

VALID OR INVALID BAPTISMS?

The following is a list of baptisms in a non-Catholic ecclesial community that are considered by the Roman Catholic Church as validly conferred, provided it is with 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 Roman Catholic Church does when baptizing.

- All Eastern non-Catholics (including all Orthodox Churches)
- Adventist
- African Methodist Episcopal
- Amish/Mennonite
- Anglican – Church of England
- Assembly of God
- Baptist
- Chinese Catholic Baptism and Confirmation are recognized
- Chinese Christian
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Christian Fellowship
- Church of the Brethren
- Church of Christ
- Church of God
- Church of the Nazarene
- Community of Pope Saint Pius X (Lefebvre) Baptism and Confirmation recognized
- Congregational
- Disciples of Christ
- Dutch Reformed
- Eastern Non-Catholics (Orthodox) Baptism and Confirmation recognized
- Episcopal
- Evangelical
- Evangelical Church of Covenant
- Evangelical United Brethren
- International Council of Community
- Liberal Catholic
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Missionary Hill
- New Apostolic Church
- Old Catholic
- Old Roman Catholic
- Polish National
- Presbyterian
- Reformed
- United Church
- United Church of Canada

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- United Church of Christ
- United Reformed
- United Church of Australia
- Waldensian
- Zion

**A LIST OF DOUBTFUL BAPTISMS CELEBRATED
IN A NON-CATHOLIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY**

The following communities have baptismal practices which are not uniform and are considered to be doubtful, requiring a careful investigation into each case. The Pastor can contact the church of baptism to inquire about the formula used.

- Mennonite
- Moravian
- Pentecostal
- Seventh Day Adventist

LIST OF INVALID BAPTISMS IN SOME NON-CATHOLIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

The following is a list (albeit incomplete) of baptisms considered to be invalid.

- All non-Christian groups and communities
(Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha '1 Faith, Vedanta Society)
- Amana Church Society
- American Ethical Union
- Apostolic Church (Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God)
- Apostolic Faith Mission
- Armenian Apostolic
- Bohemian Free Thinkers
- Brethren
- Children of God (The Family)
- Christadelphians
- Christian Community (disciples of Rudolph Steiner)
- Christian and Missionary alliance
- Christians of Universalist Brotherhood
- Church of Christ, Scientist ("Christian Scientist")
- Church of Divine Science
- Church of David's Band
- Church of Illumination
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints ("Mormons")
- Church of Revelation
- Church of the New Jerusalem
- Church of the Scientology
- Erieside Church
- General Assembly of Spiritualists

- Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association
- House of David Church
- Iglesia ni Cristo (Philippines – Nontrinitarian Christian church)
- Independent Church of Filipino Christians
- Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Masons/Freemasonry
- Metropolitan Church Association
- New Church of Mr. Emmanuel Swedenborg
- National David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church Union
- National Spiritualist Association
- New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborg or “New Age” Church)
- Peoples Church of Chicago
- Pentecostal Churches
- Plymouth Brethren
- Quakers (“Society of Friends”)
- Reunification Church (“Moonies”)
- Salvation Army
- Shakers (“United Society of Believers”)
- Some communities of Mennonites, Morovians, of the Plymouth
- Spiritualist Church
- Unitarians
- Universal Emancipation Church
- Word Harves

EASTERN CHURCHES IN COMMUNION WITH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Baptism and confirmation conferred in the Eastern Churches are always valid. It is sufficient to establish the fact that the Baptism was administered. Valid Confirmation is always administered at the same time as Baptism. Usually, the child also receives First Communion at the time of Baptism.

The Eastern Churches in Communion with Roman Catholic Church include:

- **The Alexandrian Rite** = The Coptic Catholic Church and The Ethiopian Catholic Church
- **The Antiochene Rite (West Syrian)** = The Malankara (Malankarese) Catholic Church, The Maronite Catholic Church, and The Syrian (Syriac) Catholic Church
- **The Armenian Rite** = The Armenian Holy Apostolic Church
- **The Chaldean Rite (East Syrian)** = The Chaldean Catholic Church and The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

- **The Byzantine Rite, also known as the Rite of Constantinople, includes:**
 - 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 Ukrainian Catholic Church,
 - The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and
 - The Ruthenian Catholic Church

NB: The initiation rites conferred by the Eastern Churches not in communion with Rome are considered valid rites. The churches included in this category are any of the Orthodox Churches and the Assyrian Churches of the East (also known as the Nestorian Church).

A faithful who wishes to enter into the Roman Catholic Church from an Eastern Church not in communion with Roman Catholic Church does not become a Latin rite Church, but rather a member of the ritual rite indicated by their baptism. For instance, a Russian Orthodox becomes a Russian Catholic; a Syrian Orthodox a Syrian Catholic, and so on. The Roman Catholic Church recognizes all 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**.

Also, it is important to read a baptismal certificate thoroughly. On occasion, a certificate may read that the person has been baptized Roman Catholic.

The Roman Catholic norm for valid baptism must follow the proper matter and form. The “matter” for baptism is water either by immersion or pouring. The “form” is the Trinitarian formula (cf. c. 849 and 850 CIC). Please, 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 the minister did not observe the regulations of his or her own church or community.