

Ecclesiastical vs Classical Latin

Side-by-side pronunciation card — same grammar, same vocabulary, two living traditions.

Same Word, Two Pronunciations

Ecclesiastical

Church Latin — the Vatican, the Roman Rite, every seminary and schola.

<i>caelum</i>	CHEH-loom
<i>Deus</i>	DEH-oos
<i>regnum</i>	REHN-yoom
<i>gratia</i>	GRAH-tsee-ah
<i>Agnus</i>	AHN-yoos
<i>veni</i>	VEH-nee

Classical

Academic Latin — what Cicero and Caesar spoke. Most universities teach this.

<i>caelum</i>	KY-loom
<i>Deus</i>	DAY-oos
<i>regnum</i>	REG-noom
<i>gratia</i>	GRAH-tee-ah
<i>Agnus</i>	AG-noos
<i>veni</i>	WEH-nee

The Six Rules That Differ

LETTER / COMBO	ECCLESIASTICAL	CLASSICAL
c before e/i	<i>ch</i> (as in church)	hard k
g before e/i	<i>soft j</i> (as in gem)	hard g
gn	<i>ny</i> (as in canyon)	two sounds: g-n
ae & oe	<i>eh</i> (simple)	diphthong: eye / oy
v	<i>v</i> (as in vine)	w
ti before a vowel	<i>tsee</i>	tee

WHICH SHOULD A CATHOLIC LEARN?

If your goal is **to pray, to follow the Mass, to sing chant, or to read Church documents** — learn Ecclesiastical. It's the living pronunciation of the Church, used in the Vatican and at every Catholic seminary worldwide. Classical pronunciation is excellent for Cicero and Vergil; Ecclesiastical is what you'll hear when the priest says ***Dominus vobiscum***. You can always learn the other later — grammar and vocabulary are identical.