

Valid Baptism
advisory listing prepared by the Metropolitan Tribunal of Detroit

Churches and Ecclesial Communions that Celebrate Valid Baptism

All Eastern Non-Catholic Churches	Old Roman Catholic Church	Detroit World Outreach
Polish National Church	Old Catholic Church	Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of
Episcopalians – Anglicans	Lutherans	Latter Day Saints (known since 2001
Presbyterians	Baptists	as the Community of Christ)
Evangelical United Brethren	Methodists	Kensington Church
Church of the Brethren	Reformed Church	
Disciples of Christ	Congregationalist Churches	
Evangelical Churches	Assembly of God	
Liberal Catholics Church	Amish	
Church of the Nazarene	Society of St. Pius X (not formally	
African Methodist Episcopal	determined to be in schism at	
United Church of Christ	this point)	
Church of God		

Groups that *Do Not* Celebrate Baptism or Valid Baptism

Bohemian Free Thinkers	Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Science)
Christina and Missionary Alliance	Jehovah's Witnesses
Church of Divine Science	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Peoples Church of Chicago	Quakers (Society of Friends)
Salvation Army	Masons
Church of Scientology	The Way
Christadelphians	Church of the New Jerusalem
Unitarian Universalists	Church of Universal Brotherhood
Bethesda Christian Church	<i>Moravian*</i>
Unification Church ("Moonies")	<i>Mennonites*</i>
New Age	<i>7th Day Adventists*</i>
Apostolic Church (not to be confused	<i>Pentecostal*</i>
with Armenian Apostolic Church)	Other world religions (Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, etc.)
Christian Scientists	

The Validity of Baptism is tested by three criteria:

1. Real water must be used and administer by pouring or immersion (or sprinkling).
2. The formula of the Blessed Trinity must be recited.
3. The minister of baptism must intend to perform the baptism.
This intention must be informed by a correct understanding of the Christian faith. As well, in the baptism of adults, the person must want baptism.

This list is not exhaustive, nor is it authoritative, it is merely a guide. A thorough inquiry should be made before determining whether a baptism is valid or not (c. 869). This inquiry should include asking the person who was baptized what their memories of the ceremony are, or, in the case of infant baptism, inquiring of parents or relatives who were actually present at the baptism. Many ecclesial communities also perform dedication ceremonies for infants, which are not the same as a baptism. Only after a serious inquiry, if doubt remains, should recourse be had to a conditional baptism.

This list will be revised and updated as information is made available. Please check for the latest update: **7/28/2010**

* " [...] baptism is doubtful, and for which is required an investigation into each case [...]" HUELS, John M., *The Pastoral Companion*, Franciscan Press, Quincy, Ill., 2003, p. 332.