**C**atechism 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:

**Grave matter Catechism #**

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 gainst) 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 indispensible 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