



Quinceañera

A quinceañera is a “coming of age” recognizing a girl’s 15th birthday and marking the transition from childhood into womanhood. It is celebrated with a special Mass with her parents, godparents, and court of honor (damas & chambelanes) in attendance. At Mass, the girl receives Holy Communion and commits herself to God and the Virgin Mary. The celebration is not a sacrament but rather an act of thanksgiving for life and faith crowned by God’s blessing. A bouquet is offered to the Virgin Mary at the end of Mass.

Traditional quinceañeras include:

- Damas (girls)
- Chambelanes (boys)
- 1 Man of Honor who walks with the Quinceañera

Custom Gifts and Symbolism:

†Crucifix: reminding her of Christ’s Love for her unto death

🌸 Bouquet of Flowers: symbolizing youth and inner beauty; the Quinceañera will offer these to the Virgin Mary

📖 Bible and Rosary: signifying the foundations of her faith and enlightening her as she walks through life

💍 Ring: given by her parents to represent her commitment to chastity and purity until marriage

** It is important to note that we discourage the use of social symbols such as crowns, pillows, stuffed animals, and dolls, as they do not have spiritual meaning.*

Requirements:

- Certificate of Confirmation (or proof of enrollment in 2nd year of Confirmation prep program at the time of the quinceañera Mass)
- Complete the www.CatholicQuincePrep.com course at least 30 days before the quinceañera. The cost is \$110 for the Standard Course.

What is the positive value of the quinceañera preparation course?

- A teachable moment calling the community into prayer
- Provide moral spiritual formation
- Interactive, online, based on St John Paul II's Theology of the Body (TOB), Catechism of the Catholic Church, some Encyclicals, and the Scriptures
- Teens work with mentors who give them personal attention and responses to their questions

Course Content:

Assignment 1: God's Plan for Humanity: (holiness) especially for women through Genesis, in the light of the TOB. The real meaning of the Quinceañera Celebration

Assignment 2: My Life as God's Precious Child: Sacraments vs Blessings. Consecration to the Virgin Mary. Commitment to lead a Christian life.

Assignment 3: In the Footsteps of Christ: Your body is a Temple. Moral vs Immoral, Formation of Conscience, Christian chastity in the light of Maria Goretti's story and the Virgin Mary as role models of Christian virtues.

- We will not schedule a quinceañera Mass more than 6 months ahead of time.

Fees:

- \$800 Church Fee
- Music to be arranged by family. Parish can provide a list of suggested musicians. Church fee does not include musicians.
- Love Offering for Priest

8 Things Catholics Should Do Every Day

1. Start the day with prayer, your Bible, and a talk with your Mother.

It sounds so simple, yet I don't understand why some days I can't seem to "fit" in prayer. **Our days need to be centered around this habit.** Make a date of it. Set your cell phone alarm to a time when you can pray and don't leave God stranded. Mornings are best, but if it doesn't work for you find a time that does. Pull out your Bible and read a line or two. The daily Mass readings are a great place to start. A goal for every Catholic is to say the Rosary every day, but some of us are in a season of life when this isn't possible. If you can't do a Rosary, start with at least a Hail Mary and work up to a decade or a chaplet.

"Prayer is nothing else than union with God. When the heart is pure and united with God it is consoled and filled with sweetness; it is dazzled by a marvelous light." – St. John Vianney

2. Smile. Use your manners. Be kind. Give out hugs.

Have you heard the old Hymn, "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love..."? It's not necessarily true today. Christians have become just as rude and inconsiderate as everyone else, sometimes even more so! Let's reclaim our Christian love by smiling, letting others go first in line or helping old ladies cross the street.

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." – Blessed Mother Teresa

3. Go on social media (i.e., **communicate!**), call a friend, visit a friend.

Yes, I know we have a bunch of posts about how social media is overused, but go ahead, use it! However, **use it in a way that glorifies God.** Share a scripture verse with a friend. Check-in on an old classmate. Daily connect with people to build relationships. (Don't stop there though, make it a weekly goal to get together in person with a friend or family member.)

"Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious." – St. Thomas Aquinas

4. Tell someone you love them and why.

I don't know anyone who has ever gotten tired of hearing they are loved. It's even better when they are given a list of reasons why! Whether it is your parents, siblings, or your own children, make it a daily habit to tell at least one person in your life how much you love them.

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves." -St. Francis de Sales

5. Talk about God.

Make God a part of your whole day, not just your prayer time. Bring Him into conversations with friends, family, even co-workers if you can. We talk about things we love – movies, restaurants, people... but we often fail to talk about God in the same way.

"But this does not mean that we should postpone the evangelizing mission; rather, each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives." – Pope Francis

6. Sacrifice something.

It's so important that we learn to make daily sacrifices and offer them up to the Lord. It doesn't have to be anything crazy. Eat bread with no butter. Turn off the radio and drive in silence. It's the little things that cultivate our holiness and help us to overcome our attachment to things of the world.

"There is no place for selfishness—and no place for fear! Do not be afraid, then, when love makes demands. Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice." – St. Pope John Paul II

7. Serve in some way.

Look for a way to serve someone every day. Again, this doesn't have to be something major like heading to Africa on a service trip. It can be doing the dishes for your mom, paying for a stranger's coffee, or picking up garbage as you walk down the street. **Don't let a day go by in which you did not do something for someone else.**

"You know that our Lord does not look at the greatness or difficulty of our action, but at the love with which you do it. What, then, have you to fear?" – St. Therese of the Child Jesus

8. Reflect on your day.

At the end of every day, take a few minutes to think back over the day. An [examination of conscience](#) is a great way to do this. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from? Think about the ways in which the Lord provided for you and be thankful for His many blessings. Thank Him! Ask yourself, did I move closer to or further from God through my actions today? How can I do better tomorrow? There is even an app for this created by a priest.