

VALIDITY OF BAPTISM

VALID BAPTISMS

(unless there exists a specific proof to the contrary)

African Methodist Episcopal
 Amish
 Anglican/Church of England/Episcopalian
 Anglican Broad Church
 Assembly of God
 Assyrian Church of the East
 Baptist (13 years of age and up)
 Christian Reformed Church
 Church of the Brethren
 Church of Christ
 Church of God
 Church of the Nazarene
 Congregational Church
 Disciples of Christ / Disciples and Christians
 Eastern/Oriental (monophysite)
 Evangelical Churches
 Evangelical Untied Brethren
 Foursquare Gospel Church
 Liberal Catholic Church
 Lutheran
 Methodist (Free)
 National Churches:
 • Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association
 • Philippine National Church
 • Polish National Church (member of the Utrecht)
 Old Catholic
 Old Catholic Church of the Union of Utrecht
 Old Roman Catholic
 Orthodox Churches, Easter / Oriental (monophysite)
 Presbyterian Church
 Presbyterian Church in Canada
 Reformed Church
 Society of St. Pius X
 Swedish Covenant Church
 United Church of Canada
 United Church of Christ
 United Methodist Church of the Philippines
 United Reformed
 Uniting Church in Australia
 Waldensian
 Zion

INVALID BAPTISMS

Amana Church Society
 Apostolic Church
 American Ethical Union
 Apostolic Church
 Apostolic Faith Mission
 Bohemian Free Thinkers
 Children of God
 Christadelphians
 Christian Community (Rudolph Steiner)
 Christians of the Universal Brotherhood (Doukhobors)
 Church of Daniels Band
 Church of Divine Science
 Church of Illumination
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
 Church of the Lord Jesus (Winona, ON)
 Church of the New Jerusalem / Swedenborgian Church
 Church of Revelation
 Church of Scientology / Christian Scientists
 Erieside Church
 General Assembly of Spiritualists
 Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association
 House of David Church
 Iglesia ni Kristo (Philippines)
 Independent Church of Filipinio Christians
 Jehovah's Witness (Watchtower Society)
 National David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church Union
 National Spiritualist Association
 New Jerusalem Church
 People's Church of Chicago
 Reunification Church (Moonies)
 Shakers
 Spiritualist Church
 The New Church
 Unitarians / Unitarian Universalists
 United Society of Believers
 Universal Emancipation Church



NO BAPTISM

First Church of Christ, Scientist (Mary Baker Eddy)
Masons/Free Masons
Salvation Army
Quakers Society of Friends

BAPTISM – UNCERTAIN VALIDITY

Adventists (Seventh-Day)
Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene)
Christian and Missionary Alliance
Hutterites
Mennonites
Metropolitan Community Church
Moravian
Pentecostal Churches
Philippines Independent Church/Aglipayan (valid after 1961)
Worldwide Church of God (invalid before mid-1990s)
Plymouth Brethren

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISMAL VALIDITY

1. The matter and the form:

- Application of true water – whether by pouring or immersion
- Use of the Trinitarian formula, pronounced by the same minister who simultaneously administers the water: *“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

2. The intention of the minister to do what the Church does (this does not necessarily mean holding the Catholic doctrine of Baptism).

3. The intent/consent of the person receiving Baptism (age of reason), or of the parents asking for Baptism for their child.

FACTORS THAT WOULD INVALIDATE A BAPTISM INCLUDE:

- The use of a substance other than water
- An action other than the pouring of water or immersion in water (e.g. the use of sprinkling, when the water does not clearly touch the skin of the person being baptized)
- The use of a formula which changes or omits the names of the Persons of the Trinity, such as “I baptize you in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier”
- Having one person pour the water while another person pronounces the words of the formula
- Baptism in a community whose beliefs are so far removed from Trinitarian Faith (e.g. Mormonism) that the minister does not truly intend Christian baptism
- A lack of consent to be baptized on the part of someone who has reached the age of reason.



* In cases of doubt, the pastor or his delegate is to inquire into the individual circumstances of the Baptism to verify its validity. This could be done by querying the baptized person (if baptized as an adult), the parents, the baptizing minister, or a witness.

If after an extensive inquiry, there remains a serious, positive, and probable **doubt** that the Baptism of a person is valid, **contact the Chancery Office** before proceeding with a Conditional Baptism.

REFERENCES

1. *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes*, 3rd edition, 2006, Wilson & Lafleur, Montreal, PQ, 3.1.1 – 3.1.3.
2. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Letter, 05 June 2001.
3. Commission on Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Forum in Clergy Report April/May 1996, Archdiocese of New York.
4. Archdiocese of Vancouver Guidelines, 31 May 2001
5. Introductory Training for Advocates, Archdiocese of Seattle, Office of Tribunal, 2007.
6. Canonical Handbook for Parish Secretaries, Office of Canonical Services, Diocese of London, November 2011.
7. Guidelines for Recognition of Baptisms, CCCB Episcopal Commissions for Doctrine, October 2015.

