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.

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| Adventist | Valid Baptism |
| African Methodist Episcopal | Valid Baptism |
| Alexandrian: Coptic | Valid Baptism |
| Alexandrian: Ethiopian  American (United American)Catholic | Valid Baptism  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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