INFORMATIONAL GUIDE FOR

Quinceañera



St. Rita's Catholic Church
954 S O St.
Tulare, CA. 93274
(559)686-3847

St. John the Evangelist
Catholic Church
232 S Adams Rd
Tipton, CA. 93272

PREPERATION PROCESS

The priest and staff of St. Rita's and St. John's will be happy to help in every way possible with your plans for a successful and beautiful Quinceañera.

A Quinceañera is not a sacrament of the Catholic Church. However, the spiritual preparation of the young lady requesting a Quinceañera is of primary importance for this celebration. It is a public celebration where the young lady will commit herself to live a Christian life in the community and society.

Requirements

FIRST COMMUNION CERTIFICATE or AN UPDATED BAPTISM CERTIFICATE WITH NOTATIONS

First Communion: The option of a Full Mass or Solemn Ceremony can be celebrated (please see page 2).

We do not accept Quinceañeras if the young lady has not yet received Her First Communion; however, we do encourage her to participate in catechism.

BOOKING YOUR DATE

A parent of the Quinceañera or legal guardian must personally come into the office to pick up the quince packet and bring in the first communion certificate along with a deposit of $250 to create a file.

At that time your date may be reserved.

It is recommended to book your ceremony no later than 6 months before the actual date. All dates are based on first come first serve and there will be a $ 250 down payment required to reserve the date.

ST. RITA'S OLD CHURCH : $650.00
ST. RITA'S NEW CHURCH: $950.00
ST. JOHN'S: $550.00

(Cash, Check, and Card (St. Rita's))

Payment must be paid in full a month prior to the ceremony and documents must be in order. (Failure to do so may lead to a cancellation of the Ceremony).

- If you would like to change the date and/or time of the Quinceañera after it has been booked, then there is a $100.00 fee for the change of date and/or time.
- If you decide to cancel your Quinceañera before full payment there may be a refund of $250.00 (from down payment).
- If Quinceañera is cancelled after it has been booked and money have been paid, there may be no refund.

If the Quinceañera has completed and made her First Communion, it can be celebrated as a Mass.

A Mass consists of readings, reflections, profession of faith, an act of thanksgiving, an offering of flowers to the Virgen Mary from the Quinceañera. There will also be the Consecration of the Eucharist and distribution of Holy Communion, concluding with a blessing.

Reminder: A ceremony date will not be given if the documents are not complete.

If you wish to have a rehearsal before the event, there will be a charge of $100.00

If don't wish to have a prior rehearsal, a short one will be given on the day of the event, half an hour before the ceremony, and during the ceremony, you will be guided by the coordinator and the priest or deacon.

QUINCEAÑERAS MASS DAY & TIME

SATURDAY

St. Rita: 10:30AM, 12:30 PM, or 2:30 PM

St. John : 12:00 PM, or 2:00 PM

PRIEST/DEACON

A priest or a deacon of the Roman Catholic Church will be assigned to celebrate your Quinceañera ceremony. You are welcome to invite any other Catholic Ordained to celebrate your Quinceañera. However, please make sure that the priest/celebrant contacts the office for delegation and submitting of his paperwork, at least one month in advance. If you have a Priest/Deacon that you would like to preside at your ceremony, please have him contact our office for more information regarding delegation and documentation.

CEREMONY TIME

The parish follows a strict schedule due to other obligations and scheduled events. It is very important that your Qinceañera begins at the scheduled time. If the ceremony does not start on time, certain parts of the Liturgy may need to be omitted.

All members of the Quinceañera party, parents, and anyone participating in the ceremony must arrive at the church at *least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

As the church is the house of God, everyone is expected to maintain a respectful demeanor at all times.

CHEWING GUM, CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND SMOKING ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON CHURCH PREMISES,

Any member of the Quinceañera party who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony and will be asked to leave the church grounds.



MASS ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

As Catholics, it is our responsibility to attend Mass every weekend. Therefore, the Quinceañera is expected to attend Mass regularly, either at this parish or at any Catholic church worldwide. Please note that special Masses, funerals, weddings, and weekday Masses do not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.

The young lady is encouraged to receive Communion reverently and may greet the priest after Mass so that her consistent attendance is recognized.

After each Mass, the young lady must have the Mass booklet, provided by the parish office, stamped by an usher. **This attendance sheet must be turned in along with the other required homework (see page 7) at least 2 weeks prior to the Quinceañera ceremony.**

- If the Mass booklet is completed before the ceremony date, a new attendance sheet must be obtained in person from the parish office.

DRESS CODE

In maintaining the milieu of sacredness and prayer, the Quinceañera and family members are asked to dress appropriately in the house of God.

- NO spaghetti strap dresses
- NO backless dresses
- NO strapless dresses
- NO short dresses above the knee
- **Piercings:** we respectfully ask that all facial and mouth piercings be removed at last until the end of the religious ceremony

If you decide to wear a dress that does not cover your shoulders as a cap sleeve, then you MUST wear a shawl during your time in the church including during photos. This also applies for the parents and members of the Quinceañera party. Please dress with modesty and prudence. If the priest or coordinator believe the outfits are inappropriate, they will be asked to cover up or not participate in the ceremony. Cap sleeves are strongly suggested if you do not wish to wear a shawl (3- 4 inches is not considered a cap sleeve).



Shawl Needed



No Shawl Necessary

FLOWERS, PEW-BOWS, RUNNERS

Please make sure that the florist knows the exact time of the Quinceañera. Arrange with the florist for the removal of any flowers or decorations from the Church, immediately after the ceremony. The following is not allowed in the Church:

- No aisle runners
- No floral arches
- No bubbles inside (outside yes)
- No tape, glue or any kind of adhesive is allowed for flowers, ribbons or bows to be attached to the wooden pews.

ONLY PLASTIC FLOWER HOLDERS ARE PERMITTED FOR AISLE PEW DECORATION (Your florist will supply you with this information). **You may choose to donate the Flower arrangements to the church. The church will open half hour before the ceremony for decorators.**

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

Your Quinceañera is taking place in a house of worship and not in a studio. Respectful conduct must be observed at all times. Photographers must not interfere with the liturgy nor become a distraction to the people. Only your designated photographer/video person are allowed to take pictures during the ceremony. The photographer must sign an agreement stating that he\she is aware of the policy and will abide to what is written in these policies.

Once the agreement is signed it must be submitted to the office at least a month prior to the ceremony and it must have a business card of the photographer/videographer attached to the form. If the policy is returned without a signature or card, then the photographer will not be allowed to take any pictures on church property.
NO EXCEPTIONS MADE.

At the time of Quinceañera, if the photographer does not abide to the policies, the Quinceañera's coordinator will ask the photographer to leave the church premises. It is not the responsibility of the parish if the photographer does not follow the policies of the parish.

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAHY/VIDEO LIGHTS ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME DURING MASS.

You are allowed to take your formal picture after your Quinceañera ceremony has concluded. The photographer has up to 10 minutes to take pictures inside of the Church after the ceremony. Your photographer is **NOT** allowed to use the church as his/her studio. This means screens/special lighting are not permitted in the church building. No photographers/video person is allowed in the Sanctuary. Not complying with this policy will result in the direct dismissal of the photographer from Parish premises. Please advise your photographer regarding this policy. The photographer must dress appropiately to enter the church.

MUSIC

The parish office has an approved list of choirs whom are familiar with appropriate liturgical music for a Quinceañera.

This list of Musicians are independent contractors, which are independent from the parish, they have their own fees and contracts.

Please be aware that secular music, (i.e. "pop", music) or pre-recorded music (i.e. CD's and other digital audio media) is not allowed. If the choir is not from St. Rita, they must be half hour beforehand to meet the coordinator or the priest to agree on the permitted song.

St. Rita's
English: Ruben Cabatic (559)740-8948
Spanish: Reyna Valdivia (559)651-6451

St. John's
Laura Sanchez (661)668-8440

INVITATIONS

The correct information for your invitations is:

St. Rita Catholic Church
954 S O St.
Tulare, CA 93274

St. Rita Catholic Church
1051 S Morrison St
Tulare, CA 93274

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
232 S Adams Rd
Tipton, CA. 93272

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Please be advised that the parish does not provide or pay for the florist, outside music or photographers etc. All of these contracted vendors are the responsibility of the persons who have scheduled the ceremony.

QUESTIONS FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS

The priest/coordinator will ONLY speak with the parents of the Quinceañera. Suggestions from relative or friends will not be taken into consideration unless they are brought forth by the parents themselves.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am—12:00 pm & 1:00 pm—5:00 pm Friday: 9am-12pm

St. Rita's Coordinator E-mail: ceremonies@stritacatholicchurch.com
St. John's Coordinator E-mail: tiptonceremonies@stritacatholicchurch.com
Parish E-mail: info@stritacatholicchurch.com

Document/Hw Checklist

Please review required documents prior to booking a date with the Parish office. Review your sacramental documents, and if the date printed on them is more than six months old from the date you received them, most likely you will need to update them.

Step #1 Before booking date:

These are steps you need to complete to book a date for you ceremony

- ___ First Communion Certificate (or updated Baptism certificate with notations)
- ___ Down payment of $250.00 cash, check or card(only in St. Rita's)
- ___ Received Quinceañera Packet

Step #2 After Date has been booked & before date of Quinceañera:

- ___ Mass Attendance Booklet. The booklet must fe filled and turned in a week prior to the date of the quinceañera
- ___ Watch and give a reflection for 2 Quince Videos by Fr. Mike Schmitz
  1. "Confessing the Same Sins over and over again"
  2. "Making a good Confession"
- ___ 500 word reflection (Why do you want a Quinceañera)
- ___ Watch Maria Goretti Movie on Formed.org and give a reflection
- ___ Photography Policy Agreement
- ___ Quinceañera Agreement must be complete and signed by parents or legal guardian,
- ___ Pray Act of Thanksgiving Prayer
- ___ Confession with the Priest (use examination of conscience)
- ___ Have the ceremony paid in full a month prior to date (Total for New St. Rita's $950, Old St. Rita's Church $650.00, or St John's $550).

Quinceañera Celebration

The Hispanic communities in the United States continue to express their Christian faith through different rituals and practices that are culturally meaningful to them. Some times these expressions are not understood by members of other cultures and are not given the importance that they deserve as means of evangelization and of keeping alive the faith of the people. One such ritual is the celebration of Quince Años. Today, more than ever, young people need to appreciate and be grateful for the gift of life and to affirm their own commitment to Christ.

The time of preparation for this particular celebration offers a teachable moment to grow deeper in faith, hope, and love and to discover the riches of culture and of liturgy. This ritual has been practiced in several Spanish speaking countries, but it seems to have come to the United States particularly through Mexico.

Since the celebration of QUINCE AÑOS is not a Sacrament but a sacramental, no specific norms or guidelines are given officially by the Church. We ask Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, to bless in a special way those young persons and their parents and sponsors who seek to express publicly their gratitude for those precious gift of life and to commit themselves personally to lead a true Christian life.

There are a number of customary elements in the religious aspect of the ritual that lend themselves to a deeper faith encounter and commitment. As a religious event the rite should be seen as primarily an act of thanksgiving. Because life is a precious gift from God, Latinos have a deep gratitude for it and consider it sacred. A young woman's life is particularly sacred because now she too is potentially capable of giving life. In this way she also raises the question of cultural survival and provides and opportunity for Latinos to celebrate their life and culture as well.



Revised:10/26/26