



VALID & INVALID BAPTISMS

The following has been compiled to assist you in determining the canonical status of your people. This list is not exhaustive. If you have questions, contact the Office for Divine Worship 213-637-7262.

VALID BAPTISMS

The following is a list of baptisms which are considered **valid**, as both water (*pouring, sprinkling, or immersing the one baptized*) and the Trinitarian formula (“*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*”) are used. Also, the minister must intend to do what the Catholic Church does when baptizing.

- Adventists:
 - Adventists (or Second Adventists from the original Millerites)
 - Seventh-Day Adventists (SDA)
 - Grace Communion International (formerly Worldwide Church of God)
- African Methodist Episcopal (AME)
- Aglipayan Church/Philippine Independent Church (PIC)/Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) – Baptism recognized after 1961.
- All Eastern Non-Catholics (including all Orthodox Churches)
- Anabaptists:
 - Integrated Mennonite Church, Inc. (IMC)
 - Church of the Brethren (Jesus Our Firm Foundation Brethren Church)
- Amish/ Mennonite
- Anglican/ Church of England
- Assembly of God
- Baptists
- Chinese Christian Church
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Christian Fellowship
- Church of God
- Church of the Brethren
- Church of the Nazarene
- Congregational Church
- Disciples of Christ
- Dutch Reformed Church
- Episcopal Church
- Evangelical
- Four Square Church (Church of the Foursquare Gospel)
- Independent Catholic Churches (not in Communion with Rome)
 - American National Catholic Church (ANCC)
 - Brazilian National Catholic Church
 - Chinese Patriotic Catholic – Baptism & Confirmation recognized
 - Ecumenical Catholic Church
 - Liberal Catholic
 - National Catholic church of America (NCCA)
 - Old Catholic Church
 - Old Catholic Church – Union of Utrecht
 - Old Roman Catholic Church
 - Old Roman Catholic Church of Europe
 - Old Roman Catholic Church Latin Rite (USA)
 - Palmarian Catholic Church
 - Philippine Independent Catholic Church (PICC)/ *Iglesia Catolica Filipina Independiente*
 - Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC)
 - Roman Catholic Church of England & Wales (RCCEW)
 - Society of St. Pius X (SSPX)
- Lutheran



- Methodist
 - Missionary Hill
 - Moravian
 - New Apostolic Church
 - Orthodox (see “Eastern Non-Catholics” – Baptism & Confirmation Recognized)
 - Pentecostal
 - Presbyterian
 - Reformed Christian Church
 - United Church
 - United Church of Australia
 - United Church of Canada
 - United Church of Christ
 - United Evangelical Church of Christ (Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Cristo)
 - United Methodist
 - United Reformed
 - Waldensian
 - Wesleyan
 - Zion
-



INVALID BAPTISMS

Baptismal practices vary among the following communities, so the validity of each person's baptism must be reviewed individually. Some use water and the Trinitarian formula, while others do not. The following is a partial list of communities whose usual baptismal practices are **not recognized as valid** by the Catholic Church, or that do not ordinarily practice baptism.

- Adventist (Non-Trinitarian)
- All non-Christian groups and communities (Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha 'I, Vedanta Society)
- Aglipayan Church/Philippine Independent Church/ Iglesia Filipina Independiente (BEFORE 1961)
- Amana Church Society
- American (United American) Catholic Valid Baptism/Confirmation doubtful
- American Ethical Union
- Apostolic Catholic Church (ACC – Philippines)
- Apostolic Church (“Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God”)
- Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
- Apostolic Faith Mission
- Assemblies of Lord Jesus Christ
- Baha'I Faith
- Bohemian Free Thinkers
- Brethren
- Children of God (“The Family”)
- Christadelphians
- Christian and Missionary alliance
- Christian Community (disciples of Rudolph Steiner)
- Christians of Universalist Brotherhood
- Church of Christ, Scientist (“Christian Scientists”) – **no baptism**
- Church of David's Band
- Church of Divine Science
- Church of Illumination
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”) – **as of 2001**
- Church of Revelation
- Church of the New Jerusalem
- Church of the Scientology
- Erieside Church
- Evangelican (Non-Trinitarian)
- General Assembly of Spiritualists
- Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association
- House of David Church
- Iglesia ni Kristo (Philippines)
- Independent Church of Filipino Christians
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Masons / Freemasonry – **no baptism**
- Mennonite
- Metropolitan Church Association
- Moravian
- National David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church Union
- National Spiritualist Association
- New Church of Mr. Emmanuel Swedenborg
- New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborg or “New Age” Church)
- Pentecostal Churches (Oneness/ Unitarian/Non-trinitarian)
- Peoples Church of Chicago
- Plymouth Brethren
- Quakers (“Society of Friends”) – **no baptism**
- Reunification Church (“Moonies”)
- Salvation Army
- Shakers (“United Society of Believers”) – **no baptism**
- Some communities of Mennonites, Morovians, of the Plymouth
- Spiritualist Church
- Swedenborg (New Age)/Swedenborgian (New Church)
- Unitarians
- Universal Emancipation Church
- Word Harvest



EASTERN CHURCHES IN COMMUNION WITH ROME

Baptism and Confirmation conferred in the Eastern Churches is **ALWAYS VALID**. It is sufficient to establish the fact that Baptism was administered. Valid Confirmation is always administered at the same time as Baptism. Usually, the child has also received First Communion at the time of Baptism.

The Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome include:

The Alexandrian Rite

- *The Coptic Catholic Church*
- *The Ethiopian Catholic Church*

The Antiochene Rite (West Syrian)

- *The Malankara (Malankarese) Catholic Church*
- *The Maronite Catholic Church*
- *The Syrian (Syriac) Catholic Church*

The Armenian Rite

- *The Armenian Holy Apostolic Church*

The Chaldean Rite (East Syrian)

- *The Chaldean Catholic Church*
- *The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church*

The Byzantine Rite

- *The Melkite Catholic Church*
- *The Byzantine Slovak Catholic Church*
- *The Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church*
- *The Albanian Catholic Church*
- *The Byelorussian Catholic Church*
- *The Bulgarian Catholic Church*
- *The Greek Catholic Church*
- *The Italo-Albanian Catholic Church*
- *The Byzantine Yugoslav Catholic Church*
- *The Russian Catholic Church*
- *The Byzantine-Romanian Catholic Church*
- *The Ruthenian Catholic Church*

Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome continued...

- Children who have celebrated the full initiation rite in the Eastern Church are to be further catechized concerning the sacrament of the Eucharist. The families should be encouraged to enroll them in the parish religious education program and to continue to bring their child to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



- If a person of any of the above rites wishes to join the Latin rite (Roman Catholic) they will need to obtain permission of the Holy See. This is to be done outside the OCIA – *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Please contact the Chancery for assistance in this matter.
- When a husband or wife is of a different rite, one may change to the rite of the other. If the marriage ends, the person who changed rites may return to their original rite.

Eastern Churches **NOT** in Communion with Rome:

- The initiation rites conferred by the Eastern Churches not in communion with Rome are considered valid rites. The churches included in this are any of the Orthodox Churches and the Assyrian Churches of the East (also known as the Nestorian Church).
- An individual who wishes to enter into the Roman Catholic Church from an Eastern Church not in communion with Rome does not become a Latin rite Catholic, but rather a member of the ritual rite indicated by their baptism. (e.g., a Russian Orthodox becomes a Russian Catholic; a Syrian Orthodox a Syrian Catholic, and so on...)
- The Roman Catholic Church recognizes all of the sacraments of the Eastern rites to be valid. A child receives all of the rites of initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation) when baptized so a person should never be reconfirmed. Instead, after catechesis, they would simply make a profession of faith (OCIA, 474).

Christian Baptism:

- It is important to read a baptismal certificate thoroughly. On occasion a certificate may read that the person has been baptized in the “holy catholic church”. This does not mean that they have been baptized Roman Catholic.
- The Roman Catholic norm for valid baptism must follow the proper matter and form. The “matter” is water baptism by immersion or pouring. The “form” is the Trinitarian formula (canons 849, 850; OCIA, 226). Always ensure that this has been followed.
- If the rituals or established customs of a church or community prescribe baptism by immersion, pouring, sprinkling together with the Trinitarian formula (in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit), doubt can only arise if it happens that the minister did not observe the regulations of his or her own church or community.

CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals from a Church with a Valid Baptism

If an individual is from a church with a **valid baptism** and they wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, they will need to make a Profession of Faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist after a suitable period of catechesis (OCIA, 400-504).

Individuals from a Church with an Invalid Baptism

If an individual is from a church with an **invalid or no baptism** and they wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, they will be treated as a catechumen and will need to enter into the steps and periods of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. They are fully initiated at the Easter Vigil (OCIA, 1-251).