

## ***Paths toward Initiation or Welcome to Full Communion for Adults (ages 16\* and older)***

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.

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

<b>Baptismal Status</b>	<b>Rites and Sacraments Needed</b>	<b>Formation Required</b>	<b>When Celebrate</b>	<b>Celebrant</b>
<b>Never Baptized</b>	<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 (RCIA)</i> <i>Ideally at least 12 months of prayer, learning, engagement in parish life and discernment</i>	Easter Vigil	Pastor/Admin
<b>Baptized Non-Catholic</b>	Reconciliation <i>Celebration of Reception (Profession of Faith)</i> Confirmation and Eucharist	RCIA Candidate – typically 6 to 12 months of formation Part II.5 of the <i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)</i>	Parish when determined to be ready	Pastor/Admin
<b>Baptized, Uncatechized Catholic</b>	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	Diocesan Celebration  Easter Vigil (by exception)	Bishop  Pastor/Admin (by exception)
<b>Baptized Catholic who already received first holy Communion</b>	Celebrate Reconciliation Confirmation	Confirmation Candidate - Participate in age and time appropriate formation for confirmation, typically at least 6 months of formation	Diocesan Celebration  Easter Vigil (by exception)	Bishop  Pastor/Admin (by exception)

Only a pastor who has direct, personal knowledge of a catechumen or candidate has the authority to make decisions about the readiness to receive or necessity to defer reception of a sacrament. Such decisions should be made in consultation with those involved in formation, though the final determination cannot be made by a sacrament coordinator or initiation team alone.



\* STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: **Initiation Sacraments are only to be celebrated in parish churches.**

1. **Unbaptized students** are to receive baptism, confirmation, and First Communion in the parish where they live. **It is not possible to do baptisms in schools.** The school priests can minister the three sacraments in a parish church with the permission of the pastor of that place *and* the pastor of the where the students live.
2. **Baptized Non-Catholic students** are to be received into full communion and be confirmed and make first communion in the parish where they live. The school priests can do this with the permission of the Pastor where they live and the pastor of the place where it happens.
3. **Baptized Catholic students** who need confirmation or confirmation and First Communion should either join in the celebration in the parish where they live or participate in a regional celebration of Confirmation for Catholic Teens and Adults. The Bishop does not like delegating other priests to do this unless there is some necessity. The Bishop *will not* baptize students at a parish or regional celebration. The Bishop will not admit students to full communion at a parish or regional celebration of confirmation and First Communion. In other words, a Rite of Reception *will not* be part of these celebrations for Baptized Catholics.

