

St. Ignatius, Martyr, Parish recognizes the cultural values that Hispanics in our community hold dear. We are all influenced by the various celebrations and customs that all cultures bring to our parish. Together with the various liturgies and Sacraments of the Church, these customs and practices add a great deal to our celebration of our Catholic Faith.

Many Mexican-American families hold to the tradition of celebrating the fifteenth (Quinceañera) birthday of a young person's life. It is a time when the young person—usually a girl, but not exclusive of boys—comes to the parish church to ask for God's blessing on their future.

Because it is important to remember the true purpose of this celebration and to clarify this community's expectations, the following guidelines have been developed to assist parish families who wish to hold this celebration in their parish.

Personal Requirements

1. The girl's parents must be registered, currently contributing members of St. Ignatius, Martyr, Catholic Community for a minimum of six months.
2. The girl must be an active member in the youth group for at least one year and must have been confirmed or at least be preparing for confirmation prior to having a Quinceañera celebration.
3. It is expected that the girl and those in her court regularly receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. If the young lady and the members of her court have not been to confession for any length of time, they must prepare to do so shortly before the celebration. This may be done by going to the regularly scheduled times for confession or they may set an appointment with the priest who will be presiding at this celebration.
4. Each Quinceañera (and her court and parents) must attend a scheduled formation workshop prior to the celebration. Held for five hours on a Saturday, these classes will include instruction and liturgy planning. (A list of scheduled formation workshops will be provided.)

Scheduling the Quinceañera

1. The parents of the girl celebrating her Quinceañera must contact the Parish office no later than six (6) months in advance. They must also meet with one of the parish priests or deacons at least once before the scheduled date is set.
2. At St. Ignatius, Martyr, Parish, Quinceañeras will be celebrated in a group, with a maximum of three girls in each celebration.
3. Quinceañera celebrations will be scheduled in advance during the year, usually four times per year, offered in English or Spanish, or Bilingually. The dates are scheduled in advance according to the parish calendar.

Ceremony

1. It should be clear that the priest presiding at the Quinceañera is open to various forms of celebration, but these must emphasize the religious aspect of the passage from youth to adulthood. It is recommended that all in the party be practicing Catholics.
2. It is encouraged that family members and friends be the lectors at the Mass.
3. Readings and Lectors will be selected in advance. This will occur at the day of formation with all who will be part of the Quinceañera celebration.
4. Immediately following the homily, each girl will make a statement of why this day is important in her life of faith, as well as publicly pray the prayer of dedication. (If the group is large, this may be made together).
5. Please observe which gifts may be offered during the Mass: (1) Bible (2) Rosary (3) medal and (4) flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Any other jewelry or gift is not to be presented during the ceremony but may be worn by the candidate. Dolls are **NOT** part of the religious service.
6. All music used in the ceremony must be religious in nature. Secular songs are not appropriate for the liturgy. In the Quinceañera Mass, we sing our love songs to God. If you intend to have musicians other than those who normally play here, you must obtain permission from the Director of Music or the priest with whom you are working. Music will be chosen with all participants at the day of formation.

7. If there is more than one Quinceañera in a celebration, the various liturgical ministries (i.e., readers, gift bearers, etc.) will be divided among the families. If the participants cannot agree on music selections and/or musicians for the celebration, the Director of Music will make the selections.

Rehearsal

1. The date and time of the rehearsals are scheduled in the parish calendar, usually Friday before the Quinceañera, at 5pm or 7pm. The girl, her parents, the *damas*, and all gift bearers must attend the rehearsal.
2. Rehearsal will begin on time and will not exceed one hour.
3. The rehearsal is a serious occasion requiring everyone's attention and takes place in the church. Please refrain from inappropriate behavior or chewing gum. Appropriate attire for the rehearsal must be observed (therefore the boys should not wear hats in the church). Remember that you are in the House of God.

Photographs

Make sure your photographer receives the following information:

1. Each family is allowed one videographer and one photographer. There will be a pew reserved for all videographers.
2. Pictures may be taken during the ceremony as long as they do not detract from the service. No flashes during the ceremony.
3. Your photographer may not enter the sanctuary.
4. Pictures taken immediately after the ceremony should take no longer than 30 minutes. If you wish to include the celebrant in your pictures, it is requested that these be taken first so that he may continue with his other duties.

Flowers and Candles

Make sure your florist or decorator gets this information:

1. Candelabras, arches and runners are not allowed in the church.
2. St. Ignatius, Martyr Parish will provide (white) flowers for the celebration. Each Quinceañera will bring her own flowers for the Virgin.
3. Nothing is to be taped, glued or tacked to the ends of the pews, or any of the church furnishings. Bows or flowers on the pews must be attached with pipe cleaners or ribbons.
4. The furnishing or settings of the sanctuary **MAY NOT** be disturbed, obscured or altered.

FEES:

1. To offset the cost of utilities in the church, the fee is \$350.00 (which includes the clergy stipend). If there are multiple Quinceañeras this fee will be divided evenly among them. The entire fee is due at the time your space is reserved.
2. The fee for music is \$175 for the organist/pianist, and \$100 for a cantor (from St. Ignatius Martyr). This fee will be divided evenly among the Quinceañeras. If other musicians are invited to assist in the ceremony the family must contact them directly and agree on a fee.
3. All Quinceañeras must be approved by the Pastor before a space is processed.