



1000 Douglas Street – Sioux City, IA 51105
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Decorations at the Cathedral Parish

The use of flowers and other symbols is intended to add to the festivity of the wedding or quinceañera celebration. In a historic church building, such as the churches that form the Cathedral Parish, flowers are permitted as part of the wedding and quinceañera environment, as long as they do not distract from the focus of the celebration and do not cause danger of falling, etc., and do not cause damage to the building or furnishings. All decorations must be removed from the church following the wedding or quinceañera and the church must be restored to its original order.

The following policies are in place to ensure the appropriate placement and use of flowers, candles, and other symbols. By signing a contract with the Cathedral Parish for one's wedding, the couple gives their written acknowledgement and consent to these policies and will be held accountable to following them. By signing a contract with the Cathedral Parish for their daughter's quinceañera, the parents give their written acknowledgement and consent to these policies and will be held accountable to following them. Please present a copy of these policies to the people in charge of your decorations.

- Flowers may be used in designated areas except during Advent and Lent. If unsure of the Liturgical season at the time of the celebration, please check with the parish.
- Flowers/greenery and/or bows may be placed on the first pew on either side of the center aisle using only special floral hangers. The use of tape, staples, glue, etc. on the pews or any other furnishing is not permitted.
- Silk or plastic flowers are not permitted. Throwing of flower petals is not permitted inside or outside of the church.
- No aisle stanchions, lanterns, candles or arches of any sort and no white aisle runners are permitted due to safety reasons.
- For weddings, unity candles are not part of Catholic ritual. They are not permitted in wedding liturgies in the Cathedral Parish.
- Church furnishings and liturgical decorations may not be changed or moved.
- For weddings, remember, the focus of your marriage ceremony is your consent and the exchange of vows and rings.
- For quinceañeras, the focus of the celebration is gratitude to God for His countless blessings.
- Couples may observe the Hispanic tradition of the lazo with the arras (coins) and the bible/rosary. The use of these symbols occurs after the exchange of rings.
- Flowers for the Blessed Virgin Mary may be presented at the conclusion of the wedding or quinceañera liturgy prior to the recessional.