalice reverently and firmly into your hands. Respond, “Amen” to the minister’s invitation, “The Blood of Christ,” and consume the Precious Blood.

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Then return the chalice to the minister. The same sign of reverence we make before receiving the consecrated host should be made before receiving the Precious Blood.

[5] When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, kneel down and make an act of thanksgiving to Christ for having given Himself to you in the Eucharist. Even though the Priest and/or Deacon may be seated, the Congregation remains kneeling until the Eucharist is put away, and the DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE IS CLOSED.

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## Quinceanera Registration Form

Candidates Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Middle name Last Name*

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Middle name Last Name*

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name Middle name Last Name*

Home Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip*

### **To complete the registration the following documents are needed:**

- Copy of Confirmation Certificate or letter that she is enrolled in Confirmation program  
 \$250 Reservation Fee       \$250 Quinceanera Fee

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*to be completed by the parish office*

### **Mass of Quinceanera:**

Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Quinceanera Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts to be blessed:

Bible;  Rosary;  Crown;  Medal;  Candle;  Flower bouquet;

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Fee       Quinceanera Fee       Community Service Completed

If other than our priests, name of the priest celebrating the service: \_\_\_\_\_