



Date: _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR A QUINCEANERA CELEBRATION

Time: _____

Congratulations on your upcoming Quinceañera Celebration, we are pleased that you want to celebrate it, since it is an important day that validates life and gives thanks to God for it. Therefore, we want to help you plan for it with the following information:

A SIMPLE CEREMONY:

We gladly have any family celebrate the 15th birthday of their daughter without attendants, during our Saturday parish mass, in which after the mass the priest will give a special blessing to the quinceañera. To arrange for this a family must speak with the parish priest in advance. The donation is whatever you wish to give.

Requirements:

1. Family must be registered members of our parish or bring a letter from your church
2. Arrangements should be made a year to six months before the desired date.
3. The quinceañera should have already received her First Communion and should bring in the Certificate of 1st communion and baptism. Otherwise we cannot celebrate the Quinceañera
4. The celebration (Liturgy of the Word) is done on any Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The celebration consists of only one quinceañera. (IT IS NOT A MASS)
5. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be received by the quinceañera, and participants the Saturday prior to the Celebration from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. We ask that everyone be punctual for all these instructional classes and rehearsal. Everybody should be in front of the Church 15 minutes before the time of the ceremony; this is to insure that it will begin on time. The celebration may begin with those that are present.
6. The quinceañera may have accompaniments but it is not to exceed 16 total which means **7 couples** and the quinceañera with her escort.(this is optional it is not required to have a court, we recommend that all who participate be Catholic)
7. The quinceañera and court must attend the parish quinceañera group within the 6 months prior to the celebration.
If this requirement is not fulfilled, the ceremony may be cancelled by the church and no refund will be given.
8. It is imperative that the quinceañera and court attend the classes necessary because the last class will include the liturgical celebration rehearsal. There will be no other rehearsal.

The Ceremony:

1. We urge the family the keep the whole celebration simple and not to go to great expenses.
2. Quinceañera and participants must wear MODEST attire (no strapless gowns and no mini skirts).
3. Family members are asked to choose and read the readings (they will be provided in the rehearsal.)
4. The use of rice, rose petals or other items ARE NOT ALLOWED to be thrown either outside or inside the church.
5. After the profession of Faith, the godparents may present the gifts to the quinceañera (Bible, Rosary, ring)

Music:

If the family wants to have music during the Mass, they may do so. It would be religious music, appropriate for Mass. They themselves must make the arrangements either with an acquaintance or from the list of musicians that the parish can provide. The cost of the choir is extra and must be paid by the family.

Photographers:

They must be discreet. They cannot in anyway interfere with the ceremony. They cannot enter the sanctuary (go up the steps). There will be 30 minutes after mass for formal pictures, unless you come late. The same applies for the videos. No bright lights.

Flowers and Decorations:

If the family wishes to bring in flowers, they may do so. The church provides four flower arrangements. Please keep them simple. We do not allow runners, or flower pedals to be thrown on the floor. Please remove any decorations on the pews, including the take, before leaving.

Donation:

The requested donation is **\$500.00**

\$400.00 for the parish and \$100.00 for extra expenses - (\$100.00 must be Cash)

for registered parishioners. To schedule a celebration we ask for a **non-refundable donation of \$250.00**, and the rest which is \$250, should be paid one month later, failure to do so will result in the event being cancelled with no refund. We take cash, Money Orders or cashier checks. We DO NOT accept personal checks.

If the quinceañera is cancelled for any reason the parish keeps 50% which is the deposit amount.

If you need further information, please call the office (510)536-1266.

Before any arrangements are made it is required that you and the quinceañera read, understand and agree with all these requirements.

The dress of all participant including the quinceañera dress must be appropriate for Church. We do not allow strapless gowns. Everyone including parents must dress decently. Those wearing revealing clothes must cover up.

**The meaning of this celebration is:
To thank God for the gift of life.**

I agree with the above information.

Mother or father of Quinceañera

Date: _____

St. Elizabeth
Catholic Church
Oakland, Ca



1500 34th Ave
510-536-1266

www.stelizabethchurchoak.com

 *St. Elizabeth Church Oakland*

WELCOME TO THE QUINCEANERA FORMATION PROGRAM OF
SAINT ELIZABETH CHURCH

Future Quinceañera and Parents,

We, as part of the faith community to which you belong, we take interest in helping you along your journey of Catholic faith. We want to help you in your spiritual growth as well as in your relationship with God. Our purpose is to prepare you, your daughter and all participants for the religious part of the Quinceañera celebration. As a parish we recognize the seriousness and cultural significance of the celebration and it is our responsibility to adequately prepare the quinceañera for a Christian life.

Meaning of the Quinceañera

The quinceañera celebration is a religious birthday celebration in where the fifteen year old shows her commitment to the Church, the Christian community and to Jesus. Although the quinceañera celebration is not a sacrament, there are three Sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist) that are part of the celebration.

How long is the Preparation/Program?

It consists of **five** meetings held between the twelve to six months prior to the celebration, we take your time seriously therefore we will to our best to accommodate the meeting times to a time that is convenient for all. Parents and quinceañera come to the first meeting. **The next three meetings consist of the quinceañera and her participants (court).** Any of the participants that do not attend all formation meetings cannot be a part of the religious celebration. If the parents wish to attend all meetings they may do so, but it is not required.

The fifth and final meeting consists of the rehearsal for the celebration therefore all who will be part of the celebration **MUST** attend, this include parents, participants (court), and sponsors. Those who will be reading the Word of the Lord, giving the bouquet, giving the bible and rosary and/or any other religious item must also attend this meeting (the giving religious articles is optional). It is imperative that all who will participate in the ceremony take it seriously and realize that it is a religious celebration and should be respect as such.

TARDINESS OF MORE THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE WILL RESULT IN THE MEETING BEING CANCELED FOR THAT DAY AND THE MEETING MUST BE RE-DONE AT A DIFFERENT DATE WHEN THERE IS TIME AND AVAILABILITY.

Who are the Participants (court)?

It is very important that as parents you also take part in the selection of participants for your daughter's special day (quinceañera). This will avoid conflicts when the meeting times come.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in everything related to this program. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Olga Dueñas at 510-536-1266 extension 154