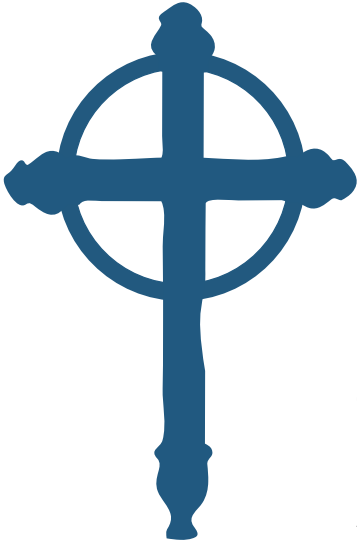




Teachings on Life: Catholicism



The Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches together form the "Catholic Church", or "Roman Catholic Church", the world's largest single religious body and the largest Christian church, comprising over half of all Christians (1.1 billion Christians of 2.1 billion) and nearly one-sixth of the world's population.

I am a Catholic Christian. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I also believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

A few of my foundational beliefs that shape my views on abortion:

Life begins at conception when the sperm fertilizes the egg. To intentionally end that life is gravely contrary to the moral and natural law. The newly conceived child is a human person created in the image of God.

Human life is special and sacred. Each one of us has a soul that originates in God and lives on after our body dies. We are created in God's image and likeness. Our Father values human life greatly and has shown this by sending His Son to die for us.

In our Catechism, the section on the fifth commandment teaches that the human person is both corporeal (physical – a body) and spiritual (a soul).

We believe that every human being, including the unborn, has a right to life that comes directly from God. This right does not come from the parents or any other authority. There is a higher reason that this child has been conceived. Only God knows of the potential wonder held within this tiny being.

If God were to give me the opportunity to speak to a pregnant Catholic woman or a couple who may be considering an abortion, this is what I would lovingly offer: Please choose life. Your child carries unknown gifts that can make the world a better place. Our souls rely on the great mercy of God. Please know that if you feel you cannot raise your child, there are many loving parents who would rejoice at the opportunity to adopt and raise your child.

