Dear Quinceañera,

The Virgin Mary is a model for women of every class and age group. The quinceañera ritual is valuable for the religious message it sends not only to young people, but also to parents, grandparents, godparents and the entire parish in calling us to prayerfully join with youth in making a commitment to God and the Church.

Celebrating your quinceañera is a wonderful event for you, your family, friends, and the Church. It is a special day to celebrate what God has accomplished in you over the last 15 years. The world was blessed when God created you. The Church was blessed when your parents presented you for Baptism. Our parish of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is blessed as you present yourself to God on the day of your quinceañera.

We, as the family of God, congratulate you. We are committed to make that day memorable. To help with this, please read our guidelines carefully, so that you may prepare for your celebration in a meaningful way. We pray that this day will be a blessing for you.

General Information
Parents may request a quinceañera for their child by calling our parish office. Our pastor will preside for all quinceañeras in which the family and the young person are active in our parish. For those who come from a different parish, you can have your quinceañera here, but you have to bring your own priest to preside. The Quinceañera candidate must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Communion before the ceremony is celebrated. The candidate is to have received the Sacrament of Confirmation or be in the process of receiving this sacrament.

Documents needed before establishing a date for quinceañera:
1. Quinceañera registration form – forms are available at the parish office.
2. Copy of Confirmation certificate OR a letter from your parish that you are currently enrolled in confirmation program
3. All fees and stipends made payable towards Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Timing & Punctuality
Please keep in mind that we have only one priest. It is your family responsibility that the entire party and family members must be here at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony. The schedule for our priest can be extremely busy on the weekends. Your quinceañera will be canceled and/or postponed if you are more than 30 minutes late. Do not embarrass yourself.
and your family by being late: each quinceañera celebration takes one hour given the fact that it is celebrated, obviously, within the Eucharist/Mass. We also have to start on time since often there is another event after your quinceañera, be it a wedding, baptism or simply another quinceañera. Also, on Saturday afternoons we celebrate confessions at 3:30pm and Vigil Mass at 4:30pm and we cannot change this schedule under any circumstances. Once again, your quinceañera is important and you should take all the precautions to be here on time, at least 15 minutes prior to the celebration.

Community Service
The candidate for quinceanera must perform six (6) hours of community service here at our church. You must complete this at least two weeks prior to your quinceanera date. Please contact the parish office to establish the date for this service. At the conclusion, you will receive a letter/certificate.

Fees
There are required fees for having your quinceañera here in our parish. Please note that the fee includes the following: the use of the church, quinceañera coordination, and the ceremony Mass.

The Quinceañera fee is $450 (payable to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church) and includes:
- $200 non-refundable reservation fee
- $250 quinceañera stipend

The date and hour of your quinceañera is not confirmed until the reservation fee is paid AND the community service is rendered. If not paid in full, the remaining stipend is due at least 30 days prior to your celebration date.

Scheduling
We celebrate quinceañeras on Saturdays at 10 am, 12 noon, or 2 pm. However, given the fact that we are a small church, we may schedule an event during the week depending on our availability. Please contact the office in this regard. We do not celebrate quinceañeras on Sunday or during the Lenten season. Please note that we start the celebration promptly, since there may be other liturgies (baptisms, weddings, funerals) the same day. Therefore, punctuality is a must, otherwise your event will be shortened or even canceled.

Music
Since your quinceañera is a religious event, all musical selections are to be of a religious nature. Our Spanish choir will be more than willing to help you with the music. It is your responsibility to pay the musicians.

Photographs and Videos
Still photography and videography are allowed; however, they must be discreet and respectful of the church and not interfere with the flow of the ceremony. Flash photography is allowed in our church.
Flowers and Decorations
Our parish provides fresh flowers for the Church on a weekly basis. A large arrangement is placed in front of the altar. Please note the following policies if you choose to have your own floral arrangement. We generally recommend two arrangements on either side of the altar. We suggest using the services of The Flower Market. They are very familiar with our church since they deliver flowers to us on a weekly basis. Their phone number is (800) 931-5678 or (831) 375-1061.

Please note that we cannot allow aisle runners, the throwing of rice or birdseed, or lighted candles in the congregation. Decorations may not be taped, nailed, glued, tacked or stapled to the end of pews. Some florists have clips that work nicely and others simply tie them. Your cooperation in this is most appreciated. Please inform us if you are planning to leave the flower arrangements in the church. Flowers arrangements in small containers should not be used because they tend to spill. Make sure flower arrangements are on display at least 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.

Meeting with the presiding priest
Make sure to make an appointment and meet with the presiding priest. He will discuss with you the liturgy in detail. It is ideal that the family, the padrinos and the court will be involved in the liturgy such as proclaiming the biblical readings, bringing the gifts of bread and wine, etc. As previously noted, if you are not a member of this parish and do not attend regularly here, you must bring your own priest.

Reconciliation/Confession
Please note that no confessions are celebrated before the Mass. Confessions at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are on Saturdays at 3:30 pm or by appointment. Confessions should be done at least one week prior to the celebration.

Miscellaneous
On the day of quinceañera everyone involved in the ceremony must arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time. The liturgy will begin promptly at the scheduled time, and only those present in line will be able to participate. Gifts can include the Bible, rosary, medal, crown and candle; they will be blessed during the ceremony. We highly recommend that all the Catholic members of the court should receive Communion on that day. Permission needs to be granted by our pastor if a visiting priest is to preside the Mass.

Finally, we look forward to celebrate such a beautiful day with you, and give thanks to our loving God for all the blessings received. For further information, please call our parish office.
**Quinceañera Registration Form**

**Candidate Name:** __________________________________________________________

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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Name</th>
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**Date of Birth:** __________ | **City & State of Birth:** ________________________________

**Father's Name:** ____________________________ | **Religion:** __________

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**Mother's Name:** ____________________________ | **Religion:** __________

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**Home Phone Number:** (______)________________________

**Address:** __________________________________________________________

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**To complete the registration the following documents are needed:**

- Copy of Confirmation Certificate or letter that she is enrolled in Confirmation program
- $200 Reservation Fee  $250 Quinceañera Fee
- 6 hours of Community Service Certificate

**I understand and agree with the above guidelines:**

**Signature of one of the parents:** __________________________________________

**Mass of Quinceañera**

**Application Date:** __________ | **Quinceañera date:** __________ | **Time:** __________

- Mass in English
- Mass in Spanish
- Bilingual
- Our Spanish Mass Choir
- Outside Musicians
- Mariachis

**Gifts to be blessed:**

- Bible; Rosary; Crown; Medal; Candle; Flower bouquet
- Others: __________________________________________________________

- Reservation fee  Quinceañera fee

**If other than our pastor, name of the priest celebrating the service:** ____________________________