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## **Quinceañeras During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

(Revised March 16, 2021)

Although we continue to have quinceañeras here at OLG during the coronavirus pandemic, certain adjustments are necessary to comply with coronavirus safety measures required under state law and/or directives of the Diocese of Orange. As you read our parish document, [Quinceañeras \(click here\)](#) (which describes our normal practices and procedures for quinceañeras here at OLG), please read the following for adjustments in those practices and procedures based on the coronavirus safety measures currently in effect.

**Scheduling the Quinceañera** (*Quinceañeras* p. 1): Quinceañeras are scheduled by first completing a [“Registration for Quinceañera” \(click here\)](#) and submitting it to the Parish Office. Because the Parish Office is closed at this time, the registration form can be mailed to the Parish Office or deposited through the mail slot to the left of the front door.

### **Limit in Number Allowed in the Church and Other Requirements for Those Attending the Quinceañera:**

For quinceañeras in the church occurring while current coronavirus safety measures are in effect –

- Limited to the number that can be seated in the church with physical distance between different families/households (about 175, but varying depending on the number in each family/household) or 25% of the capacity of the church (250), whichever is less.
- Wearing of face masks covering both the mouth and nose absolutely required, except for babies before they are walking. Priests, quinceañeras and others with speaking parts will remove their masks while speaking. At Communion time, masks may be removed only long enough to receive Communion.
- Everyone is asked not to engage in any physical contact with anyone else while on church property. Greet one another keeping physical distancing – for example, with a kind word, a bow of the head and/or a wave, and not with elbow bumps or anything like that.

For quinceañeras outside in the school field –

- Face coverings are strongly recommended, especially when physical distance is not possible (such as when walking to and from one's place).
- Everyone is asked not to engage in any physical contact with anyone else while on church property. Greet one another keeping physical distancing – for example, with a

kind word, a bow of the head and/or a wave, and not with elbow bumps or anything like that.

**Processional** (*Quinceañeras* p. 6): Because processions present a particular risk of a breakdown in social distancing (both in the formation of the procession as well as the procession itself), liturgical processions have mostly been eliminated here at OLG during the coronavirus pandemic. Only some very limited processions will be allowed for quinceañeras here at OLG while coronavirus safety measures remain in effect.

For the opening procession, only the quinceañera accompanied by one or two adults (her parents or *padrinos de honor* or any combination thereof) will process as described on p. 6 of *Quinceañeras*. All others will simply take their places in the church prior to the opening procession.

**Presentation of Gifts** (*Quinceañeras* pp. 3-4): The gifts of bread and wine are not being brought forward in procession here at OLG while current coronavirus safety measures are in effect. Nor is there any other form of “offertory procession.” (The bread and wine are simply placed on the priest’s credence table near the altar before Mass.)

**Special Quinceañera Rituals** (*Quinceañeras* pp. 3-4): For the special quinceañera rituals after Communion, while coronavirus safety measures remain in effect, the quinceañera, her parents and *padrinos de honor* will stand in the center aisle on the assembly level or, if they so choose, on the first step into the sanctuary (rather than standing in the center of the sanctuary on the same level as the presider’s chair and ambo, as is the normal practice). This configuration will allow the quinceañera party and officiating priest to maintain social distancing from one another.

Because the Marian shrine is located in the music area (to the side of the sanctuary), while current coronavirus safety measures remain in effect, there will not be an option for the quinceañera to take a bouquet of flowers to the shrine, for the safety of the musicians providing music for the celebration.

**Recessional** (*Quinceañeras* p. 6): Following the final blessing and dismissal, the quinceañera, accompanied either by her *chambelán de honor* or by her one or two accompanying adults, may process out of the church down the center aisle. All others should depart from the church maintaining social distancing.