

READINGS

Bendición a los

Quince Años



Denver, CO

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH

We at Our Lady of Guadalupe want to congratulate you on your upcoming Quinceañera. We look forward to celebrating this special time with you. As you know, your fifteen-years is an opportunity for you to make a commitment and take responsibility in your life. It is a time for you to learn and grow.

Your parents will present you at the altar, just as they presented you on the day of your Baptism; and during the mass you will renew your baptismal promises. The difference is that now you have come of your own free will, not as a child, but as young adult.

The Quinceañera is not a Sacrament, but a unique and beautiful way to help a young woman build a closer relationship with the Lord, her church community and her family. In your commitment prayer, you should make a commitment to be an active member of the church, to personally accept your faith and to follow the Lord's commandments.

On this booklet you will find some readings for you to choose, so it can be read in the ceremony. Make sure you choose only one readings and one psalm. Also make sure that the ones who will read be present for the rehearsal so the reading and the psalm can be read clearly.

If you have more questions please feel free to call at (303) 477-1402 Ext. 23

May God bless you!

THE SACRAMENTAL PROCESS COORDINATION OFFICE

READINGS

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 5:16-22

'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD, your God, has commanded you, that you may have a long life and prosperity in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear dishonest witness against your neighbor.

'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. 'You shall not desire your neighbor's house or field, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything that belongs to him.'

"These words, and nothing more, the LORD spoke with a loud voice to your entire assembly on the mountain from the midst of the fire and the dense cloud. He wrote them upon two tablets of stone and gave them to me".

The word of the Lord.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

Light is sweet! and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

However many years a man may live, let him, as he enjoys them all, remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that is to come is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, while you are young and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart, the vision of your eyes; Yet understand that as regards all this God will bring you to judgment. Ward off grief from your heart and put away trouble from your presence, though the dawn of youth is fleeting.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:26-27, 28-30, 31-32

R. All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD

I will offer praise in the great assembly; my vows I will fulfill before those who fear him. The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the LORD will offer praise. May your hearts enjoy life forever!"

R. All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD

All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD; All the families of nations will bow low before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, the ruler over the nations. All who sleep in the earth will bow low before God; All who have gone down into the dust will kneel in homage.

R. All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD

And I will live for the LORD; my descendants will serve you. The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance you have brought.

R. All the ends of the earth will worship and turn to the LORD

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

R. The LORD is mi light and my salvation.

Of David The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom do I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom am I afraid?

R. The LORD is mi light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: To dwell in the LORD'S house all the days of my life, To gaze on the LORD'S beauty, to visit his temple.

R. The LORD is mi light and my salvation.

But I believe I shall enjoy the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!

R. The LORD is mi light and my salvation.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 100:2, 3, 5

R. Give thanks to the LORD and bless his name.

Worship the LORD with cries of gladness; come before him with joyful song.

R. Give thanks to the LORD and bless his name.

Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong, whose people we are, God's well-tended flock.

R. Give thanks to the LORD and bless his name.

Good indeed is the LORD, Whose love endures forever, whose faithfulness lasts through every age.

R. Give thanks to the LORD and bless his name.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: We continue our prayers as we commend our cares and concerns to God, through the person of Christ, saying: **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, our archbishop Charles Chaput, our pastor, and all those who have dedicated their life to the service of God's people, that they may continue to follow faithfully their vocation. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For our civic rulers that they perform their duties with justice and compassion for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For **N.** who is celebrating her birthday today, that she may continue with happiness and generosity in the way of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For the parents, grandparents and godparents of **N.** that they may continue to enjoy the fruit of their love in their children, let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For the youth, particularly the "faith companions" of **N.** that they may have the necessary strength to live according to their Christian principles. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For the sick and poor in our community, that they may experience God's love through those who respond to their needs. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For the faithful departed, that they may enjoy the beatific vision in heaven. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Lector: For all our personal intentions that are deep in our hearts and for all those for whom we should pray, that they may receive the graces they need, let us pray to the Lord. **R. Hear us, O God.**

Priest: Loving Creator, we come before you with these petitions which we offer to you because we are in need of your help. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Quinceañera

The transition from girl to woman is celebrated in different ways and at different ages in the world. In Mexico, it has very unique roots and it is celebrated when girls turn 15. It does not necessarily mean that the girls are ready for marriage as many foreign to the tradition suggest. A closer approach is that the girls can now participate as adults in appropriate social events. It is actually a Thanks Action and preparation for the new challenges.

The term Quinceañera may refer to the girl turning 15 or to the celebration in her honor, either the religious or social events or both.

The Quinceañera is a highly Catholic tradition although it is celebrated in other Christian churches too. It is almost given that were the Spanish Conquerors who brought the tradition to Mexico. In reality, the celebration as is today, is a Christian adaptation of the Aztec Ceremony of Woman. Even before of the Spanish Conquest, the Aztecs celebrated their girls when reached womanhood. In such ceremony, other than the banquet and religious presentation, the mothers gave advice to their daughters exhorting them for good behavior. The Conquerors took the pagan celebration converting it to Christianity as they did with other ceremonies in an effort to Catholicizing the Aztec people. The Aztec dance was replaced by a Waltz and the temple by the Christian altar.

The Quinceañera may or may not include a reception, banquet and dance but the really important part is the Thanks Action Mass.

The Mass

The Mass or presentation on the temple is a Thanks Action and a preparation for the new challenges of the girl that is almost a woman. The Dress, bouquet, the crown, the ring and other accessories have a special significance.

The celebrated girl sits in a honor seat near the altar. She can be accompanied by up to 14 Maids (representing her first 14 years) with their respective Chamberlains. A Honor Chamberlain (escort) also accompanies the Quinceañera. Her Maids are pick among other girls that recently turned 15 or are close to.

The Thanks Prayer and the Blessing of the gifts during the Mass and the Eucharist are the culmination of the Mass. Nonetheless, nothing equals the emotive moment in which the girl gives a flowers bouquet to Virgin Mary, most likely to Our Lady of Guadalupe. According to the family's wealth, **The dress can be more simple or sophisticated but it is always special in pastel colors.** The rest of accessories must match the dress color and decoration.