

Your Child's Baptism



Getting Started...

-St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Niagara Falls, NY

The Logistics

The following sections will help us to organize the specifics of your family and to tailor our approach to your needs. Please print out this document, read all of the information and answer all questions carefully.

The Child

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City and State of Birth: _____

Was the child baptized in another church setting, or privately? If so, explain the situation.

Does the child have any special needs? If so, explain. _____

Is this the first child that you are presenting for Baptism? _____

Does the child have siblings? If so, indicate names and ages.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The Parents

Is the child being raised by:

- one parent
- both parents
- the grandparents
- legal guardian
- foster parent

Father's Name _____

Father's Religion _____

If Catholic, is father confirmed? _____

Is Father a registered member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish? Yes _____ No _____

If No, where registered? _____

Father's Occupation _____

Father's Address and Phone Number _____

Mother's Name (first and maiden) _____

Mother's Religion _____

If Catholic, is mother confirmed? _____

Is mother a registered member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish? Yes _____ No _____

If No, where registered? _____

Mother's Occupation _____

Mother's Address and Phone Number _____

The parents are: _____ Married in the Catholic Church
If so, Church and Date _____

_____ Not yet married and are sharing a home.

_____ Not yet married and living separately.

_____ Divorced

_____ Divorced and remarried

_____ Married Civilly

_____ Presently unable to marry due to former
marriage or similar matter

Notes:

Since it is important that parent(s) are able to set a proper example for their children and for a child to be baptized in the Catholic Faith, there must be a basis for hope that the child will be raised in the Catholic faith. In practice, this means that at least one parent is a practicing Catholic with regard to the sacramental life of the church.

Promise of Parents

I understand that upon presenting my child for Baptism, I am taking the privileged responsibility of raising my child according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and will give the care and motivation that he/she will need in order to live as a member of the Body of Christ. I will remain faithful to the Church community, the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, and continue to draw strength from the Church's sacraments so that my child will also be inspired to do so. Through daily prayer, I will seek strength and direction from my loving God as I live out my duty as a Christian parent.

Father

Mother

The Godparents

Like the parents, the Godparents also play a crucial role in the example setting and faith fostering of the baptized child. Before approaching people who might be potential Godparents, it is advisable to look first at the criteria below. Please check all to be applicable.

	_____	_____
	Godfather's Name	Godmother's Name
At least 16 yrs. old	_____	_____
A confirmed, practicing Catholic (see preparation information)	_____	_____
Single, or married in a union that is valid by the definition of the Catholic Church (not married civilly, not cohabitating, not divorced and remarried without annulment or dissolution of previous marriage).	_____	_____
Is a registered member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish or can provide a letter of permission from another parish	_____	_____
Does not outwardly contradict the teaching of the Catholic Church by career, lifestyle, or public statement	_____	_____
Has the capacity to understand that being a Godparent is a lifelong commitment, and fully intends to accept this responsibility	_____	_____

*A member of an Eastern Orthodox community may fill the role as a Godparent in addition to a Catholic Godparent, provided that all other criteria is met. Please indicate if this is the case.

* If letters of recommendation are needed for Godparents, please bring to baptism session or mail to the Rectory Office two weeks prior to the baptism.

Promise of the Godparents

I promise to remain committed to the Catholic Church and her teaching, and to conduct myself with honor, faith, and integrity as I will be looked to as a role model of faith for my Godchild. I will remain mindful that my words, choices, attitudes and approach to prayer will be of profound significance to my Godchild's growth in faith and morality. I will best assist my Godchild's parents in their work of raising my Godchild in the Catholic faith. I will actively reach out to my Godchild to extent my care, and I understand that in my accepting the role of Godparent I am undertaking a lifelong responsibility, and will rely always upon God's help and guidance as I carry out this privilege.

_____ Godmother

_____ Godfather

Are the intended Godparents able to be present for the planned Baptism? ____ Yes ____ No

If no, who will stand in as a proxy? _____
Please note that the proxy is NOT a Godparent.

Christian Witness (if applicable)

Name _____

Christian Community (name of the Church) _____

Date _____ City, State _____

_____ Person was never baptized in nor received into the Catholic Church.

The Next Step...



After answering all of the above questions please send the completed paperwork to the Baptismal Coordinator at 1040 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14304. **If this is your first child** you will need to attend a preparation session that will cover more details of the Sacrament of Baptism. Call to register for your baptism session at 297-5010 ext. 207. Please feel free to call regarding any questions that you may have. May God be with you!