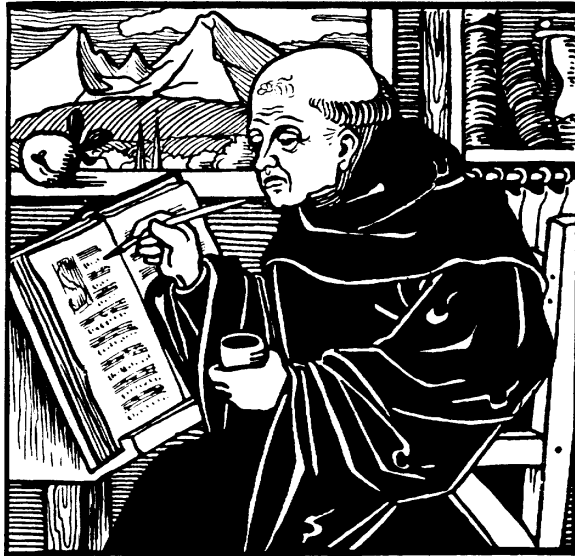


# Scriptural Roots of Catholic Beliefs



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Our Lady of the Wayside Ministry Fair

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*One of the great pleasures of life since Vatican II is ecumenical dialogue. Discussing God's Word is one of the holiest things Catholics and Protestants can do together. As a Catholic who loves to discuss the Bible, I have often been asked where we Catholics find our beliefs. This mini-Concordance is a little "cheat-sheet" I made to keep in the back of my Bible. I hope you find it useful. Feel free to share it with other people and to let me know how to improve it.*

*Of course, all Catholic teaching is consistent with God's word in Scripture. **But nowhere in scripture does it say that scripture is the final authority for our faith.** Jesus himself (Mt 23:2-3) and Paul, too (1 Cor 10:4), based teachings on Jewish oral tradition. Jesus didn't say, "Go ye into the whole world and write books." Instead, he instructed his disciples to celebrate the sacraments and pass on the oral tradition He had begun. Paul said "All scripture is written for your instruction," but he didn't say that all instruction is to be found in scripture. Quite the contrary, he said, "Hold fast to the traditions you received from us, either by our word or by letter" (2 Thessalonians 2:15). It is the church that gathered and preserved, and rightly interprets, the Scriptures.*

*The Holy Spirit who guides the church, ensuring that the gates of hell will not prevail against it, is the Living Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit continues to form and shape and inspire and purify the church. And, as we read in Matthew 16:18, Jesus didn't say "On this book I will build my church." He said to Peter, "You are Rock, and on this Rock I will build my church." May our unity with the Rock be the firm foundation of all our discussion of God's holy Word, and may God's Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, unite all Christians—and all mankind—in the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life and the cup of Salvation.*

**Angels**, involved with our salvation, with saints: Rv 5:8; veneration of: Jos 5:14, Dan 8:17, Tob 12:16, cf. Mt 18:10; Jesus availed himself of services of saints and angels: Mt 4:11, Lk 22:43, Mk 9:2. *See also*: Saints

**Apostolic succession**: *See Succession, see also Church, hierarchy, authority, Peter*

**Assumption**

Enoch: Gen 5:24, Heb 11:4; Elijah: 2 Kg 2:1-13; see Rv 12:1-2:5

**Authority, apostolic**: bind & loose: Matt 16:18; 18:18

**Baptism**,

efficacy of: Jn 3:5; Rom 6:3; 1 Pt 3:21; Acts 2:38; 22:16

Baptism of desire Acts 10:44-48

**Baptism, infant**

Cf. Circumcision: covenant sign to children of believers: Col 2:11-12; Gen 17:12-14; Acts 2:38-39; cf. Lk 18:15-17

In practice: Acts 16:15, 31-34; 1 Cor 1:16

**Bible**, vs. private interpretation of

2 Thess 2:15; Prov 3:5-6; See also

Magisterium

**Birth control**

Gen 38:6-10, cf. v. 26 (Judah not killed for same intention but w/o act); Romans 1:26; See also Eph 5:32; Ps 127:3-5, Gen 30:22

**Body, appropriate to worship God with our body**

1 Cor 6:19-20, Rom 8:20, 1 Cor 6:15

**Brother**

Lot as Abraham's brother Gn 14:4, though he son of Aran Gen 11:26-28

Jacob as brother of his uncle Laban Gen 29:15

cousins as brethren: 1 Chron 23:21-22;

kinsmen as brethren: Dt. 23:7, 2 Esd 5:7; Jer

34:9; 2 Kings 10:13-14; friends as brethren: 2

Sam 1:26; 1 Kings 9:13, 20:32; ally as brother

Amos 1:9

**"Brothers" of Jesus**, *See Also Virginity of Mary*

Cf. Mt 13:55: brothers James, Joses, Simon, Judas

James and Joses the sons of Alphaeus; Mk 15:40, Lk: 6:15-16

Jn 19: 25: Mary, sister of Mary, wife of Alphaeus (Cleophas, Clopas)

**Celibacy**: 1 Cor 7:30-38 Rv 14:5; *See also Poverty*

**Church**

**authority of**: Mt 18:15-18; Hb 13:7; Acts 15 & 16; Lk 10:16; Mt 10:40; Jude 3:11 (cf Nm

16); Rv 2:16 cf. Acts 16:1-8; 1 Thess 2:7

See also Magisterium

**Body of Christ**: Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18 [can't

have relationship with disembodied head: Jn 17:20-23]; 1 Cor 12:12-13, 26-27

**division of church is wrong**: Jn 17:21; Rom 16:17

**guided by Holy Spirit**: Acts 15:28

**visible, not just spiritual**: Matt 5:13-16; Jn

17:21; 1 Cor 5:1-13; Matt 18:15-20; 2 Cor 2:1-

11. Pillar & foundation of truth: 1 Tim 3:15

*See also Saints*

**Confession to priest**, *see* Forgiveness of sin

**Communion**, *see* Eucharist

**Communion of Saints**, *see* Saints

**Dead, prayer for**: 2 Mac 12:46. We do not die but live in Christ:

**Discipleship**

Matt 19:16-23

**Doctrine, development of**: Jn 16:13

**Divorce**, *see* Marriage, indissolubility of

**Eucharist**

Jesus' flesh real food: Jn 6:53,55; Lk 22:19 divides unbelievers from disciples: Jn 6:66-69

Jn 6 as literal: 6:65, 1 Cor 2:14, 1 Cor

11:27,29; 1 Cor 10:16; 1 Cor 5:7-8

makes Calvary present: Heb 7:24-25; 9:24. Hb

9:28: sacrifice once for all. [Mass is a representation: allowing us to be present at Calvary.]

fulfillment of Passover: cf. Ex 12:1-28; 1 Jn 1:29, 36

**Faith**, *See* Justification & Salvation

confessional faith: acceptance of revealed

truths on God's Word alone

fiducial faith: trust in Christ's promises

**"Father" as human title**: Lk 16:24, Rom 4; 1 Cor 4:14-

15; Acts 6:12-15; 7:1-2; Rm 4:17-18; 1 Thess

2:11; 1 Jn 2:13-14

**Forgiveness of sin**: Sacrament of reconciliation

Jn 20:21-23 (power of attorney)

2 Cor 2:10; 2 Cor 5:18-20

**Genuflection**, *see* worship with Body, and Rv 4:9-11

**Hierarchy**

various offices in Church: apostles, elders/bishops, deacons, Acts 15

**Images**

approved by God when point symbolically toward salvation by Christ: bronze serpent, ark of covenant, cherubim: Num 21:4:9, Wis 16:5-14; Jn 3:14-15, Ex 25:10-22; 1 Kg 6:23-28, 7:23-26

Christ introduced a new "economy of images." Cf. Dt. 4:15-16 "Since you saw no

form . . . at Horeb” with Jesus incarnate.

**Intercession**, *see Saints*

**Justification**

completed: Rom 5:1

in process Rom 3:24

future: Gal 2:17

not by faith alone: James 2:24

See also Salvation

**Magisterium**: teaching authority of the church

unity of teaching church, not authority of

lone believer: Matt 18:15-17; Phil 1:27-28,

2:2; 1 Tm 3:15, 4:11-16; 6:22; 2 Tm 4:1-5;

Titus 1:7-11, 13-14; 2:15; 3:8-10; 1 Cor 1:10;

Eph 4:7-13; 1 Cor 3:3-7

See also Church

**Marriage, indissolubility of**: Matt 19:1-8; Rom 7:1-3; 1 Cor 7:10-11

**Mass**, *See Eucharist*

**Mary**

Mother of God: Lk 1:35, Gal 4:4

honor to: Lk 1:48-49

needed a savior: Lk 1:47

queen of heaven: cf. 1 Kings 2:13-20 & 2 Tim 4:8.

**Immaculate Conception of**: cf. purity of the Ark of the Covenant: 2 Sm 6:9, etc.; Lk 1:43. In Exodus 40, the glory of the Lord filled the dwelling, only after several chapters of instructions on how the dwelling was to be perfectly constructed. Would Jesus become incarnate in an “unsaved” person? Mary was perfected in grace before becoming pregnant with Jesus. The church teaches that she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus from the moment of her conception.

cf. John Baptist filled with HS from womb: Lk 1:15

perfected in grace before conception of Jesus: Lk 1:28

**virginity of**, *see also Brothers of Jesus*

firstborn: child that opened womb: Ex 34:20;

Ex 13:2; Nb 3:12; cf. Gen 25:33

“until” : cf. 2 Sam 6:23; Gen 8:7; Dt 34:6; 1

Cor 15:25

vow: Lk 1:34; no children when Jesus 12: Lk

2:41-51; “THE son of Mary,” not “A son” Mk

6:3; no one referred to as son of Mary in

Gospels; “brethren” giving advice to Jesus:

Jn 7:3-4 (implies that they are older; Semitic

younger brothers don’t presume); Jesus

entrusts Mary to John, not James: Jn 19:26-

27. Mary, wife of Clopas (Alphaeus) was

mother of James: Mt 27:56, Mk 15:40, 16:1, Lk 24:10

**titles of**: queen of angels, 1 Cor 6:3; queen of heaven Rv 12:1; co-redemptrix, cf. any Christian James 5:20, Jude 22, see 1 Tim 4:16

**Mediator**: Jesus the sole Mediator of salvation, but humans are mediators of Jesus and His gifts. Rm 10:14; 2 Cor 1:11; 1 Tm 2:1,3

**Mediatrrix**: Mary mediated God’s grace by giving birth to Jesus, source of all grace. Cf. Eve mediating temptation to Adam. See also Mary.

**Millennium**: God’s perfect time (10 x 10) began with Pentecost: Acts 2:14-41, quoting Joel 2:28-32. Within one generation, Jewish sacrifices ceased. Catholic theology is “amillennial.” See Mt 24, Mk 13

**Peter, primacy of**

Mt 10:14; Mk 3:16-19; Lk 6:14-16; Acts

1:123; Lk 9:32; Mt 18:21; Mk 8:29; Lk

12:41; Jn 6:69; Mt 14:28-32, 17:24; Mk

10:29; Acts 2:14-40; Acts 3:6-10; Acts 10:46-

48; Rock: Matthew 16:18

**Pope, authority of**: Matt 16:18; Lk 10:16

Jesus promises to guide and protect Church: Mt 16:18-19; 18:18, 28:20; Jn 14...16,25; 16:13

endurance of Church Matt 7:24-25, 16:18;

Lk 10:16; Jn 14:16-18; 14:26

Keys as authority: Is 22:22, Rev 1:18; Mt. 16:19

Infallibility of: Jn 16:13; Jude 3; Jn 21:15-17

**Poverty**, evangelical: Matt 19:16-17; 20-21

**Prayer to people**: Mk 14:32-40 (Jesus prayed to people to pray with him)

**Prayer, prepared**: Jesus prayed the psalms. See Eph 5:19, Col 3:16

**repetitive**: Mt 26:39-44, Rv. 4:8-11. Jesus is opposed to unfocused repetition: Lk 18:1-8, Mt 6:7

**Protestants**, Jn 6:66, the only place where disciples left Jesus because of a doctrinal issue

**Purgatory**

1 Pet 3:18-20; Mt. 12:32; 1 Cor 3:15; 2 Macc

12:46 (reflection of Jewish belief); Rev

21:27; 1 Jn 5:17; Col 1:24; Cf. 2 Sam 12:14

-Redemption is complete in Christ. We

suffer in expiation of our sins, are purified

by the grace of God before the heavenly

banquet, as Jesus purified Peter and the

disciples before the paschal banquet.

-Nothing unclean shall enter heaven.

-Pure of heart see God: Mt 5:8

Also see 1 Cor 15:29, Hb 12:23, Lk 12:42-48

**Rapture**, *see also Mary, Assumption of*

**Relics**, 2 Kings 20-21, Acts 19:12

**Revelation** after time of Christ by Holy Spirit: Jn 16:12

**Rock**, God as Rock:

Abraham as Rock: Isaiah 51:1-2; Peter as Rock, Mt. 16:18

**Sacraments**: physical means convey God's grace

through faith: e.g. Mk 5:27-34

Seven channels of grace:

Salvation grace: **Baptism**: Jn 3:4, Acts 22:16

Grace of Holy Spirit: **Confirmation** (laying

on of hands): Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-6; Hb 6:2

Grace of intimate unity with Jesus (**Eucharist**): Jn 6:22-61; 1 Cor 11:23-29

Grace of certain forgiveness of sin (**reconciliation**): Jn 20:21-23

Grace of healing (**anointing of the sick**): James 5:14

Grace of indissoluble bond of marriage

[**Matrimony**]: Mt 19:1-9

Grace of priesthood and apostolic succession

[**Holy Orders**]: Tm, Titus

**Sacrifice**

(Eucharist a real, unbloody sacrifice that makes Calvary present to us now)

even after coming of Christ: Zech 14:20,21

priest forever acc. to order of Melchizedech Ps 110:4, cf. Gen 14:18

**Saints**

alive in heaven: Mk 12:26-27, Lk 10:30

communion of: Jn 15:1-8, 1 Cor 12:25-27, Rom 12:4-5

connected with our spiritual welfare: Heb 12:1, Lk 9:30-31

intercession of: 2 Macc 15:11-16, Jer 15:1, Tob 12:12; Rev 5:8, 8:3

involved with our salvation, with angels: Rv 5:8

prayer of righteous man: James 5:16

praying to others for prayer: Rom 15:30, Col 4:3, 1 Th 1:11, Eph 6:18

united with God: 1 Cor 12:12, 1 John 3:2

eneration of angels: Jos. 5:14, Dan 8:17, Tob 12:16, cf. Mt 18:10

[Dives could pray to Lazarus in Abraham's bosom]

Jews believed in intercession of saints: 2 Macc 12:42-46; 15:12-15

See also Hb 12:22-24; Eph 3:15

Jesus availed himself of the services of angels: Mt 4:11, Lk 22:43, Mk 9:2

**Salvation** (see also Baptism)

**assurance of**: 2 Pet 1:10-11, John 15:6

**by grace**: Eph 2:8-9

**through faith working in love**: Gal 5:6; Rom 2:7; Gal 6:6-10

Mt. 6:46; 7:21-23; 19:16-21; 25:31-46; Acts

10:34-35; Rom 2:5-6, 13; Gal 5:4-6; Phil

2:12:13; James 1:22-25, 2:4-26; 1 John 3:7;

3:19-24; 4:17-21; 5:2-4.

If I have faith to move mountains but not love, I am nothing: 1 Cor 13

**in the Son of God**: Jn 5:13

**through the Holy Spirit**: Lk

**by the will of the Father**: Jn 3:16, Jn 6:44:

no one comes to the Son unless the Father draws him.

**completed**: Matt 16:16; Rom 6:3; Gal 3:27

**in process**: 1 Cor 1:18

**future**: Matt 10:22

**corporate nature of**:

Timothy saves, 1 Tm 4:16; Converter saves, Ja

5:20, Jude 22,23; Fire saves 1 Cor 3:15; prayer

saves Ja 5:15; suffering assists: Col 1:24;

angels: Is 63:9; baptism: 1 Pt 3:21; preaching:

1 Cor 1:21; Paul: Rm 11:14; w/o Me you can

do 0: Jn 15:5.

*See also* Justification

**Salvation, assurance of**

God is faithful: 2:11-13

judgement is in God's time and our status

depends on it: 1 Cor 4:4-5; Rom 11:22; Hb

10:26-29; 2 Pt 2:20-21 (see also sin,

mortal)

**Salvation by Jesus Christ**

Jn 1:1ff: JC is the Son of God. Even those who haven't heard of him can't exist without him.

1 Pt 4:6: Gospel preached even to the dead.

See also Jn 25:21-30

**Scripture, authority of**

can be misinterpreted by men: 2 Pet 1:20, 3:15-16

in context of tradition: 2 Thess 2:15

under authority of church: 1 Tm 3:15; Matt

16:18-19, 18:18; Lk 10:16; 2 Pt 3:16

**Sin, mortal** (deadly)

Mt 5:19-30; Gal 5:21; See also Eph 5:5-7; 1 Cor 6:9-10

**Stipends** to church workers

Lk 10:7, 1 Cor 9:13-14

**Succession, apostolic**

Matthias appointed to Judas' place: Acts 1:20; Timothy's authority based on ordination by Paul

**Tradition, living oral:** Lk 10:16, Mt 28:19; Rom 10:17; Is 59:21, 1 Pet 1:25  
teachings and teaching authority of Jesus and the apostles: Acts 2:42  
handed down and entrusted to the Church: 2 Tm 2:2, 1 Cor 11:2, Eph 3:5; Eph 2:20  
guided by Holy Spirit who protects teaching from corruption: Jn 14:16  
ongoing presence of HS: 2 Thess 2:15; 1 Cor 11:2; see also Lk 10:16; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tm 2:12  
Jesus in favor of authority of oral tradition: Mt 23:2-3

**Tradition (capital T), articulated by the Catholic Church (a few examples):**

**Doctrinal:** *the Canon of Scripture, the Incarnation; the Trinity; the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds as summaries of belief; the Assumption and Immaculate Conception of Mary; dispensation from Jewish ceremonial law, incl. circumcision*

**Moral:** *condemnation of slavery, anti-Semitism and racism; military ethics*

**Tradition (small t), man-made**

Jesus pro obedience to man-made tradition: Mt 23:2-3, Mt 23:22  
Jesus vs. traditions of men when they conflict with obedience to God: Mk 7:6-13; Matt 15:39; Col 2:22

**traditions of men, Jewish examples:**  
*dietary laws, ceremonial law*

**traditions of men, a few Catholic examples:** *mandatory celibacy of priests & bishops, religious art and architecture, physical gestures of worship at particular times, fasting at particular times, age of reception of Eucharist and Confirmation, the calendar (Lent, Advent, feast days, holy days, e.g. Christmas on 12/25), dating history BC & AD, papal property, choirs, kneelers, confessionals, the rosary, novenas, monasticism, seminaries, hospitals, convents, parish councils, patron saints, cemeteries, asylum to the accused (cf. cities of refuge in OT).*

**traditions of men, a few Protestant examples:** *sinner's prayer, altar call, "wor-*

*ship" services without Eucharist, doxology of Lord's Prayer; permission of birth control, abortion, divorce and remarriage; church splits, "4" spiritual laws, prohibition of infant Baptism, "prayer chains," trousers for ministers, omission of part of the Bible, rejection of unified authority of church, suppression of charismatic gifts, "prosperity Gospel," democratic decision-making, election of pastors by congregations*

**Tribulation,** see Millennium

**Visible Church,** *See Church*

**Works:** Jesus' ideal: life of good works flowing from vibrant faith: Mt 7:24-7, Mt 21:28-32; Lk 10:25-37, Mt 25:14-30, Mt 25:31-46

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**A few things that AREN'T in scripture, though some people think they are:**

- "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."
- the phrase, "personal relationship with Christ"
- any reference to an invisible church of disunited believers (cf. Mt 5:14, Mt. 13:24-30, 47-52)
- the idea that scripture alone is the source of truth or moral judgment
- the idea that scripture interprets itself or that everyone is free to interpret it as they wish

**A few terms that are sometimes confused**

**Worship:** sacrificial action, for God alone. The question is not "In what manner would 20th century Americans like to worship?" but "How does God desire to be worshipped?" The answer is in scripture.

**Adoration:** praise, to God alone

**Prayer:** conversation, especially involving a request: can be with God, with humans, e.g., saying "Will you pray with me?" is a prayer. Hamlet said to the actors, "Speak the speech, I pray thee."

**Veneration:** honor to Mary, saints, earthly heroes, treasured objects