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Most U.S. Catholics Say They Want the Church To Be ‘More Inclusive’

But there are large divides between Catholics who attend Mass weekly, and those who don’t, in what they want from the church

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this survey to better understand how U.S. Catholics view the Catholic Church.

For this report, we surveyed 1,787 Catholic respondents from Feb. 3 to 9, 2025. All of the respondents were members of the American Trends Panel, a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection. Surveys are conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education, and other factors. [Read more about the ATP's Methodology.](#)

Here are the [questions used for this report](#), along with [responses](#), and the survey [methodology](#).

Most U.S. Catholics Say They Want the Church To Be ‘More Inclusive’

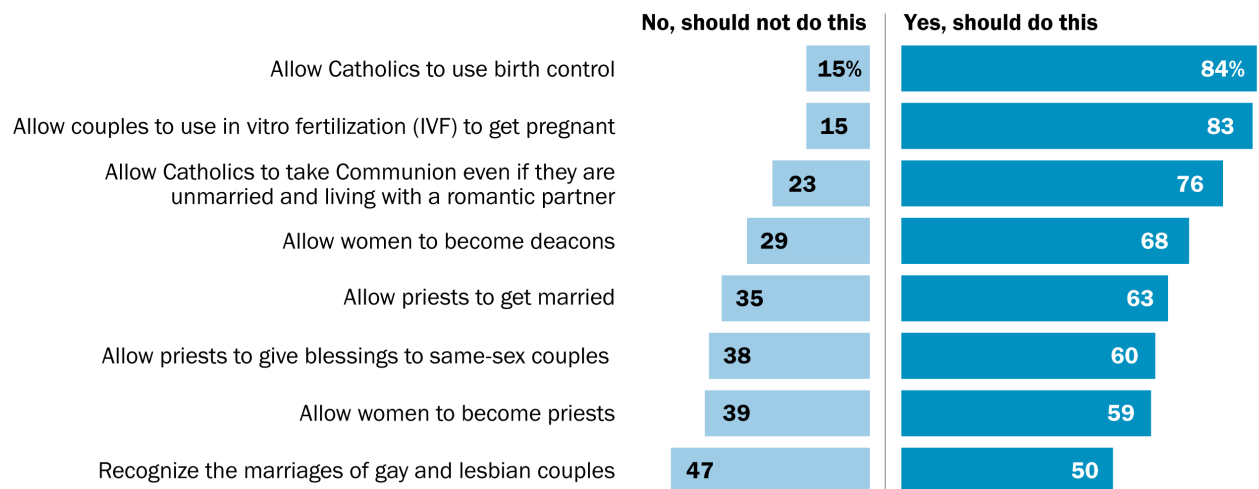
But there are large divides between Catholics who attend Mass weekly, and those who don’t, in what they want from the church

With the death of Pope Francis, the College of Cardinals is expected to gather May 7 to choose the next head of the Catholic Church. A Pew Research Center survey conducted in early February – before the pope’s hospitalization on Feb. 14 – finds that majorities of U.S. Catholics express views that differ from church teachings on issues such as birth control, marriage and the priesthood. For example:

- 84% of U.S. Catholics say the church should allow Catholics to use birth control.
- 83% say the church should allow couples to use in vitro fertilization (IVF) to get pregnant.
- 68% say the church should allow women to become deacons.
- 63% say the church should allow priests to get married.
- 59% say the church should ordain women as priests.

About 8 in 10 Catholics believe the church should allow use of birth control, IVF

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the Catholic Church should or should not do each of the following



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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When asked to choose which of two contrasting statements comes closer to their view, 60% of U.S. Catholics say the church “should be more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings,” while 37% say the church “should stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller.”

Most U.S. Catholics say they prefer a ‘more inclusive’ church, even if that means changing some teachings

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the statement that the Catholic Church should ___ comes closer to their view, even if neither statement is exactly right

Stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller

37%

Be more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings

60%

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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How we worded these questions

We used simple, common phrases in the survey questions about some steps that Catholics would – or would not – like to see the church take. Our goal was to make the questions easy to understand for as many respondents as possible. In some cases, the wording of the questions involved a trade-off between broad understandability and theological nuance.

For example, one question asks whether the church should “allow priests to get married.” This would not, strictly speaking, be a change in doctrine. The Catholic Church already allows married priests under certain circumstances, such as if a man was married before being ordained in an Eastern Catholic Church. Technically, the church considers the rule of celibacy for priests to be a “discipline” rather than a doctrine. Nonetheless, allowing parish priests to get married and continue in their duties would represent a big change in the everyday life of the church in the United States.

Similarly, another question asks whether the church should allow unmarried Catholics who “are living with a romantic partner” to receive Communion. Actually, Catholicism has no rule against unmarried people living together. The church’s teaching is that *sexual activity outside of marriage* is a grave sin, and that anyone “conscious of a grave sin” should not take Communion unless they have been to confession.

Yet another example concerns contraception. The survey asks whether the church should allow Catholics to “use birth control.” But the church does not object to married couples using natural methods (i.e., abstaining from sex during fertile periods) to “space the births of their children.” Rather, the objection is to using methods that prevent the sexual act from resulting in conception, including “condoms, hormonal birth control pills and sterilization.”

On all these topics, there are large differences between the responses of Catholics who go to church at least once a week and those who do not.¹ Those who say they go weekly are:

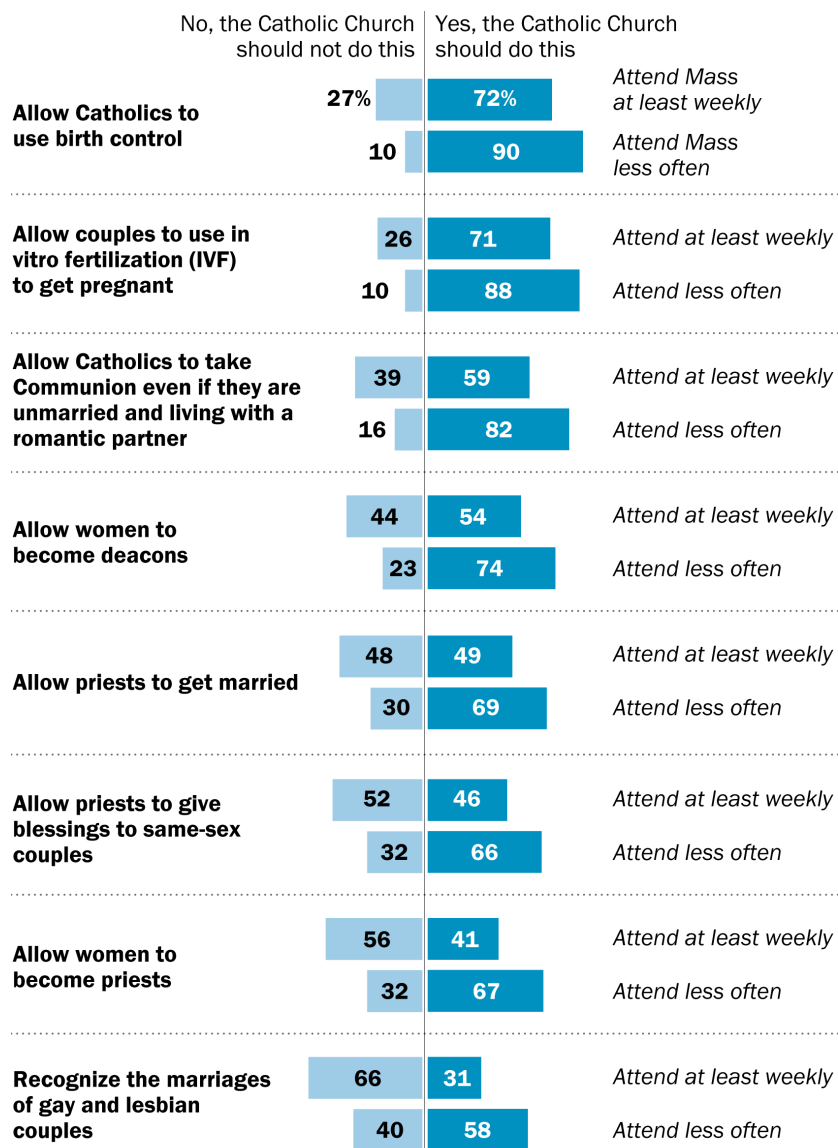
- 20 percentage points less likely to favor allowing women to serve as deacons (54% vs. 74%)
- 20 points less likely to favor allowing priests to get married (49% vs. 69%)
- 18 points less likely to favor allowing Catholics to use birth control (72% vs. 90%)
- 17 points less likely to favor allowing couples to use IVF (71% vs. 88%)

Slightly more than half of Catholics who attend Mass weekly (56%) say the church should *not* allow women to become priests, while 66% say the church should not recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples.

¹ The survey asks all respondents the following question: "Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services in person?" The response options are "More than once a week," "Once a week," "Once or twice a month," "A few times a year," "Seldom" and "Never." Though the question does not specifically mention "Mass" or "church," we assume that most Catholic respondents are answering this question with respect to their frequency of Mass attendance. Throughout this report, we use terminology such as "Attend Mass weekly" and "Attend Mass less often" to differentiate between Catholics who answer this question by saying they attend religious services weekly and those who say they attend less often.

Big differences in Catholics' views on reproductive issues, ordination for women and married priests by frequency of Mass attendance

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the Catholic Church should or should not do each of the following



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Additionally, Catholics who attend Mass weekly are 22 points *more* likely than Catholics who don't go to Mass weekly to say they think the church should stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller.

(Among the U.S. Catholic population overall, roughly three-in-ten say they attend Mass at least once a week,

while the remainder say they go less often or not at all. For more information about the religious and demographic characteristics of U.S. Catholics, read [“10 facts about U.S. Catholics.”](#))

53% of U.S. Catholics who attend Mass weekly say the church should stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means it gets smaller

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the statement that the Catholic Church should ___ comes closer to their view, even if neither statement is exactly right

Stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller

Be more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings

Attend Mass at least weekly	53%	42%
Attend Mass less often	31	67

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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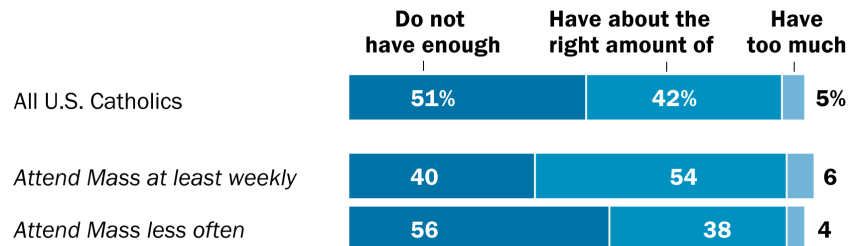
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Still, most weekly Mass attenders say the church should allow Catholics to use birth control (72%) and IVF (71%). A majority (59%) also says the church should permit people to receive Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a romantic partner. And about half favor ordaining women as deacons, allowing priests to marry, and permitting priests to give blessings to same-sex couples.

When asked about the influence of women in the church, 51% of U.S. Catholics say women “do not have enough” influence, while 42% say women currently have “about the right amount” of influence. Far fewer (5%) say women have “too much” influence.

About half of Catholics say women do not have enough influence in the Catholic Church

% of U.S. Catholics who say women ___ influence in the Catholic Church



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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The survey also finds:

- Women are somewhat more likely than men to want a “more inclusive” church, and to say women don’t have enough influence in the church.
- Catholic Republicans and independents who lean Republican tend to take more traditional stances than Catholic Democrats and Democratic leaners on the survey’s questions about ordaining women, allowing priests to get married, allowing Catholics to use birth control and IVF, and other questions.

This is one of a series of reports on a Pew Research Center survey conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025, among a nationally representative sample of 1,787 Catholic adults. The survey was completed prior to Pope Francis’ Feb. 14 hospitalization and his death in April.

An earlier report focused on U.S. Catholics’ [opinions about Francis](#) and his two immediate predecessors, Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II. Future reports will explore various kinds of connections to Catholicism among U.S. adults and delve into American Catholics’ involvement in parish life.

For more on views of Pope Francis, read [“Pope Francis and public opinion: Key findings from our surveys.”](#)

For more on how U.S. Catholics have answered some of these questions in past surveys, jump to [this report’s section on trends](#).

Views on inclusivity in the church

When asked which of two broad statements about the church's direction comes closer to their view, 64% of Catholic women say the Catholic Church should be "more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings," while 32% say the church should "stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller." Among Catholic men, 55% say they prefer a more inclusive church and 43% say the church should stick to its traditional teachings.

There is a stark partisan divide on this question. Three-quarters of Catholics who are Democrats or lean Democratic prefer a more inclusive church, even if that means changing some teachings. Among Catholics who are Republicans or GOP leaners, slightly less than half (45%) say the church should be more inclusive.

(According to the [2023-24 Religious Landscape Study](#), about half of Catholics who are registered voters – 53% – identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, while 43% affiliate with the Democratic Party. For more, refer to "[10 facts about U.S. Catholics](#).")

There are no significant differences by age or between White and Hispanic Catholics on this topic.

Catholics' views on how far the church should go to be inclusive differ by party

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the statement that the Catholic Church should ___ comes closer to their view, even if neither statement is exactly right

	Be more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings	Stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller
All U.S. Catholics	60%	37%
Attend Mass at least weekly	42	53
Once or twice a month*	58	40
A few times a year or less often	69	29
White, non-Hispanic	61	37
Hispanic	56	40
Ages 18-34	56	40
35-49	61	37
50-64	61	37
65+	62	35
Men	55	43
Women	64	32
Rep/lean Rep	45	53
Dem/lean Dem	75	21

* The survey included 166 interviews with Catholic respondents who attend Mass once or twice a month, with an effective sample size of 90 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50.

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The survey did not include enough interviews with Black or Asian Catholics to be able to report on them separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Views about birth control and IVF

Overall, 84% of U.S. Catholics say the church should allow Catholics to use birth control, and 83% say the church should permit couples to use in vitro fertilization (IVF) to get pregnant.

Support for these ideas is lower among Catholics who attend Mass weekly and among Catholic Republicans than it is among Catholics who attend Mass less often and among Catholic Democrats.

Still, majorities in every Catholic subgroup we analyzed say they think the church should allow Catholics to use birth control and IVF.

Catholics' views about whether the church should allow use of birth control, IVF vary by Mass attendance and partisanship

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the Catholic Church should or should not do each of the following

	Allow Catholics to use birth control		Allow couples to use in vitro fertilization (IVF) to get pregnant	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
All U.S. Catholics	84%	15%	83%	15%
Attend Mass at least weekly	72	27	71	26
Once or twice a month*	75	25	74	25
A few times a year or less often	92	7	90	8
White, non-Hispanic	85	14	87	12
Hispanic	84	15	77	18
Ages 18-34	83	17	76	22
35-49	83	15	82	14
50-64	88	12	86	13
65+	83	15	85	11
Men	83	17	83	16
Women	86	13	83	14
Rep/lean Rep	79	20	79	20
Dem/lean Dem	90	10	88	10

* The survey included 166 interviews with Catholic respondents who attend Mass once or twice a month, with an effective sample size of 90 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50.

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The survey did not include enough interviews with Black or Asian Catholics to be able to report on them separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Views about Communion for unmarried cohabiting couples, blessings for same-sex couples, recognizing marriages of gay and lesbian couples

About three-quarters of U.S. Catholics (76%) say the church should allow Catholics to take Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a romantic partner. Support for this idea is lower among Catholic Republicans than Catholic Democrats, and lower among Catholics who attend Mass weekly than among those who attend less often. Still, majorities in all these groups say the church should allow people living with a romantic partner to receive Communion.

Six-in-ten Catholics say the church should allow priests to bless same-sex couples. And half of Catholics say the church should recognize marriages of gay and lesbian couples.

But most Catholics who attend Mass weekly oppose having the church recognize marriages of gay and lesbian couples, as do most Catholics who are Republicans or GOP leaners. By contrast, most Catholics who attend Mass a few times a year or less often say the church should recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples, as do most Catholic Democrats.

Most Catholics say people living together outside of marriage should be permitted to receive Communion

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the Catholic Church should or should not do each of the following

	Allow Catholics to take Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a romantic partner		Allow priests to give blessings to same-sex couples		Recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
All U.S. Catholics	76%	23%	60%	38%	50%	47%
Attend Mass at least weekly	59	39	46	52	31	66
Once or twice a month*	70	30	57	42	46	53
A few times a year or less often	84	13	68	30	60	38
White, non-Hispanic	81	18	60	38	51	48
Hispanic	68	29	60	37	49	48
Ages 18-34	71	29	63	37	55	45
35-49	72	25	52	46	44	52
50-64	79	20	63	36	55	44
65+	78	19	62	34	49	48
Men	76	23	54	45	45	54
Women	75	22	66	31	55	41
Rep/lean Rep	73	26	45	54	34	65
Dem/lean Dem	80	18	77	22	67	30

* The survey included 166 interviews with Catholic respondents who attend Mass once or twice a month, with an effective sample size of 90 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50.

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The survey did not include enough interviews with Black or Asian Catholics to be able to report on them separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Views about marriage and gender in the priesthood and the diaconate

Most U.S. Catholics say the church should allow women to become deacons (68%), should allow priests to marry (63%), and should allow women to become priests (59%).

But Catholics who attend Mass weekly are less likely than Catholics overall to express these views. For example, 54% of Catholics who attend Mass weekly say the church should allow women to become deacons and 41% say the church should allow women to become priests.

Related: [*Under Pope Francis, the College of Cardinals became less European*](#)

About two-thirds of Catholics say the church should allow women to become deacons

Among U.S. Catholics, % who say the Catholic Church should or should not do each of the following

	Allow women to become deacons		Allow priests to get married		Allow women to become priests	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
All U.S. Catholics	68%	29%	63%	35%	59%	39%
Attend Mass at least weekly	54	44	49	48	41	56
Once or twice a month*	62	35	48	49	47	50
A few times a year or less often	76	21	72	26	70	29
White, non-Hispanic	75	24	70	29	62	37
Hispanic	58	37	56	41	56	41
Ages 18-34	54	41	56	41	58	40
35-49	67	32	61	37	57	41
50-64	71	27	66	33	59	40
65+	77	21	67	31	61	35
Men	67	32	64	35	61	39
Women	69	27	62	35	57	39
Rep/lean Rep	58	40	61	38	49	50
Dem/lean Dem	80	18	68	31	71	28

* The survey included 166 interviews with Catholic respondents who attend Mass once or twice a month, with an effective sample size of 90 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50.

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The survey did not include enough interviews with Black or Asian Catholics to be able to report on them separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Trends in views about birth control, the priesthood and sexuality

Pew Research Center has asked some of the questions analyzed in this report in previous surveys.

The percentage of U.S. Catholics who say the church should allow Catholics to use birth control is about the same now as it was in early 2024 and somewhat higher than when we asked these questions roughly a decade ago. A similar pattern emerges on the question of whether the church should allow Catholics to take Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a partner.

Trends in U.S. Catholics' views about birth control, the priesthood and sexuality

% of U.S. Catholics who say the Catholic Church should ...

	Telephone surveys			Surveys conducted mainly online	
	March 2013	February 2014	May-June 2015	February 2024	February 2025*
Allow Catholics to use birth control	76%	77%	76%	83%	84%
Allow Catholics to take Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a partner	–	–	61	75	76
Allow priests to get married	64	72	62	69	63
Allow women to become priests	59	68	59	64	59
Recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples	–	50	46	54	50

* In the February 2025 survey, 9,273 respondents participated online while 271 took the survey over the phone. Refer to the Methodology for details.

Note: The 2015 survey asked about allowing “Catholics who are living with a romantic partner without being married to receive Communion” rather than allowing “Catholics to take Communion even if they are unmarried and living with a romantic partner.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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On the other hand, the percentages of Catholics who support letting priests get married, letting women become priests, and recognizing the marriages of gay and lesbian couples have *dipped* slightly since the same questions were last asked in 2024, and are roughly on par with readings from about a decade ago.²

² The drops in the share of Catholics who say the church should allow priests to get married (69% vs. 63%) and the share of Catholics who say the church should allow women to become priests (64% vs. 59%) are significant at a 95% confidence level. The drop in the share of Catholics who say the church should recognize the marriage of gay and lesbian couples (54% vs. 50%) between 2024 and 2025 is significant at the 90% confidence level.

Views of women's influence in the church

About half of U.S. Catholics (51%) say women do not have enough influence in the Catholic Church, while about four-in-ten (42%) say women have about the right amount of influence. A small share – just 5% – say women have too much influence in the church.

Among Catholics who attend Mass weekly, the most common response to this question is that women have about the right amount of influence in the Catholic Church. By contrast, most Catholics who attend Mass a few times a year or less often say women do not have enough influence.

About six-in-ten Catholic women (58%) feel that women do not have enough influence in the church, compared with 44% of Catholic men who express this view.

Two-thirds of Catholics who are Democrats or lean Democratic say women do not have enough influence in the Catholic Church

% of U.S. Catholics who say women ___ influence in the Catholic Church

	Do not have enough	Have about the right amount of	Have too much
All U.S. Catholics	51%	42%	5%
Attend Mass at least weekly	40	54	6
Once or twice a month*	52	45	3
A few times a year or less often	57	37	4
White, non-Hispanic	53	43	3
Hispanic	46	44	9
Ages 18-34	51	41	8
35-49	49	45	5
50-64	52	43	4
65+	53	41	3
Men	44	50	5
Women	58	36	5
Rep/lean Rep	38	56	5
Dem/lean Dem	66	28	4

* The survey included 166 interviews with Catholic respondents who attend Mass once or twice a month, with an effective sample size of 90 and a 95% confidence level margin of error of plus or minus 10.3 percentage points. This margin of error conservatively assumes a reported percentage of 50.

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. The survey did not include enough interviews with Black or Asian Catholics to be able to report on them separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Looking at partisan breakdowns, two-thirds of Catholic Democrats say that women do not have enough influence in the church, compared with 38% of Republican Catholics.

Among Catholics who feel that women don't have enough influence in the church, 87% say the church should allow women to be deacons and 80% want to allow women to be priests.

Among Catholics who think that women currently have about the right amount of influence, far fewer say the church should allow women to become priests (36%) or deacons (48%).

Catholics who think women do not have enough influence in the church overwhelmingly say women should be allowed to become deacons, priests

% of U.S. Catholics who say the Catholic Church should allow women to become ...

	Deacons	Priests
All U.S. Catholics	68%	59%
<i>Among U.S. Catholics who say women ___ in the church</i>		
Do not have enough influence	87	80
Have about the right amount of influence	48	36

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 3-9, 2025.

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 162 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from Feb. 3 to 9, 2025. A total of 9,544 panelists (including 1,787 Catholics) responded out of 10,594 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 90%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the sample of 1,787 Catholic respondents is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=9,273) and live telephone (n=271) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel.](#)”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.³ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.⁴ Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

³ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)”

⁴ Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. All active panel members were invited to participate in this wave.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Feb. 3 to 9, 2025. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online: Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on Feb. 3.⁵ Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Feb. 3. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Feb. 4.

⁵ The American Trends Panel (ATP) does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys. Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents, ATP Wave 162

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	Feb. 3, 2025	Feb. 4, 2025
First reminder	Feb. 6, 2025	Feb. 6, 2025
Final reminder	Feb. 8, 2025	Feb. 8, 2025
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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on Jan. 31. Soft launch took place on Feb. 3 and involved dialing until a total of 15 interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, three ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2023 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 162

Based on U.S. Catholic respondents

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
All U.S. Catholics	1,787	3.1 percentage points
White, non-Hispanic	1,220	3.5 percentage points
Hispanic	400	6.3 percentage points
Men	784	4.7 percentage points
Women	999	4.0 percentage points
Attend Mass weekly or more often	531	5.9 percentage points
Attend Mass less often	1254	3.6 percentage points
<i>Monthly</i>	166	10.3 percentage points
<i>Yearly or less often</i>	1088	3.8 percentage points
Rep/lean Rep	923	4.2 percentage points
Dem/lean Dem	830	4.4 percentage points
Ages 18-34	226	8.2 percentage points
35-49	367	6.2 percentage points
50-64	545	5.4 percentage points
65+	643	5.1 percentage points

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 162

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	9,544
Logged in (web)/Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	207
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	67
Never logged on (web)/Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	773
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	3
Total panelists sampled for the survey		10,594
Completed interviews	I	9,544
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	274
Non-contact	NC	773
Other	O	3
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		10,594
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		90%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 162

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 162	35%
Response rate to Wave 162 survey	90%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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