

San Carlos Cathedral / Diocese of Monterey, California
QUINCEANERAS GUIDELINES

Dear Quinceañera,

The Virgin Mary is a model for women of every class and age group. The quinceañera ritual is valuable for the religious message it sends not only to young people celebrating their 15th birthday, but also to parents, grandparents, godparents and the entire parish in calling us to prayerfully join with youth in making a commitment to God and the Church.

Celebrating your quinceañera is a wonderful event for you, your family, friends, and the Church. It is a special day to celebrate what God has accomplished in you over the last 15 years. The world was blessed when God created you. The Church was blessed when your parents presented you for Baptism. Our cathedral is blessed as you present yourself to God on the day of your quinceañera.

We, as the family of God, congratulate you. We are committed to make that day memorable. To help with this, please read our guidelines carefully, so that you may prepare for your celebration in a meaningful way. We pray that this day will be a blessing for you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents may request a quinceañera for their daughter by calling our parish office. Registration forms are available on our website and at the parish office.

The quinceañera candidate must have received the sacraments of Baptism and First Communion before the quinceañera is celebrated. The candidate is to have received the Sacrament of Confirmation or be in the process of receiving this sacrament.

We do not celebrate quinceañeras on Sundays, Christmas, Lenten season, Holy Week, Easter or other holy days.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED before establishing a date for quinceañera:

- (1) Quinceañera registration form
- (2) Quinceañera fee paid in full.

The date and time of the celebration is not scheduled until we receive the above to the parish office.

TIMING & PUNCTUALITY

Usually quinceañeras are celebrated on Saturdays, first come, first served basis. For practical reasons, we allow three events (weddings, quinceañeras, baptisms etc.) at the following times, with no exceptions:

- 9:00 AM
- 11:00 AM
- 1:00 PM.

We do now allow any events after 1pm since we have confessions inside the cathedral at 2:30pm. Thus all events/photography must end by 2:15pm.

It is your family responsibility that the entire party and family members must be here at least 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. We will start the quinceañera at the scheduled time whether or not everyone is present. Do not embarrass yourself and your family by being late. Once again, your quinceañera is important and you should take all the precautions to be here on time, at least 30 minutes prior to the celebration.

Punctuality is a must otherwise your event will be shortened or even canceled. Please note that on the same day we may have other events such as baptisms and weddings; thus we cannot neglect or postpone these events if you are late. After your event (which should not be longer than one hour) you have 15 minutes for photography inside the church. However, you can take photos outside the church as long as you wish not exceeding 2:30 PM.

FEES

Please note that the fee (payable to San Carlos Cathedral) includes the following: liturgical preparation with the officiating priest, the use of the cathedral, quinceañera coordination, the ceremony Mass and one (1) of our Cathedral musician of your choice (see below).

The fee is different between active parishioners and non parishioners.

Active and registered parishioners means that the family of the quinceañera are registered at least one year prior to the ceremony, are participating at Mass every weekend and are spiritually and financially supporting the parish.

SAN CARLOS PARISHIONERS: \$1,000

NON PARISHIONERS: \$1,500

As previously specified, the date and hour of your quinceañera is not scheduled or confirmed until the entire fee is paid.

MUSIC

The approved musicians are listed below. Please contact each musician for individual availability, musical style, etc. As previously mentioned, the quinceañera fee covers one musician of your choice. It is your financial responsibility if you choose to have more than one musician/cantor.

- Jose Hernandez, bilingual/Spanish weddings (831-915-2252)
- Elaine Miller, traditional/contemporary organist/vocalist (831-394-6239)
- Tim Bennett traditional/contemporary pianist/vocalist (831-809-9996)
- Arlala Shepherd, soloist (831-384-3704)

Outside musicians are permitted, however they cannot use our cathedral organ or the piano. Pre-recorded music is never allowed.

If you decide to choose outside musicians (not related to San Carlos Cathedral) they must be familiar with the Catholic Mass and its musical selection requirements. All outside musical groups must bring their own instruments, amplification system, microphones, music stands, etc. Outside musicians are not allowed to plug their instruments into our sound system. Outside musicians must be paid directly by the family.

FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

You may have two (2) flower arrangements on either side of the altar. We suggest using the services of The Flower Market. They are very familiar with our church. Their phone number is (800) 931-5678 or (831) 375-1061.

Please note the following:

- Floral arrangements in small containers are not allowed because they tend to spill.
- Decorations/floral arrangements on the pews must be clipped or tied.
- Make sure flower arrangements are on display at least 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.
- At the end of the quinceañera celebration please remove immediately all floral arrangements from the church or let us know in advance if you are planning to donate the arrangement/s to the cathedral.
- Decorations on the pews should be clipped or tied. They should be removed immediately after the ceremony.

The following is not permitted:

- Aisle runners
- Throwing of rice or birdseed
- Lighted candles in the congregation.
- Decorations may not be taped, nailed, glued, tacked or stapled to the end of pews.
- No gum chewing in the church
- Using glitter on clothing or décor as it causes problems for our janitorial staff.

You must leave the church as clean as you found it also as a courtesy for the next event or Mass following your quinceañera.

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDING PRIEST

Fr. Emil Robu, our pastor and Fr. Ommar Solis, our parochial vicar, will be celebrating the quinceañeras in Spanish, English or bilingual. Meeting with the presiding priest is required. Prior to the quinceañera call the parish office to make an appointment for a meeting. The priest will discuss the details of the liturgy and the involvement of the family, the padrinos and the court (proclaiming the biblical readings, choosing the prayer of dedication, bringing the gifts of bread and wine, etc).

RECEPTION

Due to our policies, the cathedral hall or the parish grounds are not available for any quinceañera receptions.

MISCELLANEOUS

Permission needs to be granted by our pastor if a visiting priest is to preside, or a visiting Deacon is to assist, at your quinceañera Mass. If the visiting clergy is not from our diocese of Monterey, he must be cleared through our Chancellor at the diocesan office. If your visiting priest is not present for your ceremony, then your ceremony is cancelled.

Possible gifts to the quinceañera are: Bible, rosary, medal, crown, ring, flowers, etc. These gifts will be blessed during the ceremony.

We highly recommend that all the Catholic members of the court should receive Communion on that day.

Finally, we look forward to celebrate such a beautiful day with you, and give thanks to our loving God for all the blessings received. We congratulate you and look forward to celebrate and make your quinceañera beautiful and memorable.

Rev. Emil Robu, Pastor/Rector

San Carlos Cathedral • The Royal Presidio Chapel
500 Church Street, Monterey, CA 93940 • Phone: 831-373-2628 • www.sancarloscathedral.org

Quinceañera Registration Form

Candidate Name: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Date of Birth: _____ City & State of Birth: _____

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Home Phone Number: (_____) _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

To complete the registration please present the Quinceañera fee paid in full

I understand and agree with the above guidelines!

Signature of one of the parents:

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(to be completed by the parish office)

Mass of Quinceañera

Quinceañera date: _____ Time: _____ Quinceañera fee paid

Presider: _____

Mass in English Mass in Spanish Bilingual Mass Outside Musicians

Possible gifts to be blessed:

Bible; Rosary; Crown; Medal; Ring; Flower bouquet

Others:
