Introduction to Latin

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Pronunciation Key

Combinations of vowels:
  au sounds like "ow" as in cow practice: laudo
  ae sounds like "ay" as in pray practice: caelum
  oe sounds like "ay" as in pray practice: proelium

Most Latin consonants sound the same as in English the exceptions are:
  c when placed before e, i, ae, & oe pronounce like "ch" in charity practice: caelum
  c when placed before other letters pronounce like "c" in cut practice: clamo
  g when placed before e, i, ae, & oe pronounce like "g" in germ practice: regina
  g when placed before other letters pronounce like "g" in go practice: toga
  gn pronounce like "gn" in lasagna practice: pugno
  j pronounce like "y" in yet practice: Jesus
  s pronounce like "s" in sing (never like z) practice: tres

Latin pronunciation.
The Latin alphabet does not have a "w". Christian Latin vowels usually sound like this:
  a sounds like "ah" as in father practice: ambulo
  e sounds like "ay" as in they practice: deus
  i sounds like "ee" as in machine practice: via
  o sounds like "oh" as in no practice: toga
  u sounds like "oo" as in rule practice: luna
  se pronounce like "sh" in she practice: discipulus
  t pronounce like "tsee" when followed by i and a vowel practice: etiam
Hello (to 1 person): Salve (Sal-vay)

Hello (to more than 1 person): Salvete (Sal-vay-tay)

Good-bye (to 1 person): Vale (Vah-lay)

Good-bye (to more than 1 person): Valete (Vah-lay-tay)

**The Sign of the Cross / Signum Crucis**

| In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. |
| In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen. |
Hello (to 1 person): Salve (*Sal*-vay)

Hello (to more than 1 person): Salvete (*Sal*-vay-tay)

Numbers 1-5

1 (one)  Unus (oo-noos)
2 (two)  Duo (doo-oh)
3 (three)  Tres (trays)
4 (four)  Quattuor (qwa-tour)
5 (five)  Quinque (qwin-qway)

Good-bye (to 1 person): Vale (*Vah*-lay)

Good-bye (to more than 1 person): Valete (*Vah*-lay-tay)
Hello (to 1 person): Salve (*Sal-vay*)

Hello (to more than 1 person): Salvete (*Sal-vay-tay*)

Numbers 6-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Roman Numeral</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 (six)</td>
<td>Sex (sayx)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (seven)</td>
<td>Septem (sep-tum)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (eight)</td>
<td>Octo (ak-toe)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (nine)</td>
<td>Novem (no-vem)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (ten)</td>
<td>Decem (day-chem)</td>
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Good-bye (to 1 person): Vale (*Vah-lay*)

Good-bye (to more than 1 person): Valete (*Vah-lay-tay*)
History of Latin

753 B.C. – This is the traditional date for the founding of Rome. At this time Latin is the language spoken by thousands of people in and near Rome.

250-100 B.C. – The Romans are conquering the Mediterranean region and bringing their Latin language with them.

100 B.C. – 150 A.D. – The Latin language becomes fixed (the meanings of words will never change).

200-255 – Although the Roman Empire is beginning to crumble, those Greek speaking citizens still use Latin for official documents and business.

600-755 – Very few people outside of the Catholic Church can read or write. Latin remains in use within The Church, but it is now considered a dead language.

1100-1300 – Arabs are conquering North Africa and Spain and spread a revival of education especially of the Latin language. Universities taught that all writing should be done in Latin and this lasted until the 20th century.

Today – Latin remains the official language of the Roman Catholic Church. Vatican City (a recognized country) uses Latin as its official language. All documents, newspapers and even ATMs in Vatican City use Latin text. Encyclicals and other papal documents are still written in Latin before they are translated into other languages.

Why Study Latin?

Each of the world’s major religions has their own sacred language (Judaism – Hebrew, Islam – Arabic, Hinduism – Sanskrit). Roman Catholic Christianity also has its own sacred language for the past 1200 years – Latin. Latin unites Catholics with one language. After all Christ himself desired that all people be as one.

Because Latin is a dead language, the meaning of its words cannot be changed. In English, words are always changing in meaning which makes it quite difficult to learn.

In truth, Latin is not a dead language since new words have been added to keep up with technology not to mention it is the official language of a country.

Some of our sons will become priests, bishops or even cardinals. These men will meet in councils and even conclaves where Latin is spoken. Teaching our children some Latin gives them a boost for their future, wherever that may take them.

Research shows that students with an understanding of Latin score higher on SAT tests.
For those students who are currently altar servers or to those students who one day aspire to be altar servers, Father Peck would like you to fully participate in this customary Latin prayer at the conclusion of the Mass. At the end of Mass, the priest together with the altar servers will face the crucifix.

The priest says:
Prosit (pro-sit) which means “may it be profitable to our souls”

The servers reply: Omnibus et singulus (ohm-ne-bus et sing-gu-lus) which means “may it be for each and every one”.

Finally, each will make a solemn bow towards Christ on the crucifix and this concludes the prayer.
The **sacristy** is a room in the church set near the altar. The **sacristan** is the person in charge of the sacristy, preparing the sacred vessels and vestments for the Mass. These words come from the Latin “sancte” or “sanctus” which mean **holy**. The sacristy is to be a quiet and sacred room, **holy** and deserving of reverence.

Sancte (sangk-tā)  Sanctus (sangk-toos)  meaning for both: **holy**

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**Tabernacle** comes from the Latin *tabernaculum*, meaning tent. The tabernacle was a movable tent-like sanctuary, belonging to the Hebrews. When Solomon completed his temple, the tabernacle was transferred to this permanent temple. The tabernacle was erected as the dwelling place of God. Today, the tabernacle certainly is the dwelling place of God, as the Blessed Sacrament is preserved within the tabernacle outside of Mass. The tabernacle should be placed at a place befitting its importance, and near the altar.

Tabernaculum (tah-bare-nah-koo-loom)  meaning: **tent**

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Have you noticed the small glass bowl on the tabernacle? This is called a **lavabo dish**. Lavabo is Latin for *I wash*. (Hint: Lavatory aka washroom). In preparation for the celebration of the Mass, it is customary for the priest to cleanse his fingers. At this time he prays these words in Latin:

Lavabo inter innocents (lah-vah-bō) (een-tayr) (ee-no-sents)  
meaning: *I wash my hands in innocence* from Psalm 26:6

This cleansing is meant to be spiritual as well as physical.
The Our Father / Pater Noster

Week 1

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Pater Noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur Nomen tuum.

Week 2

Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Adveniat regnum tuum.
Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra.

Week 3

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Panem nostrum quotidiam da nobis hodie, et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.

Week 4

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Et ne nos inducas in tentationem, sed libera nos a malo. Amen

Each week add to what was learned the previous week. Blessings!
Common Latin Words

**Gratia** – Thank you

**Optime** – Excellent

**Pessime** – Very bad

**Magister** – Teacher (male)

**Magistra** – Teacher (female)

**Discipulus** - Student

“sc” has a “sh” sound

**Discipuli** – Students

**Repetite** – Repeat (to many)

**Mater** - Mother

**Pater** – Father

**Frater** - Brother

**Soror** – Sister

**Amicus** – Friend

**Caelum, Caeli** – Heaven, sky

**Terra** - Earth

**Ecclesia** – Church

**Sanctus, Sancta, Sanctum** – Holy

**Pax, Pacis** – Peace

**Veritas** – Truth

**Deus** - God
**Common Latin Phrases**

**Alma Mater** – Nurturing mother

**Amabo** – Please be so good

**Carpe diem** - *Seize the day*

**De nihilo nihil** - *Nothing comes from nothing*

**Deo gratias** – *Thanks be to God*

**Die dulci freure** - *Have a nice day*

**Docendo discitur** - *It is learned by teaching*

**Dominus vobiscum** - *May the Lord be with you*

**Ego amo te** – *I love you*

**Esto Perpetua** - *Let it be forever*

**In spiritu et veritate** - *In spirit and truth*

**Mea culpa** - *My fault*

**Miles Christi sum** – *I am a soldier of Christ*

**Non sibi sed patriae!** - *Not for self, but country* (US Navy Motto)

**O diem praeclarum!** - *Oh, what a beautiful day!*

**Pax tecum** - *May peace be with you* (Singular)

**Pax vobiscum** - *May peace be with you* (Plural)

**Quomodo vales** - *How are you?*

**Sedete** – *Sit down* (to many)

**Semper fidelis** - *Always faithful* (US Marines Motto)

**Semper paratus** - *Always ready* (US Coast Guard Motto)

**Totus Tuus** – *All yours* (motto of Pope John Paul II)

**Uno Ab Alto** - *One over all* (US Air Force Motto)

**Vade in pace** - *Go in peace* (Roman way of saying goodbye)

**Veni, vidi, vici** - *I came, I saw, I conquered*
Latin for Advent and Christmas

Adventus – Advent (means “coming” or “arrival”)
Ahd-vayn-toos

“Gaudete in Domino semper” – The first words (in Latin) of the opening antiphon for the third Sunday of Advent, which is why that Sunday is referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This means, “Rejoice in the Lord always”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hail Mary</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ave Maria</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.</td>
<td>Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blessed art thou amongst women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.</td>
<td>Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</td>
<td>Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hail Mary in Latin *sounds like*:

Ah-vay Maria, grah-tzia play-nah, Doh-mee-nous tay-koom.


Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

It is said that Pope Sergius I (687-701) introduced the Agnus Dei to the Mass based upon John 1: 29. The Agnus Dei is sung or spoken during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. During the Agnus Dei, the priest is to beat his fist against his heart at the words, “miserere nobis” and “dona nobis pacem” meaning “have mercy on us” and “grant us peace”.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Sounds like:
Ahn-yous day-ee, que toe-lees pay-kah-tah moon-dee, mees-ah-rayr-ay no-bees
Ahn-yous day-ee, que toe-lees pay-kah-tah moon-dee, mees-ah-rayr-ay no-bees
Ahn-yous day-ee, que toe-lees pay-kah-tah moon-dee, doh-nah no-bees pah-chem

Means:
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.
The Glory Be - Doxologia Minor

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen

Gloria Patri,
et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc,
et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen

Sounds like:

Glo-ree-ah Pah-tree,
ate Fee-lee-oh,
ate Spee-ree-too-ee Sang-toh.
See-koot are-aht een preen-cee-pee-oh,
ate nungk,
ate sem-per,
ate in see-koo-lah see-koo-loh-room.
Amen