

# *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

The child is 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, Phone Number, email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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, Phone Number, email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 signature  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother signature  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Godparents

Like the parents, the Godparents also play a crucial role in the example setting and faith fostering of the baptized child. It is the task of the Godparents to assist the parents in their responsibilities, to show the baptized person how to live out the Gospel in both personal and public matters. This indeed is a lifelong responsibility. Because of the profound responsibility that Godparents bear, they must be selected very carefully, and prove to be appropriate examples through prayer, integrity, and faithfulness to the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. At least one Godparent is called for, one who was baptized, received First Eucharist and Confirmed in the Catholic Faith; and is currently practicing the Catholic faith and a registered member of a parish. If there are to be two there must be one man and one woman, in keeping with the parent model of leadership. However, they cannot be the parents of the child. In some cases there may be a non-Catholic Christian Witness in addition to one Catholic Godparent, but this must be someone who is baptized in a non-Catholic Christian community and not someone who has left the Catholic Church.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church Registered, City & State

Godmother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church Registered, City & State

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

At least 16 yrs. old \_\_\_\_\_

- A confirmed, practicing Catholic (see requirement information on home page) \_\_\_\_\_

-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). \_\_\_\_\_

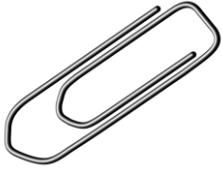
-Is a registered participating member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish or can provide a Letter of Recommendation from another parish as a registered participating member \_\_\_\_\_

-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 are 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.** Letters of Recommendation are **NOT** Baptism Certificate of the Godparent.

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.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godfather signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godmother signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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)**

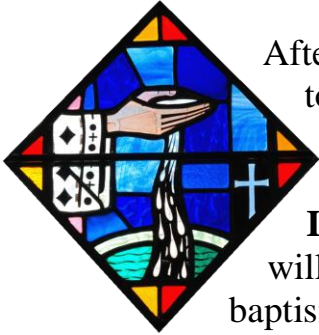
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Community (name of the Church) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

# *The Next Step...*



After answering all of the above questions please send the completed paperwork to: Baptismal Coordinator, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1040 Cayuga Dr, 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 regarding your child's Baptism.

May God be with you!