

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
**QUINCEANERA PROGRAM**

Revised June 2018

The celebration of the Quinceañera is a special time for a young girl. However, the occasion is not simply that of celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of the young woman. It is a tradition, popular among many Latino communities, which probably dates back to the traditions of the Mayas and the Toltecas. Then it was considered that a *muchacho* was not a person until he reached an age of 15. It was at that time that he was presented to the tribal community and became a warrior. He was given his *escudo* and *espada* and legally became a part of the community. A young woman was also presented to the community because she was looked upon as the vital force of the tribe. Because of her power of motherhood, she gave warriors to the community. For the young lady, the ceremony included her commitment to the community and the community in turn accepted her as a committed and responsible member.

Another version of this custom dates back to the Jewish custom of presenting a young woman in the temple. This ceremony also symbolized the commitment of the young lady to the community of which she was a member. This custom is best understood today as the presentation of the young woman to society and the church community. In order to bring out the religious and spiritual dimensions, Catholics celebrate this custom with special emphasis on the awareness and sensitivity of the young women to the values, concerns and challenges of the Christian community.

The quince años celebration is not a sacrament, but the sacraments of Reconciliation (confession) and Eucharist are certainly integral parts of its celebration. Without these elements the Quinceañera becomes an empty “pagan” action. Therefore, the 15 year old **must** be someone who is active in the church community and living a faith-filled and moral life.

**I. DATE AND FREQUENCY OF THE CELEBRATION**

Presentations can be celebrated on a date of your choice – Saturdays at 10:30 ONLY.

**II. REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION.**

1. The first step for a young girl to celebrate a Quinceañera at St. John Vianney is to meet with the Quinceañera Coordinator who will need to meet with both the young lady and her parent(s).
2. This meeting will help to determine the young lady’s readiness for her Quinceañera and to set the **tentative date** for the celebration. A sample copy of the liturgy for the Quinceañera, parish guidelines for photographers, videographers, flowers and decorating will be given during the preparation classes. In order for the date to be considered **firm**, the following requirements **must** be completed:
  - The young lady must fill out an application form.
  - The family, most especially the young lady, should be participating in the sacraments regularly.
  - A recent copy of the young lady’s baptismal certificate (issued within six months) must be submitted.

- A recent copy of the young lady's First Communion certificate (issued within six months) and a Confirmation certificate if the young lady was confirmed as an infant (also issued within six months) must be submitted.
  - The young lady, her parents, and the members of her party are **required** to attend the preparation classes.
  - **A non-refundable deposit of \$100 must be made at time of registration.**
3. The candidate, her parents and her party are required to attend formal instruction. These classes include a brief history of the "Presentation" tradition and the reasons for celebrating it. It will also cover the ways of living out the Christian values found in the Gospel and celebrated in the sacraments. The candidate will also help plan the liturgy for their celebration and she will be given a chance to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Quinceañera.

The candidate will be notified of class dates and times by mail with a follow-up phone call.

4. It is the responsibility of the family involved to contact the parish **music** director two to three months before the date of the Quinceañera. Since the assembly should fully participate in the sung prayer of the liturgy, we require use of a parish cantor at all Quinceañera celebrations to lead the sung parts.
5. A few days prior to the celebration, there will be a general rehearsal conducted by one of the parish wedding coordinators. Since the church is reserved only for a limited time for the rehearsal, it is important that everyone be present and on time.

### **III. THE DAY OF THE PRESENTATION**

On the day of the "Presentation", a parish organist, a cantor, altar servers and wedding coordinators are essential to a celebration at St. John Vianney. A Mariachi group (pre-approved by the parish music director) may be invited. Please note: if a mariachi group is involved, **the fee for the organist and cantor are not subtracted.** The organist will still need to set up the equipment and the cantor will still need to lead the singing of the assembly. The Mass will normally be bilingual or Spanish, depending on the choice of the young lady and her family.

### **IV. FEES**

The fees for a Quinceañera include a donation to the Church, fees for the Coordinator, Organist/Accompanist, Cantor and Altar Servers.

**The total offering is \$800 if the young lady is enrolled in a Confirmation program and in good standing.**

**The total offering is \$900 if the young lady is not enrolled in a Confirmation program.**

Final payment of fees must be made **at least one month prior to the Quinceañera.** All payments made less than three weeks prior, must be made in cash or money order.