

Valid/ Invalid Baptisms & Confirmation

The following information is provided by the Office of Worship with the hope that it will help you in discerning the canonical status of your RCIA candidates.

Adventist	Valid Baptism
African Methodist Episcopal	Valid Baptism
Alexandrian: Coptic	Valid Baptism
Alexandrian: Ethiopian	Valid Baptism
American (United American)Catholic	Valid Baptism /Confirmation doubtful
Amish/ Mennonite	Valid Baptism
Anglican	Valid Baptism
Antiochian: Chaldean	Valid Baptism
Antiochian: Malabarese	Valid Baptism
Antiochian: Malankarese	Valid Baptism
Antiochian: Maronite	Valid Baptism
Antiochian: Syro-Antiochian	Valid Baptism
Apostolic Church	Without Valid Baptism
Armenian Apostolic	Valid Baptism
Assembly of God	Valid Baptism
Baptist	Valid Baptism
Bohemian Free Thinkers	Without Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Albanian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Belarusan	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Bulgarian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Croatian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Czech	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Greek	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Greek-Melkite	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Hungarian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Italo-Greek	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Romanian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Russian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Ruthenian	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Slovak	Valid Baptism
Byzantine: Ukranian	Valid Baptism
Chinese Catholic	Baptism/Confirmation recognized
Christadelphians	Without Valid Baptism
Christian and Missionary Alliance	May be valid
Christian Scientist	Without Valid Baptism
Church of Divine Science	Without Valid Baptism

Church of God	Valid Baptism
Church of the Brethren	Valid Baptism
Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)	Without Valid Baptism
Church of the Nazarene	Valid Baptism
Church of the New Jerusalem	Without Valid Baptism
Community of Pope Pius X (Lefebvre)	Baptism/Confirmation recognized
Congregational Church	Valid Baptism
Disciples of Christ	Valid Baptism
Eastern Non-Catholics (Orthodox)	Baptism/Confirmation recognized
Eastern Rite Catholics	Baptism/Confirmation recognized
Episcopal Church	Valid Baptism
Evangelical Church of Covenant	Valid Baptism
Evangelical Church of Covenant	Valid Baptism
Evangelical Churches	Valid Baptism
Evangelical United Brethren	Valid Baptism
Jehovah's Witnesses	Without Valid Baptism
Latin: Roman Catholic	Valid Baptism
Liberal Catholic Church	Valid Baptism
Lutheran	Valid Baptism
Masons	No baptism at all
Methodist	Valid 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
Pentecostal Churches [use Unitarian formula]	Without Valid Baptism
People's Church of Chicago	Without Valid Baptism
Polish National Church (is Eastern Rite)	Baptism/Confirmation recognized
Presbyterian	Valid Baptism
Quakers (Friends)	Without Valid Baptism
Reformed Church	Valid Baptism
Salvation Army	Without Valid Baptism
Unitarians/Universalists	Without Valid Baptism
United Church of Christ	Valid Baptism

BAPTISM IN OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS

BAPTISM IN PROTESTANT RELIGIONS

Most Protestant baptisms are recognized as valid baptisms. Some are not. It is very difficult to question the validity of a baptism because of an intention either on the part of the minister or on the part of the one being baptized. Water must be poured and the Trinitarian formula naming Father, Son, and Holy Spirit must be used.

BAPTISM IN THE EASTERN CHURCHES

Baptisms in any of the Eastern Churches, Catholic or Orthodox, are valid Baptisms. It is the tradition of those churches to chrismate (confirm) at Baptism; therefore, neither Baptism nor Confirmation is to be repeated since they are recognized as valid.

ADVENTISTS: Valid

Water baptism is by immersion with the Trinitarian formula. Baptism is given at the age of reason. A dedication ceremony is given to infants. The two ceremonies are separate. (Many Protestant religions have the dedication ceremony or other ceremony, which is not a baptism. If the church has the dedication ceremony, baptism is generally not conferred until the age of reason or until the approximate age of 13).

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL: Valid.

Baptism with water by sprinkling, pouring, or dunking. Trinitarian form is used. There is an open door ceremony, which is not baptism.

AMISH: Valid

This is coupled with Mennonites. No infant baptism. The rite of baptism seems valid.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Invalid

An affirmative decision has been granted in one case involving "baptism" in the apostolic church. The minister baptized according to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and not St. Matthew. The form used was: "We baptize you into the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive a gift of the Holy Ghost." No Trinitarian form was used.

THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD: Valid

A dedication ceremony is possible. Infants are not customarily baptized. Baptism through water takes place when a person is mature enough to understand its implications. The method of baptism is not outlined, but appears valid.

BAPTISTS: Valid

No infant baptism. There is a ceremony of dedication. Baptism takes place at the approximate age of 13.

BOHEMIAN FREE THINKERS: No Baptism

An affirmative decision was given in a case of this type in 1964. A name giving ceremony is had which is not baptism. There is no Trinitarian belief. No baptism of any kind is practiced.

CHRISTADELPHIANS: Invalid

Belief is in spiritual rebirth by immersion. Baptism appears invalid since there is no belief in a Trinity, but in one God, Jesus, who was the son of God, but not God the Son. There is no Trinitarian formula, since there is no belief in the Trinity.

CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE: May be valid

No belief in infant baptism, but only to those who give evidence of repentance and new birth. Baptism is seldom conferred before the age of 12. It is conferred by immersion. It is given upon the personal confession of Christ as the Savior of this person.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS: Invalid

The mother church of all Christian Science Churches states: "Baptism is an individual spiritual experience. It is not a religious rite or ceremony performed by an ordained minister or priest." The textbook states that it is a purification by spirit. A letter from the board of directors states there is no baptismal ritual in the Christian Science movement. In other words, they have no true baptism.

CHURCH OF DIVINE SCIENCE: Invalid

Apparently invalid baptism. The ceremony is a christening ceremony, but not one of baptism. There is no change brought about in the person who is blessed. The church does not believe in original sin, so that the child is blessed only when received into the church..

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: (Formerly called Dunkers) Valid

Baptism is made by triune immersion. The formula in Matthew is used.

CHURCH OF GOD: Valid

There is a public baby dedication with no sacramental significance. Baptism is conferred later by immersion and with the Trinitarian formula. Baptism is conferred when the individual asks for it.

DISCIPLES AND CHRISTIANS: Valid

There is a dedication service; no infant baptism; Trinitarian formula used in baptism by immersion at an older age. These churches are sometimes known as the Disciples of Christ.

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN: Valid

Members are not received into this church unless they have been baptized. Assurance of baptism is required before membership is extended. There is a dedication ceremony. Baptism by water is generally done by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. The Trinitarian form is used.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: Invalid

An affirmative decision was granted in such a case because of lack of proper form and intention on the part of the ministers. It appears that the Jehovah's Witnesses are fundamentalists, Unitarians. The Divinity of Christ is explicitly denied, as is the existence of the Holy Spirit as a person. In the ceremony of baptism there is a discourse. It is really a symbol of dedication rather than baptism. The person enters the water, but his name is not called out. No words or formula are pronounced while the person is submerged or immersed in the water. If matter and form are valid, the intention of the minister is to baptize the person into the Jehovah's Witness sect, thereby not intending that the person be baptized in the name of the triune God. This is evident since the Divinity of Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit are denied. These latter refer simply to a power exerted by Jehovah, who alone is God.

LATTER DAY SAINTS CHURCH (MORMON): Invalid

There is a dedication ceremony in which no water is used. Baptism takes place by immersion, but not before the age of 8. The Vatican Congregation on the Doctrine of the Faith in 2001 declared this baptism invalid.

MENNONITES: Valid

See Amish

MORMON: Invalid

See Latter Day Saints

PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES: Invalid

Invalid baptism because of Unitarian formula. This is found in the official book of the Pentecostal Assembly. Yet baptism is considered necessary for salvation and is done by immersion.

SALVATION ARMY: No Baptism

The Salvation Army Headquarters state they do not have a baptismal service, but a religious ceremony called a dedication service of children, and also a cradle role. A certificate is issued for the dedication service, but is not to be confused with water baptism.

UNIVERSALISTS: Invalid

Universalists and Unitarians voted to merge in May of 1960, with the union taking effect in 1961. Even before that time, Universalists favored ultimate salvation and rejected original sin. With time, they denied the Trinity and the Divinity of Jesus.

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