

# American Catholics and party politics

## Behavior and commitment of American Catholics, by party preference

(percent)

Table 5

	Rep	Dem	Ind
Currently registered member of a Catholic parish	74	65	60
Mass attendance: How often do you attend?			
At least once a week	30	36	39
At least once a month	36	27	22
A few times a year	22	23	22
Seldom or never	12	15	17
How important is the Catholic church to you personally?			
Most or among most important parts of my life	43	42	47
Quite important but so are other areas	40	38	30
Not terribly or not very important	12	15	17
On a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being "I would never leave the church," and 7 "I might leave the church," where do you place yourself?			
Might leave (6, 7)	8	16	19
Not likely (5, 4, 3)	27	33	32
Never leave (1, 2)	64	51	51
How regularly do you pray, apart from Mass?			
Daily or more often	61	63	63
Occasionally, sometimes	35	32	30
Seldom or never	4	4	7
Was your marriage approved by the Catholic church?			
Yes	72	73	74
No	28	25	26
Did you attend Catholic schools or college?			
Catholic elementary school	55	45	48
Catholic high school	33	26	31
Catholic college or university	11	14	13
Mean years of Catholic school education	8	8	10

Increasingly, knowing a person is Catholic does not predict her or his attitudes on political issues.

## Differences in attitudes about church teachings, by party preference

(percent)

Table 7

	Rep	Dem	Ind
A.			
The teaching authority of the Vatican is very important to me	50	37	35
Teachings that oppose same sex marriage are very important to me	57	41	37
Teachings that oppose abortion are very important to me	56	36	34
Having a celibate male clergy is very important to me	35	29	23
Teachings that oppose the death penalty are very important to me	34	39	29
B.			
Helping the poor is very important to me	81	89	82
Church involvement in social justice issues is very important to me	45	49	43
Percentage saying they strongly support:			
More government money to provide health care for poor children	52	81	71
More government funds for the military	50	30	37
Reduced spending on nuclear weapons	27	45	38
Stiffer enforcement of the death penalty	43	22	33
Further cutbacks in welfare programs	26	11	16

## Demographic portrait of American Catholics, by political party

(percent)

Table 4

	Rep	Dem	Ind
Total Membership	37	41	22
Gender			
Female	51	57	54
Male	49	43	46
Generation			
Pre-Vatican II	15	23	18
Vatican II	34	37	39
Post-Vatican II	51	40	43
Marital Status			
Married	73	67	71
Living as married	4	2	4
Divorced	8	3	5
Widowed	3	7	4
Never married	12	20	14
Education			
High school grad or less	31	36	29
Some college or vocational/technical training	35	34	37
College graduate	22	14	20
Graduate, professional degrees	13	15	15
Household Income			
Less than \$35,000	15	27	18
\$35,000 to \$74,999	44	37	38
\$75,000 to \$99,999	22	21	20
\$100,000 and more	20	16	25