

# St. Thomas the Apostle – Guidelines for Quinceanera



## **Quinceanera**

A Quinceanera is a time of rejoicing, giving thanks to God for His love and care. It means “one who is fifteen” and is a celebration of a young lady’s fifteenth birthday, marking her passage from childhood to womanhood. The Virgin Mary is a model for women of every class and age group. Many Catholic families request a Mass and a blessing for their daughter. It is a special time to share with friends, relatives, and especially parents, whose guidance and faith has been so instrumental in the life of a young lady. Catholics celebrate this custom with special emphasis on the awareness and sensitivity of the young lady in dealing with her virtues, values, concerns, and challenges of the Christian community. To help with planning Quinceanera, please read our guidelines carefully, so that you and your family may prepare for your celebration in a meaningful way. We pray that this day will be a blessing for you.

### **THE CANDIDATE FOR QUINCEANERA MUST BE:**

1. Catholic and have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion;
2. a registered member of this parish;
3. a practicing Catholic that attends Mass on Sundays/Holy Days;
4. currently attending the Religious Education Program of the parish and actively attending; and
5. in a state of grace and able to receive Holy Communion on the day of her Quinceanera, i.e. celebrate the Sacrament of Penance/Confession.

### **THE QUINCEANERA MUST BE:**

1. scheduled three (3) months in advance; and
2. held during Communion Service or Holy Mass.

**Scheduling:** Contact the parish office at 361-387-1312 and request an interview appointment with the Pastor. The young lady and both of her parents must come to the interview appointment. The date and time of the celebration of Quinceanera will be determined during interview. Quinceaneras are scheduled on Saturdays between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. No Quinceaneras are held during the liturgical seasons of Lent or Advent.

Please bring the following documents with you to the interview appointment:

1. the completed Quinceanera Registration Form; and
2. copy of Baptism Certificate with notations.

**Stipend:** The charge for the facilities is \$250.00 payable to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. This must be paid in full within 30 days of the Quinceanera.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

**PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL:** There will be no court, escort, or padrinos other than young lady's parents and godparents.

**REHEARSAL:** There will be no rehearsal.

**PHOTOS, VIDEO, FLOWERS, ETC.:** Photos and video cameras are welcome provided they do not become a distraction during your celebration. Please do not damage the pews or church furnishings when decorating or attaching items to the pews. Any flower arrangements in the sanctuary may remain in the Church as an offering. All other decorations, ribbons, pew decorations, photography equipment, clothing, etc. should be removed from the church immediately following the celebration.

**MUSIC, ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, and LECTORS:** Making arrangements for these individuals are your responsibility and should be made well in advance.

**Customs and Traditions:**

1. presentation of the Rosary;
2. presentation of the Bible; and
3. presentation of the flowers to the Blessed Mother.

**Visiting Clergy:** If you are inviting clergy from another parish or diocese to participate in the celebration, approval must be obtained from the Pastor when the Quinceanera is scheduled.

**Quinceanera Registration Form**

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Quinceanera Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # E-Mail Address

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # E-Mail Address

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last (Maiden)

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # E-Mail Address

**Registered in Parish** ( Family / Father / Mother ) (circle one)

**SACRAMENTS:**

**Baptism:** Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**First Communion:** Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation:** Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_



**AGREEMENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned Quinceanera, have read and understand my responsibilities as set out in the St. Thomas the Apostle Quinceanara guidelines and agree to the following:

- ☐ I understand that I am to regularly attend Sunday Mass and religious education sessions.
- ☐ I understand that I am to complete the Online Catholic Quince Prep class as outlined in the guidelines or an equivalent class approved by the Pastor.

---

**The Quinceanera Signature**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We the undersigned have read and understand our responsibilities to our daughter \_\_\_\_\_, the Quinceanera, as set out in the St. Thomas the Apostle Quinceanara guidelines and agree to the following:

- ☐ It is our responsibility to provide all required documentation set out in the Quinceanera guidelines.
- ☐ It is our responsibility to ensure that our daughter regularly attends Sunday Mass and religious education sessions.
- ☐ I/we understand that if all of the requirements have not been met, the celebration will be cancelled or postponed until we complete the requirements.
- ☐ I/we understand that all fees are to be paid in full no later than 30 days before the celebration date, and that the event will be cancelled or postponed until such time that the account is paid in full. At that time, the celebration will be rescheduled at the next available opening.

---

**Father's Signature**

---

**Mother's Signature**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE ONLY:**

**After Interview/Appointment with Pastor:**

**SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME OF QUINCEANERA:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Time

**Quinceanera Requirements Fulfilled:**

- ☐ Completed Online Quinceanera Prep Class or an equivalent class approved by the Pastor.
- ☐ Mass Attendance.
- ☐ Verification of Religious Education Attendance.
- ☐ Parent Interview/Appointment/Class with Pastor.
- ☐ Sacrament Certificates received.
- ☐ Celebrated reconciliation prior to Quinceanera.
- ☐ Fees paid in full.

**Payment Record for Fee:**

Date	Payment Method	Amount	Balance