

SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH

Parroquia Católica Romana de San Pablo del apóstol

Celebración y Bendición al Cumplir Quince Años

Celebration & Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday



Guidelines for Thanksgiving Celebration of Quinceañera

Directrices de Celebración para los Quince Años en la Parroquia

Saint Paul the Apostle Guidelines Celebrating Quince Años

Introduction & Roots of Celebration

Catholic Christians express their faith in signs, symbols and gestures. Hispanic families, drawing upon an ancient tradition, celebrate the fifteenth birthday of a child in a special way. Quince Años celebration is the recognition of the journey that a young person makes in the family, moving toward a rightful place within the Christian community. This tradition highlights the dignity of the young person, as he/she is to grow in wisdom, age and grace.

Celebrating the Quince Años offers an opportunity for the Hispanic family to reflect on the way in which their faith is lived out, its meaning to the family and how it is being handed down to the children of the family. The celebration calls them to pause and reflect on the Catholic faith life in their family. This is an opportunity for family evangelization between the domestic and Christian community. *The Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday* by the USCCB states, “among several Spanish-speaking countries and among many Hispanics in the United States there is the custom of celebrating the passage from childhood to adolescence with a ritual that expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and that asks for a blessing from God for the years ahead.”

Historically, the Quince Años ceremony seems to have its origin in the ancient initiation rites of the North and Central American Indians, especially the Aztecs, the Toltec and the Mayan Indians from the area today known as Mexico. The North American Indians of this era did not consider a boy fully grown until he reached the age of fifteen. At that time, he would leave the tent of his mother and be formally presented to the tribal community. This ceremony centered on a religious celebration as an initiation rite into adolescence. It was then the boy became a warrior and was legally considered a member of the community. Young women were also presented to the community at the age of fifteen, at which time they were seen as a vital force in the tribe. Because of her power of motherhood, a young woman gave warriors to the community. The ceremony focused on the commitment and responsibility that the young woman will have for the community. She would be taught to be virtuous and to care for the poor and the handicapped. The community, in turn, accepted her as a committed and responsible member. The ceremony was to emphasize the young woman’s responsibility to the community that had nourished her.

Administration

Saint Paul the Apostle guidelines for the celebration of a Quince Años are a combination of (1) a desire to reach out to Hispanic youth and their families in a time of special significance; and (2) a pastoral and evangelical to give prominent expression to the spiritual and religious purpose of the experience. Because the candidate for a Quince Años celebration is presented in the Church by the family, a special emphasis on the demonstration that the young person become an active member of the faith family and a witness to the life and values of the Catholic faith. Although the celebration of Quince Años marks by a special secular celebration or fiesta, religious formation and celebration are the primary reason of this occasion. The following administrative guidelines are adapted and expanded from the Diocese of Fort Worth's guidelines. These requirements and expectations are mandatory for the celebration of a Quince Anos at St. Paul the Apostle Roman Catholic Church:

Membership & Religious Formation

- The family of the candidate must be registered and active members within two years before the date of quince años celebration at the time that candidate may be 12 years of age.
- The candidate must be enrolled and actively attend religious formation for two years prior to the time of requesting the Quince Años celebration and during the time of preparation prior to the actual celebration. This participation may consist of attendance in a parish religious formation and/or attendance at a Catholic school.
- The family must inquire about the process of quince años celebration at least 2 years before the fifteenth birthday of their child. The above requirement is based on one year of faith formation and quince años year of formation. If they are active and attend parish religious formation, at least a year before celebrating Quince Años is necessary.

Required Sacraments

- The candidate must have completed receptions of Baptism, First Eucharist, and First Reconciliation prior two years of preparation for Quince Años celebration.
- A current baptismal certificate and other sacrament record must be provided at the time of enrollment.

Quince Años Formation Requirements

- Quince Años preparation is required prior to the celebration of the Quince Años with either an interview meeting or at the Session I; general introduction to the Quince Años Celebration.
- It consists of 2 sessions during the year of preparation.
- Permanent Schedule Are:
 - Session I is offered in 2nd Friday of the months of February and September beginning at 7PM in the Saint Paul the Apostle Facility.
 - Session II is offered in 2nd Friday of the months of March and October beginning at 7PM in the Saint Paul the Apostle Facility.
- The four sessions for Quince Años are as follow:
 1. Session I - General Introduction to the Quince Años & Documents [for parents & candidate] and The Baptism and Catholic Identity [at least 1 parent & candidate]
 2. Session II – Identity and Youth Discipleship [at least 1 parent & candidate] and the Liturgical Planning of Quince Años Celebration [for parents & candidate]

Liturgical Celebrations

The religious meaning of the Quince Años celebration may be celebrated in the following ways:

- Liturgy of the Word & Blessing
 - The celebration would be a Liturgy of the Word with a blessing for the candidate by a parish deacon.
 - It is neither a Eucharistic celebration nor Holy Communion Service.
- Eucharist & Blessing
 - The celebration would be a liturgy of the Eucharist and blessing.
 - Only parish clergy is the main celebrant of the liturgy.

Logistic Matter at the Celebration

The following guidelines are applied to all forms of liturgical celebrations described above:

- **Very important and may affect the form of celebration: All must be on time as the celebration will start on time it's scheduled.**
- No candelabras, no arches with flowers on the altar or in the Church.
- Nothing is to be taped, glued or tacked on the pews.
- Simple natural flower decoration may be placed near the altar and sanctuary only. Please inform the parish if flower arrangement will be left behind and not taken to stay for parish weekend celebrations. No sanctuary furnishings may be moved or rearranged. Flower decoration must respect the season of the Church especially during Advent. No flower arrangement in the center aisle in preventing for the procession.
- Flowers presented to Mary may be offered after the blessing.
- A kneeler and a chair will be used for the quinceañera at the celebration. [omitted at the Sunday Eucharistic celebration]
- Nothing will be used for throwing either inside or outside of the Church. (*confetti, etc.*)
- Family is responsible to remove everything after the celebration.
- The pastor must approve music involved with the celebration. Only parish choir is permitted to provide music for the celebration. **There will be no outside group/choir/mariachis to provide music.**
- No photographers or videographers should set up in front or near the sanctuary. No photos may be taken during the Mass. At the end of the celebration there will be time for photography. Videotaping is allowed but not to be done in the Altar area. A recommended area will be instructed at the celebration or at the rehearsal.
- Dressing for this occasion is to be modest and be in keeping with celebration within the church. Elaborate white dresses, which may be confused with wedding gowns, are **NOT** permitted. Please check with the parish office before making a selection of a dress.
- Gifts offered as part of the celebration should have a religious significance, for example, a Bible, Rosary, or religious medallion.
- During the procession in the church liturgy, the candidate should be escorted by parents and/or godparents. There will be neither escort of caballeros or damas with the candidate. There will be NO quince años court involved in the church celebration. If there are young people chosen to assume these roles in a later, secular, celebration or fiesta, they will be seated uniformly before the liturgical procession.
- Must attend a general rehearsal for quinceañera 30 minutes before the celebration. The celebration can be celebrated in either English or Spanish, or bilingually.

General information for celebrating at Saint Paul the Apostle

I. For Registered & Active Family

1. Must be registered and an actively contributing member at least 2 years with the parish.
2. Your child must be attending religious education at least in 7th grade or 13 years of age.
3. There are fees (using parish church, music, and altar servers) will discuss when registered with the Parish Secretary in person.
4. Payment to choir and altar servers are paid separate from the church payment.

II. For Non-Registered and Non-Active Family

1. Your child must be attending religious education at least in 7th grade.
2. There are fees (using parish church, music, and altar servers) will discuss when registered with the Parish Secretary in person.
3. Payment to choir and altar servers are paid separate from the church payment.

III. For Families from A Different Parish

1. Must present a letter indicating that you are attending religious education from your registered parish and is an active member at that parish.
2. Must follow the regulation of Saint Paul the Apostle in preparation for celebrating Quinceañera.
3. There are fees (using parish church, music, and altar servers) will discuss when registered with the Parish Secretary in person.
4. Payment to choir and altar servers are paid separate from the church payment.

A deposit of \$100 must be given at the time of reserving the date for celebration. If cancelled a month before the celebrated date, there will be no refund of the deposit.

All payments must be turned in at least 2 months before the celebration.

Must follow and accept all the above guidelines.



Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
Iglesia Católica Romana de San Pablo el Apostol
 5508 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks TX 76114
 Voice: 817.738.9925

Agreement and Understanding of the parents of the candidate to the above guidelines

Acuerdo y Entendimiento de los padres del candidato a las directrices anteriores

We, the parents of _____ agree and abide to the
 above guideline for the celebration.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nosotros, los padres de _____ estamos de
 acuerdo y cumpliremos respetar las directrices anteriores para la celebración.

Firma: _____ Fecha: _____

Para Oficina Solamente

Pautas recibidas encendido / Received Guidelines on _____

Aceptado y firmado encendido / Accepted and signed on _____

Celebration of Quinceañera

Celebración de Quinceañera

Today's Date Fecha de Hoy			
Parish ID#			
Name of the Quinceañera Nombre de la Quinceañera			
Date of Birth Fecha de Nacimiento			
Father's Name Nombre del Padre			
Mother's Name Nombre de la Madre			
Address Dirección			
Parents Cell # Numero Celular de Padres			
Parents Email Correo electrónico de Padres			
Sacraments Sacramentos	Name of Church Nombre de la Iglesia		Date Fecha
Baptism Bautismo			
First Communion Primera Comunión			
Attending 7 or 8 Grade?			
Confirmation Confirmación			
Requirements	First Year		Second Year
Enrolled Faith Formation			
Attendance Faith Formation			
Formation Sessions	Session I -		Session II -
Date of Quinceañera Mass			At ☐ 11:30AM ☐ 2PM
Donation & Fee	Active Member	Non-Active	Non-Member
Must Deposit \$100		Music Fee	Altar Servers
Celebration	☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Bilingual		
Comments:			

Signature of Parent/Parents: _____ Date: _____