

The Quince Mass

A leap of Faith

Religion has always played a key role in the quinceañera celebration; the girl is growing in her faith and taking a larger role in both her religious community, as well as her social community. A "Misa de acción de gracias," or thanksgiving mass, is celebrated, where the girl expresses her gratitude to her family and friends for their love and support.

The girl is also presented to her parish as a new adult member.

While the basic mass doesn't change, there are some additional elements. The court of honor and the quinceañera enter in a processional. Girls can have a short coronation ceremony, with the quinceañera's mother or godmother placing a tiara on her. Some enter the church carrying their "Last Doll," a gift meant to symbolize leaving childhood, which they exchange for a bouquet of flowers before taking their seat of honor for the mass.

Shared blessings

The priest discusses virtue and faith during the homily, relating the Bible readings to the girl's new position and responsibilities in her church community. Close relatives and friends are chosen to read the Bible passages. The priest will bless a Bible, rosary and other gifts to be given to her later at the party that evening. At the end of the service, the quinceañera leaves her bouquet of flowers at the altar as a gift.