

Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
501 Tidwell Road  
Houston, TX 77022  
Phone 713-692-6303 Fax 713-692-6314  
www.StCharlesHouston.org

# Quinceañera Celebrations

## 1) Schedule for Quinceañera celebration:

1. **Individual celebration:** At Saint Charles Borromeo Church, the church sanctuary is available for private Quinceañeras celebrations only:
  - a. **on Fridays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and**
  - b. **on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.**
2. **Group celebration:** Communal celebrations are celebrated every first Friday of the month at 7 pm and on Saturday in **July** and **December** at 1 pm.
3. The other spot times on Fridays and Saturdays are reserved exclusively for celebrations of matrimones. Without exceptions.

## 2) Spiritual Preparation:

The girl and her parents must attend a Spiritual Preparation class for Quinceañeras at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

The church staff will call the parents of the girl approximately 2 weeks before the class for the spiritual preparation to give you the date, time and room where the preparation for quinceañeras will be given. Notify the church staff if the parents of the girl change their phone number so that the office staff may call them.

If the girl has already been baptized but has not received **First Holy Communion** yet, please request a special Catechesis from Catechism Office for the girl to receive First Holy Communion the same day of her Quinceañera celebration.

### 3) Donation:

How much does it cost to have a Quinceañera celebration in the Catholic Church?

Nothing. Blessings or sacraments are not for sale. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2121) makes clear that the first commandment forbids simony, which is the buying or selling of sacred things. It's appropriate, however, for the faithful to share their joy and make a generous contribution to support the Church and its ministers.

Christ's faithful have an obligation to provide for the needs of the Church and for the worthy support of its ministers (Canon 222). God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

#### 1. Donations for the Church:

##### a. For a private ceremony:

**\$300 for registered parishioners.**

**\$500 for non-registered parishioners.**

This donation is to cover the expenses for the usage of the church building, electricity, air conditioning, maintenance, janitorial services, salaries for staff, and office expenses. It does not include music and floral arrangements. It's up to the faithful to hire the services of a musician or to buy a floral arrangement. The faithful should give the church donation to the receptionist at the church office when they reserve the church for their ceremony. Please request a receipt.

##### b. For a group ceremony:

Free will offering. Saint Charles Church offers Quinceañera group celebrations the first Friday of every month at 7 pm and on Saturday in December and July at 1 p.m. During group celebrations, there is no recliner in the center aisle for each quinceañera. During the rehearsal, the quinceañeras are told where they are going to sit, and a whole pew will be set aside for each quinceañera and her family for the day of the ceremony. The girls will renew the baptismal vows. They will be in front of the altar during the consecration. They will be given communion before the rest of the assembly and they will also be given an opportunity to offer a bouquet of flowers to the Virgin.

2. **Donation for the priest or deacon:** The services of the priest or deacon are free, but it is customary to offer a stipend. Usually, no specific amount is suggested. If the faithful wishes to do so at the end of the ceremony, they may give a free-will offering to the priest or deacon who presided over their ceremony.

**4) Music:**

If the couple wishes to have music in the church during the celebration, they may hire a choir or soloist of their choice. But it must be an individual or choir that knows Catholic hymns that are appropriate for a Catholic ceremony. We recommend choirs or individuals who sing regularly at our church.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bertha Salazar, 281-580-8696    | Piano, organist, soloist                 |
| 2. Enrique Gomez, 281-795-4981     | Children choir, guitars                  |
| 3. Abel Castillo, 713-377-4375     | Three Adolescents Choir, guitar and bass |
| 4. Francisco Gomez 832-716-2399    | Guitar, keyboard                         |
| 5. Juan y Griselda 832-208-6365    | Guitar, dueto                            |
| 6. Veronica Aguilera, 832-418-0569 | Choir, guitar, keyboard                  |

**5) Decoration and floral arrangements:**

1. Please do not glue adhesive tape on the church pews.
2. The pew decorations may be hung with ribbons or with plastics hooks, which the faithful may buy or rent from a florist.
3. Do not throw petals or rice during or after the ceremony.
4. Please make sure the church, inside and outside, is clean after the celebration.

**6) Photography and Video:**

The faithful may hire the services of whomever they wish for photography or video. These professionals must conduct themselves with respect and not interrupt the ceremony.

**7) Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):**

1. The girl and all the Court of Honor (parents, Godparents and escorts) are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation a week before the celebration, to be able to receive Holy Communion during the Mass.
2. Couples who are cohabitating but are not married in the Church should abstain from receiving Holy Communion. They should marry in the Church or refrain from sexual intimacy to be in the state of grace.
3. Confessions at St. Charles Borromeo are held on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 6:50 pm, and on Saturdays from 4 pm to 4:50 pm and 6:30 to 7 pm.

**8) Guidelines for Church Dress Code:**

1. Parents, please advise the young ladies and boys that they need to show reverence in the church premises since it is the God's sanctuary.
2. The young ladies, as well as family members and guests, should dress in a respectful and modest manner.

3. If possible, women and girls should wear dresses. Men and boys should not cover their heads (no hats for men) inside the church building.
4. If possible, men and boys should wear suits and ties. Children should be dressed neatly. Girls should not come in where their dresses are too short, too low-cut or even strapless.
5. Modesty is the rule in church. "Reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:30)

#### **9) Rehearsal / Practice:**

About two weeks prior to the ceremony, the rehearsal coordinator will call the faithful to set up the rehearsal date and time in the church to practice the ceremony. The faithful should let us know if their cell-phone number changes. Everyone who will take part in the ceremony should attend the rehearsal. The parish staff needs updated phone numbers to be able to contact the faithful. The rehearsal coordinator begs for promptness for the rehearsal because we have several rehearsals on the same day at different times.

#### **10) Planning the ceremony:**

1. Assist at the rehearsal with all the participants in attendance.
2. Practice the renewal of the Baptismal Vows and the Giving of the Gifts: Medal, Rosary, Bible, Crown, and flowers for the Blessed Virgin Mary.
3. Choose those who will read the scripture readings. We will use the readings for the day found in the daily Missal.
4. Escorts may participate by reading the petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful.
5. Assign those who will present the bread and wine to the altar.
6. Tell your guests who are not Catholics or those who have not received First Communion yet to abstain from receiving Holy Communion until they are properly prepared by Catholic Doctrine.
7. Make sure you leave the Church clean inside and outside after the ceremony.
8. Do not leave vehicles parked in front of the church building during the ceremony. Vehicles can remain for a few moments to drop off and pick up participants, but they must immediately move to let other vehicles circulate in front of the church building.

#### **Cancellations:**

Please notify the parish office if you cancel your celebration as soon as possible.

Also, please let us know if there has been a change in your address or your telephone number in case we need to contact you.

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

**(Name of the Quinceañera)**, when you were an infant, your parents and Godparents brought you to the waters of Baptism to be initiated into the new life of our Savior Jesus Christ. At that moment, they made a Profession of Faith for you and in your name, in the same faith, which now brings you to this altar.

1. Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?  
**Yes, I do.**
  2. Do you reject the glamor of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?  
**Yes, I do.**
  3. Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?  
**Yes, I do.**
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1. Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?  
**Yes, I do believe.**
  2. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?  
**Yes, I do believe.**
  3. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?  
**Yes, I do believe.**

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Meaning of the Gifts for the Girl (Optional)

As part of the catechesis, an explanation of the symbolism of the medal, the ring, the crown, and the flowers may be given.

1. **The Bible:** The Word of God. A collection of writings recognized as inspired by God. Make sure the Bible is an approved Catholic Edition.
2. **The Rosary:** The term "Rosary" is used to describe both a sequence prayers and a string of prayer beads used to count the prayers. It is a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
3. **The Bracelet** is placed on the wrist of the hand. If it has a religious image (crucifix, Jesus, Mary, a saint, an angel), then it symbolizes the expression of faith.
4. **The Medal** symbolizes the religious expression of faith. The young lady is placed under the protection of the person represented by the image on the medal. Sometimes a little cross or crucifix is given.
5. **The ring** symbolizes the tie and the responsibility the young lady has to the community and to God.
6. **The crown** symbolizes the victory the young lady has won trying to live a Christian life in the midst of all the problems and challenges of her environment.
7. **The bouquet of flowers** is placed at the feet of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary almost at the end of the ceremony. They show our homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Our Mother. The girl, joined by her parents, will pray for a moment in front of the image of Our Lady while she places the bouquet.

### Blessing of Articles of Devotion. Short Formulary (Book of blessings No. 1487)

+ May this rosary, cross, metal, etc., and the one who uses it be blessed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

Priest:

Called by God through the Holy Spirit, let us offer our prayers for the needs all.

Please respond after each petition:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector:

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and our Bishop, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, that God might help them in guiding his Holy Church. Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, that we might help one another and that civil authorities might concern themselves for the most vulnerable among us. Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For the girl who thanks you for the gift of life, and for all our young people, that they may always honor their parents and be protected by God. Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For the parents and sponsors of the girl and for those who have guided and helped her. Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. That our young people discover their vocation and have the courage to follow it. Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. For our deceased relatives, that they may rest in the peace of Christ, and receive the reward of Eternal Life. Let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, hear our prayer.
7. In a moment of silence, we remember our personal intentions (pause for five seconds) . Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest:

Gracious God,  
You call upon us to do your will,  
Grant us the grace to follow your Son  
for the good of the world  
and for your greater glory.  
We ask this on the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Outline of the Celebration**

1. Scripture Readings of the Day
2. Homily
3. Renewal of Baptismal promises
4. Blessing and Presentation of the gifts and symbols to the Quinceañera
5. Prayers of the Faithful
6. The Lord Prayer (Our Father)
7. Bouquet for the Blessed Virgin Mary (or Bouquet of flowers)
8. Blessing
9. Photograph with the priest or deacon with the quinceañera before exit
10. Please, kindly leave the main church building as soon as possible for the next ceremony to begin on time. Occasionally, room 13 is available for picture taking after the ceremony. Don't block the main entrance of the church so that the people who are coming to the next ceremony may come in. As you leave, keep everything neat and tidy.