

## How does a Baptized Christian Become Catholic?

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Christians baptized in other denominations who wish to become members of the Catholic Church celebrate the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. This is a new ritual in the Catholic Church, added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century after Vatican Council II (1962-65). The Rite of Reception may be celebrated on any Sunday, when the person is ready.

The Catholic Church recognizes the baptism of other churches or Christian communities. A Christian does not get baptized again when they become a Catholic. Their new life as a Catholic builds upon the baptism they already have, and the Christian life they already live.

That is why this simple rite begins with the baptized Christian joining the community at Mass in reciting the Nicene Creed, as we do every Sunday. The Nicene Creed is based on the questions posed at baptism, professing faith in God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. In the Rite of Reception into Full Communion, reciting the Creed together even before the person becomes Catholic is an affirmation of the common Christian beliefs and baptism that we already share.

Following the Creed, the candidate for full communion makes a statement professing faith in what the Catholic Church teaches to be revealed by God. With this statement, the person becomes a Catholic.

The candidate then receives the strengthening grace of the Holy Spirit with the sacrament of confirmation, accompanied by their sponsor. Finally, he or she becomes one with the Catholic Church by receiving communion – the sign of the Church's unity.

Each candidate for full communion received a spiritual and doctrinal preparation according to their own needs, depending on their background as a Christian and their experience belonging to a church.