



Reference List

Determining Baptismal Validity by Church of Origin

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 614-221-4640.

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 RCIA. 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. 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 (RCIA 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; RCIA 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.

The Church considers the validity of these church’s baptisms as follows:

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| • Adventist | Valid Baptism |
| • African Methodist Episcopal | Valid Baptism |
| • African Methodist Episcopal Zion | Valid Baptism |
| • American (United American) Catholic | Valid Baptism /Confirmation doubtful |
| • Amish | Valid Baptism |
| • Anglican | Valid Baptism |
| • Apostolic Church | Invalid Baptism |



Valid/Invalid Church Baptisms continued:

- Armenian Apostolic **Invalid Baptism**
- Assembly of God Valid Baptism
- Baha'i Faith **Invalid Baptism**
- Baptist Valid Baptism
- Bohemian Free Thinkers **Invalid Baptism**
- Chinese Catholic Baptism/Confirmation recognized
- Chinese Christian Valid Baptism
- Christadelphians **Invalid Baptism**
- Christian Community (Rudolf Steiner) **Invalid Baptism**
- Christian Fellowship Valid Baptism
- Christian and Missionary Alliance Valid Baptism
- Christian Scientist **Invalid Baptism**
- Church of Christ Valid Baptism
- Church of Divine Science **Invalid Baptism**
- Church of God Valid Baptism
- Church of the Brethren Valid Baptism
- Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) **Invalid Baptism**
- Church of the Nazarene Valid Baptism
- Church of the New Jerusalem **Invalid Baptism**
- Church of Scientology **Invalid Baptism**
- Church of the Universal Brotherhood (Doukhobors) **Invalid Baptism**
- Community of Pope Pius X (Lefebvre) Baptism/Confirmation recognized
- Congregational Church Valid Baptism
- Disciples of Christ Valid Baptism
- Dutch Reformed Church Valid Baptism
- Eastern Non-Catholics (Orthodox) Baptism/Confirmation recognized
- Episcopal Church Valid Baptism
- Evangelical Church of Covenant Valid Baptism
- Evangelical Churches Valid Baptism
- Evangelical United Brethren Valid Baptism
- International Council of Community Churches Valid Baptism
- Jehovah's Witnesses **Invalid Baptism**
- Liberal Catholic Church Valid Baptism
- Lutheran Valid Baptism
- Masons **Invalid Baptism**
- Mennonite Valid Baptism
- Methodist Valid Baptism
- Missionary Hill Church Valid Baptism
- Moravian Church Valid Baptism
- New Apostolic Church Valid Baptism
- New Church of Mr. Emmanuel Swedenborg **Invalid Baptism**
- Old Catholic Church Valid Baptism
- Old Roman Catholic Church Baptism/Confirmation recognized
- Old Roman Church Valid Baptism
- Orthodox (see Eastern above) Baptism/Confirmation recognized



Valid/Invalid Church Baptisms continued:

- Pentecostal Churches **Invalid Baptism**
- People's Church of Chicago **Invalid Baptism**
- Polish National Church (is Eastern Rite) Baptism/Confirmation recognized
- Presbyterian Valid Baptism
- Quakers (Society of Friends) **Invalid Baptism**
- Reformed Church Valid Baptism
- Salvation Army **Invalid Baptism**
- Seventh-Day Adventist Valid Baptism
- Shakers **Invalid Baptism**
- Unitarians/Universalists **Invalid Baptism**
- United Church of Canada Valid Baptism
- United Church of Christ Valid Baptism
- United Reformed Valid Baptism
- Uniting Church of Australia Valid Baptism
- Waldensian Valid Baptism
- World Harvest Church **Invalid Baptism**
- Zion 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 after a suitable period of catechesis. (RCIA, 400-504)

Valid Confirmations

If an individual is from a church with a valid baptism and confirmation and they wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, they will need to make a profession of faith only after a suitable period of catechesis. (RCIA, 473-504)

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 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. They are fully initiated at the Easter Vigil. (RCIA, 1-251)

Children

- If a child is not baptized and under the age of reason (7 years old), they may be baptized and enrolled into parish formation with children their own age and consequently receive Confirmation and Holy Eucharist with them.
- If they are older than 7 years of age, they are to enter the catechumenate for a period of no less than 1 year. They are fully initiated at the Easter Vigil.
- If a child's parents are from the Eastern rite, they remain the rite of their parents.
- Children of adults received into the Church who are under 7 years of age and validly baptized in another church in communion with the Church are to be enrolled in the parish religious education program and undergo sacramental preparation with others in their age group. When they make their first Communion, they will make a profession of faith with the other children. It is not necessary for them to add the statement found in the RCIA rite 491. Please note in the first Communion registry that they have made their profession of faith. All pertinent



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information about their baptism should be noted in the baptismal registry with a note that they made their profession of faith at their first Communion. Make sure to include the date.