

## Catechism of the Catholic Church: **Acts Whose Matter is Mortal Sin**

Listed in alphabetical order below are objectively grave evils authoritatively taught by the Catholic Church. No good intent or circumstance can ever make these acts good. **If performed with *full knowledge and deliberate consent*, each of these acts constitutes mortal sin.** Mortal sin incurs death to the soul and loss of salvation. The Sacrament of Penance is what can restore one's relationship with God.

Each moral act is listed with the corresponding section number(s) of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)**. This list is *not* an exhaustive list of *all* the ways one can sin mortally. For example, one could commit mortal sin by performing a good act while (erroneously) believing it was a grave evil; or by consenting to perform a grave evil but never having the opportunity to commit it. Sin may occur in thought, word, act, or omission. Nonetheless, the following acts are the matter of mortal sin, as found as in the CCC:

<b>Grave matter</b>	<b>Catechism #</b>
Abortion . . . . .	2271, 2322
Cooperation in Abortion . . . . .	2272
Adulation of another's grave sin . . . . .	2480
Adultery . . . . .	2380, 2400, 1858, 1756
Anger when deliberately desiring to seriously wound or kill . . . . .	1852, 2302
Artificial insemination of non-spouse (surrogacy, sperm donation) . . . . .	2376
Artificial insemination of spouse (replacing the marital act) . . . . .	2377
Blasphemy (against God, Jesus, Mary, the Church, saints, or sacred things) . . . . .	2148, 1756
Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit . . . . .	1864
(sins against) Charity . . . . .	2088-89, 2091
Contraception (artificial birth control) . . . . .	2366-2370
Defraud . . . . .	1858
Divorce . . . . .	2384, 2385, 2400
Drug abuse . . . . .	2291
Drunkenness or Speeding when lives are endangered (road, sea, or air) . . . . .	1852, 2290
Envy wishing grave harm . . . . .	1852, 2303
Euthanasia . . . . .	2277, 2324
(sins against) Faith . . . . .	2088-89, 2091
False Witness . . . . .	1858, 2476
Fornication (sex acts outside marriage) . . . . .	1755, 1852, 2353, 2390, 2391, 2396, 2400
Free union (sexual relationship outside of marriage) . . . . .	2390, 2391, 2396, 2400
Cooperation in Genocide . . . . .	2313
Hatred wishing grave harm . . . . .	1852, 2302
Heterosexual sodomy . . . . .	2351
Homosexual acts (sodomy) . . . . .	2357, 2396
(sins against) Hope . . . . .	2088-89, 2091
Idolatry . . . . .	1858
Incest . . . . .	2388
In vitro fertilization . . . . .	2377, 2378
Lying when grave injury is done . . . . .	2484
Magic or sorcery . . . . .	1852, 2117
Masturbation . . . . .	1852, 2352, 2396
Murder . . . . .	1756, 1858, 2268, 2320
Perjury . . . . .	1756, 2152, 2476
Polygamy . . . . .	2400
Pornography (viewing or participating) . . . . .	2354, 2396
Prostitution, and Solicitation of . . . . .	2355
Rape . . . . .	2356
Sacrilege against the Eucharist . . . . .	2120
Scandal (leading others astray) . . . . .	2284, 2326
Speeding - see drunkenness -	
Stealing . . . . .	1858
Suicide . . . . .	2281
Terrorism . . . . .	2297

The **Precepts of the Catholic Church** oblige the faithful when they are in force. Breaking any of them is, too, the matter of mortal sin for a Catholic. They are not intrinsic evils, but ecclesiastical (Church) laws promulgated by the authority of the Church entrusted by Christ. These laws are put forth as a “guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum” of maintenance and growth of one’s relationship with God and neighbor. These are *positive* laws, which means they are for the good of the body (of Christ) at a particular time, and, unlike the divine unchanging law (above), their content can be changed or modified for the good of the body at the discretion of the Magisterium. While they are in force they are obligatory:

- “You must attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.” . . . . . 2042, 2181
- “You must confess your sins at least once a year.” . . . . . 2042
- “You must humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season” . . . 2042
- “You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.” . . . . . 2043
- “You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence” . . . . . 2043
- The faithful are obliged to provide for the material needs of the Church according to their ability . . 2043