

St. Dominic Catholic Church Quinceañera Policy

August, 2017

The Quinceañera is a cultural celebration rich in traditions that has strong roots in many Hispanic cultures and St. Dominic Church supports this tradition within the context of the social, religious and spiritual growth of the individual. It should be understood though that, even though it is often celebrated within the context of a Mass, the Quinceañera is not a universal Church custom nor is it a requirement in the life of faith. Therefore, St. Dominic Church wants to honor the celebration of Quinceañeras within the larger context of what it means to be Church. In order to do this the parish has created this policy regarding the celebration of Quinceañeras.

1) Scheduling and Registration

- a) The young lady and family requesting a Quinceañera at St. Dominic Church must be registered members of the parish.
- b) A Quinceañera will not be finalized on the church calendar until the young lady celebrating the Quinceañera completes the preparation required by the parish. (Contact the parish for information regarding preparation.)
 - i) No Quinceañera is set at St. Dominic Parish until finalized on the church calendar and approved by the pastor.
- c) A Quinceañera may be scheduled during an approved Sunday Mass but the celebration will be simpler and will consist of a blessing of the young lady during the course of the Mass.
 - i) Those persons involved in the Quinceañera MUST be ready to begin at the start of the Mass. The Mass cannot and will not be delayed.
- d) In respect to the Church's liturgical calendar and also civil holidays, no Quinceañeras are permitted during the season of Lent, Holy Week or the Octave of Easter. Quinceañeras are also not allowed from December 20th through January 2nd. Quinceañeras are also not allowed on Thanksgiving Day or July 4th.
 - i) The Pastor and the Church reserve the right to not allow Quinceañeras to be scheduled on certain dates due to other parish or liturgical events.

2) Quinceañera Celebrations

- a) Sacramental celebrations (i.e. baptisms, confirmations, first communion celebrations, weddings) as well as wakes and funeral

liturgies take precedence over the scheduling of Quinceañeras.

- b) Because the Quinceañera is not a sacramental celebration there is a \$150.00 charge for use of the church. This is to be paid when making the reservation. (This fee may be dropped with the pastor's discretion – i.e. for families who have been active in the ministry of the parish for an extended period of time.)
- c) Because the Quinceañera is not a sacramental celebration and requires time and attention given by the clergy above and beyond their normal course of duties, the deacon or priest celebrating the Quinceañera is to receive a stipend of at least \$100.00.
- d) Because the Quinceañera is not a sacramental celebration music and the scheduling of musicians/choir for the celebration must be arranged by the family. It is not the expectation that the choir for the Spanish Sunday Mass automatically provide music for Quinceañeras. If there is music for the Mass it must be live (no pre-recorded music, i.e. CD's, iTunes, etc.). A stipend is to be given to the musicians/choir for the Mass.

3) Use of Facilities

- a) All facilities used for the Quinceañera (Church, PLC, grounds) are expected to be left in equivalent condition as before their use, especially as clean and organized as before the celebration.
- b) Decorations for Quinceañera must respect and not alter any liturgical/seasonal decorations already within the church.
- c) Decorating for Quinceañera must be worked around any other liturgical and sacramental celebrations that might be already scheduled.

- d) Decorations for Quinceañeras must be removed immediately after the celebration.
- e) Parishioners celebrating a Quinceañera are welcome to reserve the Parish Life Center for the Quinceañera party.
- f) Reservation of the PLCs must be done through the parish office and all policies regarding the use of the Parish Life Center must be respected. This includes the use/consumption of alcohol, as well as other Parish guidelines related to unaccompanied minors.
- g) To reserve the PLC, a deposit of \$100.00 will be taken at the time of the reservation and will be returned if all rules were followed, there are no damages to the property and the facilities are cleaned to their original condition. A set-up fee of \$50.00 is required as well as a fee of \$95.00 to cover insurance.