

# CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS:

## A SHORT TOUR THROUGH THE LOVELY AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO SAY WE WORSHIP JESUS



### WEEK 2: THE ROMAN CATHOLICS

#### Bible Roots

Jeremiah 16:1-4	2 Kings 23:1-3	Matthew 16:15-19
Jeremiah 33:17	1 John 5:16-17	James 5:13-16

If you were to start from these verses and say what the Church should be like, what would be most important to your Church?

#### Important Dates

- 590-564: Papacy of Gregory the Great, whose missionary efforts spread into Northern Europe and England
- 1054 AD: After European knights attack Constantinople and Pope excommunicates the bishop of Constantinople, Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Catholic) churches officially and permanently split
- 1302: Pope Boniface VIII issues Unam Sanctum, declaring the supremacy of the Bishop (overseer) of Rome
- 1529: The Protestant Princes of the Holy Roman Empire formally call for the empire to allow Lutheran churches in the Empire
- 1545-1563: Council of Trent officially declares that those who have broken off from Rome will not receive communion until they return

#### Ways that the Catholics Differ from Us

- The Catholic Bible has ten more books than the Protestant ones, Old Testament books whose oldest manuscripts are in Greek rather than in Hebrew or Aramaic.
- The Pope has the authority (which only began 150 years ago and has only been used twice) to pronounce from the throne of the Cathedral in Rome and fix infallible Church teaching for all Catholics everywhere.
- Eucharist, not the sermon, is the center of their liturgy, and communion is strictly limited, and those whose churches have broken with Rome are not welcome.
- In addition to asking the living for prayer, Roman Catholics are in the practice of asking those who are in Heaven waiting for prayer. because those people are higher than earthly kings, the petitions to them take on a very formal air.
- Because Catholic clergy are all men and do not marry, Catholic missions tend to be much more permanent than Protestant missions—a priest will move to a place somewhere abroad and stay there generally for the rest of his life.

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