

REFERENCE LIST OF BAPTISMAL CHURCHES

Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome

There can be no doubt cast upon the validity of Baptism and Confirmation conferred in the Eastern Churches. It is sufficient to establish the fact that Baptism was administered. Valid Confirmation is always administered at the same time as Baptism. In some situations, the child has also received First Communion at the time of Baptism. The Eastern Churches in Communion with Rome, as listed in the Archdiocese of Toronto's Directory include:

Alexandrian Rite

The Coptic Catholic Church
The Ethiopian Catholic Church

Antiochene Rite (West Syrian)

The Malankara (Malankarese) Catholic Church
The Maronite Catholic Church
The Syrian (Syriac) Catholic Church

Armenian Rite

The Armenian Holy Apostolic Church

Chaldean Rite (East Syrian)

The Chaldean Catholic Church
The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Byzantine Rite

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 Ruthenian Catholic Church

Children who have celebrated the full initiation rite in the Eastern Church are to be further catechized concerning the sacrament of the Eucharist. The families may be encouraged to use a family resource book at home and to continue the practice of bringing their child to the Table of the Lord.

Eastern Churches Not in Communion with Rome

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

A child initiated in an Eastern Church not in communion with Rome does not celebrate the sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church except as allowed for by Canon 844 (§3 Catholic ministers may lawfully administer the sacraments of Penance, the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick to members of the Eastern Churches not in full communion with the Catholic Church, if they spontaneously ask for them and are properly disposed. The same applies to members of other Churches, which the Apostolic See judges to be in the same position as the aforesaid Eastern Churches so far as the sacraments are concerned.)

Christian Baptism

It is important to read a Baptismal Certificate thoroughly. On occasion, a certificate from various churches will read that the person has been baptised in the “holy, catholic church”. This does not mean that the child is baptised Roman Catholic. Children who are baptized in another tradition must be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church before celebrating the sacraments.

If the rituals or established customs of a church or community prescribe Baptism by immersion, pouring or 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 it happens that the minister did not observe the regulations of his or her own Church or community.

The Roman Catholic Church normally recognizes the validity of Baptisms conferred in the following Churches and ecclesial communities:

Anglican Churches
Lutheran Churches
Old Catholic Churches

Presbyterian Churches
Polish National Catholic Church

Caution should be exercised to ensure that the proper matter and form were used in Baptisms conferred in any of the following Churches and ecclesial communities:

Adventist Churches
Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene)
Armenian Evangelical Church
Associated Gospel Churches
Baptist Churches
Bible Holiness Movement
Brethren in Christ Church
Christian and Missionary Alliance
Christian Brethren (Plymouth Brethren)
Disciples of Christ Christian Church
Church of God
Church of the Nazarene
Church of Christ
Congregational Christian Church
Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada
Evangelical Free Church of Canada
General Church of the New Jerusalem
Gospel Missionary Association
Independent Holiness Church

Methodist Churches
Evangelical Church in Canada
Wesleyan Church
Mennonite Churches
Missionary Church of Canada
Moravian Church
New Apostolic Church
Ontario Old Roman Catholic Church
Pentecostal Churches
Philippine Independent Church
Plymouth Brethren (Christian Brethren)
Reformed Episcopal Church
Reformed Churches:
Christian Reformed Church
The United Church of Canada
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Standard Church of America
The United Church of Canada
United Brethren in Christ (Zion Church)

The Roman Catholic Church does not recognize the rite of initiation or dedication conferred or celebrated as valid Baptism in the following communities:

Bahai Faith
Christadelphians
Christian Science
Church of the Lord Jesus Christ (Winona, Ontario)
Doukhobers
Jehovah's Witnesses

Masons
Metropolitan Community Church
Mormon Church (Latter Day Saints)
Society of Friends (Quakers)
Salvation Army
Unitarian Universalist

This list is not exhaustive. If you have questions, contact the office of the Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs.