

THE FIRST TWENTY-ONE CENTURIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1-100 A.D.	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, <i>Luke</i> 1:26-38 (circa 1 B.C.) Nativity of OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, <i>Luke</i> 2:7 (c. 1 A.D.) Baptism of Christ, <i>Matthew</i> 3:13-17 (c. 30) Start of Christ's earthly ministry, <i>John</i> 2:1-11 (c. 30) Christ gives "the keys" to Saint Peter, <i>Matthew</i> 16:18-19 (c. 32) Last Supper, <i>Matthew</i> 26:26-28 (Holy Thursday, c. 33) Crucifixion and death of Christ, <i>Luke</i> 23:33 (Good Friday) Resurrection of Christ, <i>Luke</i> 24:1-7 (Easter Sunday) Ascension of Christ, <i>Acts of the Apostles</i> 1:9 (40 days after Easter) Pentecost, "birthday" of the Church, <i>Acts</i> 2:1-4 (10 days later) Stoning of Saint Stephen, first Christian martyr, <i>Acts</i> 7:58 (c. 34) Conversion of Saint Paul, <i>Acts</i> 9:1-22 (c. 34) Believers first called "Christians" at Antioch, <i>Acts</i> 11:26 (c. 42) Composition of the books of the New Testament (c. 45-100) Council of Jerusalem, <i>Acts</i> 15 (c. 49) Assumption of Mary into heaven, <i>Revelation</i> 12:1, 5-6, 14 (c. 49) Martyrdom of Peter and Paul in Rome under Emperor Nero (c. 67) Saint Linus succeeds Peter as Bishop of Rome (i.e., Pope) (c. 67) Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by General Titus (70) <i>Didache</i> gives instructions on Baptism (by immersion or pouring), refers to Eucharistic Sacrifice, and prohibits abortion (c. 70) Pope Saint Clement I writes of the inspiration of the Bible, the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the ministerial priesthood, and the authority of the Church of Rome, <i>Letter to the Corinthians</i> (c. 96) Death of Saint John, last of the Apostles (c. 100) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saint Ignatius of Antioch writes of Christ's Divinity, His Real Presence in the Eucharist, and Church hierarchy—first recorded use of title "Catholic Church," <i>Letters</i> (c. 107) Pope Saint Pius I condemns Marcion (c. 144) Saint Justin the Martyr writes of the Trinity and baptismal rebirth, <i>First Apology</i>; the Eucharistic Sacrifice and Mary as New Eve, <i>Dialogue</i> (c. 150) Martyrdom of Saint Polycarp (c. 156) Saint Irenaeus writes of the Trinity, Real Presence, Mary as New Eve, and authority of Church of Rome, <i>Against Heresies</i> (c. 185) Pope St. Victor I declares universal observance of Easter on Sunday (c. 190) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua, Felicitas, and companions; Perpetua records vision of purgatory, <i>Martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua and Felicitas</i> (203) Tertullian becomes a heretic (c. 211) St. Hippolytus describes priestly ordination and Infant Baptism, <i>Apostolic Tradition</i>; calls Mary spotless God-bearer, <i>End of the World</i> (c. 215) Mary appears to St. Gregory Thaumaturgos (c. 243) Sub Tuum Praesidium, first recorded prayer to Mary (c. 250) Death of Origen (c. 254) Martyrdom of Pope Saint Sixtus II during Mass in the catacombs (c. 258) Martyrdom of Saint Cyprian (c. 258) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martyrdom of St. Agnes (c. 304) Edict of Milan: legalization of Christianity (313) Council of Nicaea defines dogma of the Divinity of Christ (325) Saint Helena recovers the True Cross (c. 327) Emperor Constantine moves capital to Byzantium (330) Saint Athanasius restored as Bishop of Alexandria (366) Saint Basil the Great, <i>Basileias</i>, world's first hospital (373) Council of Constantinople defines dogma of the Divinity of the Holy Spirit (381) Council of Rome declares Canon of the Bible under Pope St. Damasus I (382) St. Jerome translates the Bible into Latin (382-406) Saint Augustine baptized by Saint Ambrose (387) Saint Fabiola, first hospital in Rome (c. 390) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death of Saint John Chrysostom in exile (407) Visigoths sack Rome (410) Council of Ephesus defines dogma of Mary's Divine Maternity ("Mother of God"), affirming the Divinity of Christ (431) Mission of Saint Patrick to Ireland (432) Council of Chalcedon defines dogma of the Two Perfect Natures in Christ (divine and human) (451) Pope Saint Leo the Great dissuades Attila the Hun from sacking Rome (452) Fall of Roman Empire (476) Pope Saint Gelasius I confirms Canon of the Bible by decree (495) Baptism of King Clovis I of the Franks (496) 	
501-600	601-700	701-800	801-900	901-1000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saint Benedict establishes Monte Cassino (c. 525) Dionysius Exiguus sets Christian calendar—uses <i>Anno Domini</i> (A.D.), Latin for "Year of the Lord" (c. 527) Second Council of Orange denounces Semi-Pelagianism, clarifies role of works and necessity of God's grace for salvation (529) Second Council of Constantinople confirms ruling of Chalcedon (553) Mission of Saint Columba to Iona (563) Pope Saint Gregory the Great oversees conversion of the Anglo-Saxons, England (596) Gregory the Great forbids mistreatment of the Jews, <i>Letters</i> (598) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roman Pantheon transformed into Christian Church, Santa Maria Rotonda (609) Persian King Chosroes steals the True Cross from Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem (614) Start of Islam (622) Emperor Heraclius restores the True Cross to Jerusalem (630) Death of Saint Isidore of Seville, last of the Western Fathers (636) Muslim conquest of Jerusalem (637) Muslim conquest of Alexandria (642) Third Council of Constantinople defines dogma of the Two Perfect Wills in Christ (divine and human) (680-681) Miracle of Lanciano: bread and wine change visibly into flesh and blood during Mass—revealed in scientific tests in 1971 to be human heart tissue and blood, type AB; elements remain incorrupt, defying science (c. 700) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim conquest of Spain (711) Christian Reconquest of Spain (722-1492) Iconoclasm: destruction of sacred images in the East over fear of idolatry (726) Pope Gregory III condemns Iconoclasm (731) Saint Bede the Venerable, <i>History of the English Church and People</i> (731) Death of Saint John of Damascus, last of the Eastern Fathers (c. 749) Martyrdom of Saint Boniface, Apostle of Germany (754) Second Council of Nicaea declares veneration of sacred images is not idolatry (787) Viking Period: Irish monks save the Bible and other books, preserving Western culture (795-1014) Charlemagne crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (800) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martyrs' Bay: Vikings sack monastery on Iona, killing sixty-eight monks (806) Synod at Constantinople restores sacred images and declares Feast of Orthodoxy (842) Muslims sack Rome (846) Martyrdom of Christians in Córdoba under Muslim rule (850-859) Photian Schism: Photius deposes Saint Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople; Pope Saint Nicholas the Great rules in favor of Ignatius; Photius condemns the Western Church (857-878) Mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius to the Slavs; invent Cyrillic alphabet (863) Fourth Council of Constantinople condemns Photius (869) Pope John VIII acknowledges lawful ascent of Photius to Patriarchate after death of Ignatius, ending the schism (878) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William the Pious, Duke of Aquitaine, establishes the Congregation of Cluny, center of monastic renewal (909) Martyrdom of Saint Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia (929) Baptism of Saint Princess Olga of Kiev, Russia (957) Baptism of Duke Mieszko leads to conversion of Poland (966) Roswitha of Gandersheim, nun and poetess, earliest known female playwright, composes numerous Christian works (c. 980) Baptism of Saint Prince Vladimir of Kiev, grandson of Olga, leads to conversion of Russia (988) Pope John XV canonizes Saint Ulrich—first ritual canonization (993) 	
1001-1100	1101-1200	1201-1300	1301-1400	1401-1500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslims under Caliph al-Hakim sack Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem (1009) Muslim incursion into Afghanistan (1017) Michael Cerularius, Patriarch of Constantinople, renews condemnation of the Western Church (1043) Schism of the Eastern Church (1054) Pope Saint Gregory VII acts to reform clerical abuses (1074) Investiture Controversy: dispute over relationship between secular and church authorities (1075) Blessed Pope Urban II calls the First Crusade at the Council of Clermont to restore the Holy Land and free Eastern Christians from Muslim aggression (1095) Crusaders retake Jerusalem (1099) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saint Bernard of Clairvaux establishes monastery (1115) Concordat of Worms: compromise reached in Investiture Controversy (1122) First Lateran Council (1123) Second Lateran Council (1139) Muslims capture Edessa, Christmas Eve (1144) Start of construction of Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris (1163) Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa besieges Rome (1167) Rise of Catharism, an heretical movement that rejects the humanity of Christ and denounces marriage and child-bearing (1167) Rise of Waldensianism, an anti-clerical movement (1173) Third Lateran Council (1179) Muslims under Saladin conquer Jerusalem (1187) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crusaders sack Constantinople committing many atrocities (1204) Saint Dominic sent to preach against Catharism in southern France (1206) Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, divides the books of the Bible into chapters (1207) Saint Francis of Assisi denounces wealth (1208) Fourth Lateran Council defines dogma of Transubstantiation (1215) Saint Anthony of Padua canonized one year after death (1232) General Inquisition established to defeat Catharism—torture sanctioned, though with strict limitations (1233) Saint Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> (1265-1273) Last Crusade ends with death of St. Louis IX, King of France (1270) Pope Gregory X forbids mistreatment of the Jews, <i>Letter on the Jews</i> (1272) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pope Boniface VIII affirms the authority of the Church of Rome, <i>Unam Sanctam</i> (1302) Avignon Papacy: Popes leave Rome due to political turmoil (1309-1377) Dante, <i>Divine Comedy</i> (1318-1321) Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) Black Death (1347-1353) Saint Catherine of Siena convinces Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon (1377) Great Western Schism: true succession of Popes continues at Rome while succession of "antipopes" begins at Avignon (1378-1417) John Wyclif supervises first complete English translation of the Bible (1380-1382) Church condemns Wyclif for numerous heresies including Predestination and denial of the Sacraments (1382) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Constance ends Great Western Schism (1414-1418) John Hus, follower of Wyclif, executed as a heretic (1415) Thomas à Kempis, <i>Imitation of Christ</i> (1418) Pope Martin V forbids mistreatment of the Jews, <i>Protection of the Jews</i> (1422) Saint Joan of Arc executed for political reasons (1431) Council of Basel-Ferrara-Florence temporarily reunites the East and the West (1431-1445) Pope Eugenius IV condemns enslavement of blacks, <i>Sicut Dudum</i> (1435) Gutenberg Bible (1455) Start of the Spanish Inquisition: attempt to identify false converts from Judaism and Islam; many abuses occur (1480) Christopher Columbus discovers the New World (1492) Queen Isabella of Spain forbids enslavement of the natives of Hispaniola (1495) 	
1501-1600	1601-1700	1701-1800	1801-1900	1901-2000	2001-2100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther initiates Protestant Revolt (1517) Mary appears to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico—9 million Aztecs converted (1531) Pope Paul III denounces mistreatment of Native Americans, <i>Sublimis Deus</i> (1537) King Henry VIII breaks England away from the Church (1538) Council of Trent (1545-1563) Catholics persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I of England (1558-1603) Saint Teresa of Avila, <i>Life</i> (1565) Founding of St. Augustine, Florida, oldest city in America (1565) Battle of Lepanto: Rome miraculously saved from Muslim invasion (1571) <i>Douay-Rheims Bible</i>: NT (1582); OT (1610) Martyrs of Japan (1597) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Martin de Porres enters the Dominican Order (1603) Saint Vincent de Paul establishes Confraternity of Charity (1617) Galileo censured by the Inquisition for asserting his findings on the solar system disprove the Bible (1633) Founding of Maryland, American Catholic colony (1634) North American Martyrs: Saints Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf, and companions (1642-1649) St. Margaret Mary Alacoque receives vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1673) Baptism of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1676) Four Gallican Articles denounce Papal authority in France (1682) Gallican Articles withdrawn (1693) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessed Junipero Serra and companions establish Indian Missions in California (1767-1782) American Revolution (1775-1783) French Revolution, culmination of atheistic fervor in Europe (1789-1799) Founding of Georgetown, first U.S. Catholic college (1789) John Carroll, first U.S. bishop, works to establish religious rights for American Catholics (1789-1815) President George Washington addresses letter to American Catholics thanking them for their patriotism and service during Revolutionary War (1790) Persecution of the Church in France (1792-1801) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, first native-born American saint (1805) Napoleon's persecution of Pope Pius VII (1809-1814) Catholic Emancipation Act in England (1829) Mary appears to St. Catherine Labouré, Paris (1830) Pope Gregory XVI condemns enslavement of blacks, <i>In Supremo</i> (1839) Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854) Mary appears to Saint Bernadette, Lourdes (1858) First Vatican Council defines dogma of Papal Infallibility (1869-1870) Martyrs of Uganda: Saints Charles Lwanga, Joseph M'kasa, and companions (1885-1886) Saint Thérèse of Lisieux enters convent (1888) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First World War (1914-1918) Mary appears at Fatima (1917) Communist uprising in Russia (1917) Saint Pio of Pietrelcina receives the stigmata (1918) Martyrdom of Bf. Miguel Pro (1927) Saint Faustina, <i>Divine Mercy in My Soul</i> (1936-1938) Second World War (1939-1945) Martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe at Auschwitz (1941) Blessed Teresa of Calcutta begins work among the poor (1948) Dogma of the Assumption (1950) John F. Kennedy, first U.S. Catholic president (1960) Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) Fall of Communism (1989) Great Jubilee Year (2000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islamic terrorists destroy World Trade Center in New York killing thousands (2001)—Father Mychal Judge, first official victim, dies while administering last rites Pope John Paul the Great proposes the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, focusing on key events from Christ's earthly ministry, <i>Rosarium Virginis Mariae</i> (2002)

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