



Valid and Non-Valid Baptisms Recognized by the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church recognizes the validity of Baptism by other Christian ecclesial communities when the proper **matter** and **form** are used and when both the baptizing minister and the person being baptized have the proper intention (CIC 869 § 2). Water is poured or the one to be baptized is immersed in water (**the matter**) (CIC 854), and the minister says, "*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" (**the form**) (CIC 850). The minister's intention simply "to baptize" and the recipient's intention (or, if an infant or child, his or her parents' and godparents' intention in his or her name), simply "to be baptized" is sufficient to meet this intention, even if none of the parties have a full theological understanding of the sacrament of Baptism.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is necessary to consider the validity and non-validity of each Non Catholic Baptism individually. Many ecclesial communities vary in regard to their baptismal practices even within a single named ecclesial community. The list below offers a general overview of those ecclesial communities that possess valid and non-valid baptisms.

The following are some non-Catholic ecclesial communities without valid Baptisms:

- ✓ Apostolic Church
- ✓ Bohemian Free Thinkers
- ✓ Christadelphians
- ✓ Christian Community (Rudolf Steiner)
- ✓ Christian Scientists
- ✓ Church of Divine Science
- ✓ Jehovah's Witnesses
- ✓ Masons (no baptism at all)
- ✓ Mormons
- ✓ Church of the new Jerusalem
- ✓ Pentecostal churches
- ✓ Peoples Church of Chicago
- ✓ Quakers
- ✓ Salvation Army
- ✓ Unitarians

The following are some non-Catholic Churches that have valid baptisms:

- ✓ All Eastern non-Catholics (Orthodox)
- ✓ Adventists
- ✓ African Methodist Episcopal
- ✓ Amish
- ✓ Anglican
- ✓ Assembly of God
- ✓ Baptists
- ✓ Christian and Missionary Alliance
- ✓ Church of the Brethren
- ✓ Church of God
- ✓ Congregational Church
- ✓ Disciples of Christ
- ✓ Episcopalians
- ✓ Evangelical United Brethren
- ✓ Evangelical Churches
- ✓ Liberal Catholic Church
- ✓ Lutherans
- ✓ Methodists
- ✓ Church of the Nazarene
- ✓ Old Catholics
- ✓ Old Roman Catholics
- ✓ Polish National Church
- ✓ Presbyterian Church
- ✓ Reformed Churches
- ✓ United Church of Christ