

Paths toward Initiation or Welcome to Full Communion for Adults

Individuals admitted to the catechumenate or actively preparing for full communion must be free of any impediment to initiation. Common impediments arise from the status of marriages made anytime, anywhere, to anyone, and in any kind of ceremony. Out of pastoral sensitivities, impediments must be resolved at the outset of the formation process so as not to cause the person hurt when it's discovered initiation will be delayed or cause scandal in faith community because someone in an irregular marriage is admitted to the Church while unable to validly share in holy Communion.

Baptismal Status	Rites and Sacraments Needed	Formation Required	When Celebrate	Celebrant
Never Baptized	<i>Rite of Acceptance, Rite of Election, Three Scrutinies</i> Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist	RCIA Catechumen - process described in Part I of the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> (RCIA) <i>Ideally at least 12 months of prayer, learning, engagement in parish life and discernment</i>	Easter Vigil	Pastor/Admin
Baptized Non-Catholic	Reconciliation <i>Celebration of Reception</i> (Profession of Faith) Confirmation and Eucharist	RCIA Candidate – typically 6 to 12 months of formation Part II.5 of the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i> (RCIA)	Parish when determined to be ready	Pastor/Admin
Baptized, Uncatechized Catholic	Reconciliation Confirmation and Eucharist	Candidate - typically 6 to 12 months of formation similar to that of a baptized non-Catholic, though does not make a profession of faith or celebrate the rite of reception	Easter Vigil or Diocesan Celebration	Pastor/Admin Bishop
Baptized Catholic who already received first holy Communion	Celebrate Reconciliation Confirmation	Confirmation Candidate - Participate in age and time appropriate formation for confirmation, typically at least 6 months of formation	Diocesan Celebration or Easter Vigil	Bishop Pastor/Admin

Contact the diocesan Canonical Services Office (207-773-6471) for guidance in questions about baptismal validity or possible remedies for impediments.

