

# Your Quinceañera at the Cathedral



*Cathedral of the*

**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

430 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67202

*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you*

## WHAT IS A QUINCEAÑERA?

The *quinceañera* is a traditional celebration of life and gratitude to God on the occasion of the fifteenth birthday of a young Hispanic woman. The ritual emphasizes her passage from childhood to adulthood. The family usually requests a Mass or a blessing to be held in the Church. The rite is frequently celebrated in several countries in the Americas, including Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It is frequently requested by Hispanic Catholics in the dioceses of the United States of America. While not a sacrament, the event is a celebration of the journey of faith in the life of a young woman.

## SCHEDULING YOUR QUINCEAÑERA

- ✓ Parents can sign their daughter up for a quinceañera by filling out a Quinceañera Request Form. These forms can be printed off from the website or picked up in the Parish Office.
- ✓ The family will be asked to choose a possible date for the celebration. Available dates can be found at <http://wichitacathedral.com/quinceañeras/availability-calendar>. Quinceañeras are generally celebrated at 11am on Saturday mornings. No quinceañeras are celebrated during Lent.
- ✓ The family of the quinceañera must supply record of the young women's Baptism and First Communion to the Cathedral office. If the young women received these sacraments at the Cathedral, they can be requested while signing up, but if the sacraments occurred away from the Cathedral, copies of the records must be provided from the parishes where they occurred.
- ✓ The Quinceañera must either have already received Confirmation or currently be in Confirmation classes.
  - An exception takes place if the girl turns 15 before her freshman year of high school. In this case, the girl may have her quinceañera before receiving Confirmation, but must commit to taking the class once she enters high school. A Cathedral representative will contact them at registration time to confirm this.
- ✓ If the family members are not registered at the Cathedral parish, they must obtain the signature of their Pastor where they are registered.
- ✓ The parents and young woman agree to follow the policy of the parish concerning the celebration of the Quinceañera.
- ✓ A non-refundable deposit is necessary to secure the date. The deposit scale can be found below under "Payment Scale."

- ✓ The quinceañera must attend a seven-week quinceañera class at the Cathedral prior to the desired date. Classes are generally available twice a year, in February/March or September/October. The family of the quinceañera will be provided with information on how to sign up for these classes when they secure the date.
- ✓ Final approval of the celebration of the Quinceañera is at the discretion of the Rector or the Parochial Vicar.

## **PLANNING YOUR QUINCEAÑERA**

- ✓ Select chambalanes and/or damas who can participate in the reception of the Eucharist and join with the quinceañera in gratitude to the Lord.
- ✓ Determine one or two lectors for the Mass. These should be Catholics who are competent to proclaim the Word of God in public.
- ✓ To show the beauty and dignity of the human person, everyone in the procession or performing any function during the Mass including the quinceañera, parents, padrinos, readers, damas, and chambalanes must be dressed modestly. Girls must be covered from the collar bone to the knee. Strapless or backless dresses are not permitted. Boys must be dressed in long pants and collared shirts.
- ✓ Choose which objects are to be presented and blessed and who will present them. These may include Biblia, Rosario, esclava, medalla, anillo and ramos de flores among others.
- ✓ As the Cathedral is already a beautiful and sacred facility, flowers should be kept to a minimum. All floral designs are subject to Cathedral approval.
- ✓ Plan music for the celebration. Any choirs, bands, or cantors must contact the Cathedral prior to the celebration, as all music must be approved by the Rector or Parochial Vicar. CD's and pre-recorded music are not permissible. The family of the quinceañera is responsible for payment of the musicians.
- ✓ Be aware of the Cathedral decoration regulations. There is to be no nailing or taping of any materials to the doors or pews. Flowers should be minimal and tasteful. Please consult a Cathedral representative if you have any doubts or questions regarding decorations in the Cathedral.
- ✓ Please read the entirety of the Quinceañera Rules and Regulations document during the preparation, as it will answer many of the questions that will arise during this process.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

- ✓ A Cathedral representative will contact you regarding setting a rehearsal time and date. Rehearsals are generally held Friday evening, but due to conflicting events, another time may be agreed upon between the parties.
- ✓ All who take part in the ceremony should attend the rehearsal and be attentive to the indications of the priest or Cathedral representative.
- ✓ Please arrive promptly for the rehearsal. If the party is not prepared to begin the rehearsal 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the priest or Cathedral representative will provide the party with rehearsal directives and then begin hearing confessions.
- ✓ Generally, the priest will hear confessions following the rehearsal for all damas, chambalanes, and family. However, in certain instances the priest may ask the party to attend confessions at some point during the week leading up to the Quinceañera.

## **THE DAY OF THE QUINCEAÑERA**

- ✓ All participants must arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled time. As the Cathedral often has numerous celebrations each day, all events must start promptly. If the Quinceañera and her party are not prepared to begin 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the Cathedral reserves the right to cancel the celebration or convert the Mass to a blessing.
- ✓ Participants in the celebration should not chew gum, and absolutely no alcohol is to be consumed prior to the event.
- ✓ All damas, chambalanes, and family should behave with respect and reverence during the celebration. This includes paying attention during the liturgy and participating in the parts of the Mass.
- ✓ Damas and chambalanes will sit in the front rows on each side of the aisle. Parents will sit behind the damas, and padrinos will sit behind the chambalanes.
- ✓ No cell phone usage is allowed during the Mass. This particularly includes the damas and chambalanes. Also, no members of the congregation should take pictures with their cell phones during the liturgy.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

The Rector or Parochial Vicar must approve all photography arrangements prior to, during, or after the quinceañera. The following norms must be observed:

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- ✓ The Cathedral is not a photo studio, so the time used for photographs is limited to before and/or after the quinceañera liturgy.
- ✓ Flash is not allowed during the celebration of the Quinceañera.
- ✓ Photographers should be discreet and not interfere with or intrude on the quinceañera liturgy; therefore, once the procession and recessional begin, they may not be interrupted.
- ✓ The Photographer is not to obstruct the center aisle during the quinceañera, or during the processions.
- ✓ The family of the quinceañera is to inform the photographer of these norms, by phone call and/or email.
- ✓ Photography in the Cathedral ceases twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the liturgy.
- ✓ Additional microphones, if they are cordless, may be included for audiotaping and video.
- ✓ Violation of these norms will result in the refusal of the photographer's privileges at the Cathedral in the future.
- ✓ All photographers, including family and friends, must abide by these norms.

# PAYMENT SCALE

- ✓ Fees are determined by the level of stewardship participation in the parish as defined:
  - Stewardship Parishioner: Is registered at the Cathedral *for at least a year* and lives out the entire stewardship way of life through sharing time, talent, and treasure.
  - Non-stewardship Parishioner: Is registered at the Cathedral parish, but does not live out the entire stewardship way of life of sharing time, talent and treasure.
  - Non-Parishioner

✓ Fees

- Stewardship Parishioner: Total Fee: \$500.00 (\$50 Deposit + \$450 Fee)
- Non-stewardship Parishioner: Total Fee: \$750 (\$50 Deposit + \$700 Fee)
- Non-Parishioner: Total Fee \$850 (\$100 Deposit + \$750 Fee)

✓ Payment Requirements

- The deposit must be paid upon scheduling
- Final payment is due two weeks prior to the event. If payment is not received by this time, the Cathedral reserves the right to cancel the celebration or to simply provide a quinceañera blessing instead of a Mass.

