

# THE ULTIMATE LATIN GUIDE

Reading Latin baptism, marriage and death records can be difficult at times. The writing is hard to read, the records are not standardized, and, most importantly, it is in Latin. The following is a condensed list of terms most commonly used in Latin church records. Using this guide, you can glean the most important vital details from any Latin record.

GENERAL RECORDS	
Church/Parish	Ecclesia, parochia
Baptism/Christening	Baptismi, baptizat(us/a)
Birth	Nat(i/a), genit(us/a), natal(is/ia)
Confirmation	Confirmatis
Marriage	Matrimonium, juncti sunt, conjugati
Marriage banns	Banni, proclamationes
Death	Mortuus, defunctus, obitus, obiit
Burial	Sepulti, sepultus

DATE CALCULATION	
Day	Die
Month	Mensis
Year	Anno Domini
January	Januarius
February	Februarius
March	Martius
April	Aprilis
May	Maius
June	Junius
July	Julius
August	Augustus
September	September, 7ber, VIIber, 7bri, VIIbri
October	October, 8ber, VIIIber, 8bri, VIIIbri
November	November, 9ber, IXber, 9bri, IXbri
December	December, 10ber, Xber, 10bri, Xbri

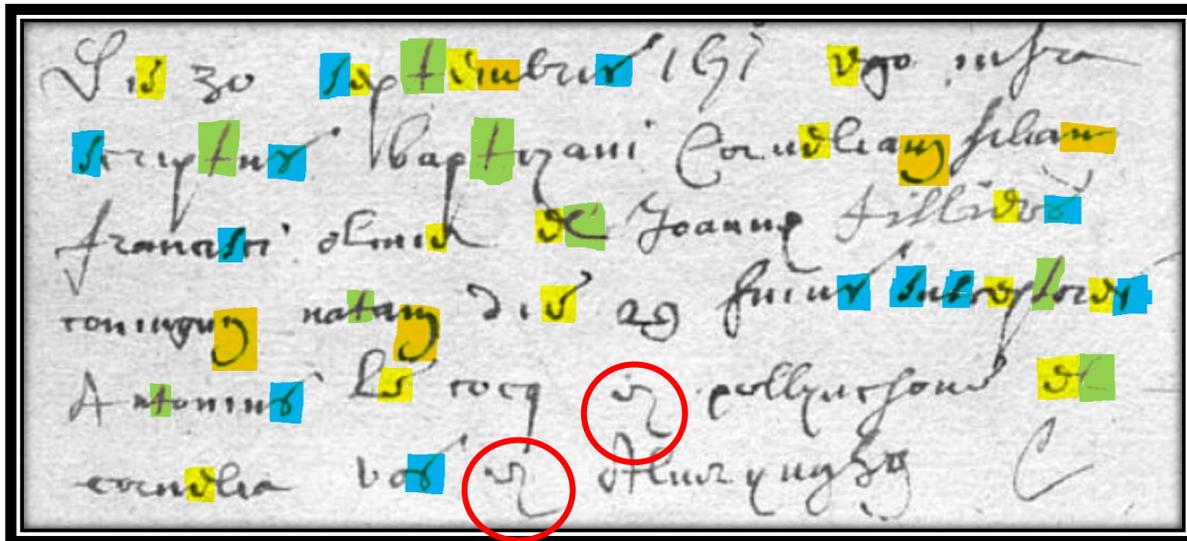
CARDINAL NUMBERS	
1 unus	25 viginti quinque
2 duo, duae	26 viginti sex
3 tres, tres, tria	27 viginti septem
4 quattuor	28 viginti octo
5 quinque	29 viginti novem
6 sex	30 triginta
7 septem	40 quadraginta
8 octo	50 quinquaginta
9 novem	60 sexaginta
10 decem	70 septuaginta
11 undecim	80 octoginta
12 duodecim	90 nonaginta
13 tredecim	100 centum
14 quattuordecim	101 centum unus
15 quindecim	150 centum quinquaginta
16 sedecim	200 ducenti
17 septemdecim, decimo septimo	300 trecenti
18 odeviginti	400 quadringenti
19 undeviginti, decimo nona	500 quingenti
20 viginti	600 sescenti
21 viginti unus	700 septingenti
22 viginti duo	800 octingenti
23 viginti tres	900 nongenti
24 viginti quattuor	1000 mille

ORDINAL NUMBERS (US/A)	
1st primus	25th vicesimus quintus
2nd secundus	26th vicesimus sextus
3rd tertius	27th vicesimus septimus
4th quartus	28th vicesimus octavus
5th quintus	29th vicesimus nonus
6th sextus	30th tricesimus
7th septimus	40th quadragesimus
8th octavus	50th quinquagesimus
9th nonus	60th sexagesimus
10th decimus	70th septuagesimus
11th undecimus	80th octogesimus
12th duodecimus	90th nonagesimus
13th tertius decimus	100th centesimus
14th quartus decimus	101st centesimus primus
15th quintus decimus	150th centesimus quinquagesimus
16th sextus decimus	200th ducentesimus
17th septimus decimus	300th trecentesimus
18th duodevicesimus	400th quadringentesimus
19th undevicesimus	500th quingentesimus
20th vicesimus	600th sescentesimus
21st vicesimus primus	700th septingentesimus
22nd vicesimus secundus	800th octingentesimus
23rd vicesimus tertius	900th nongentesimus
24th vicesimus quartus	1000th millesimus

# HANDWRITING/SPELLING TIPS

Some of the older Latin records are harder to read because each priest had their own way of writing letters. The following record is just one example:

YELLOW = E  
BLUE = S  
GREEN = T  
ORANGE = M  
CIRCLE = "EX"



- Notice how this priest wrote all the “e” letters backwards to look like “ə.” This was very common in Latin records.
- The letters “S,” “T” and “M” look different when at the end of a word, as opposed to when they are at the beginning or middle of a word.
- The letter “X” can be one of the trickiest letters to recognize in a Latin record. In this record, the letters “ex,” meaning out of, or from, is shown a red circle. In some records, I have often mistaken the word *uxoris* as “ignoris,” which is not a word.

LATIN: Die 30 septembris 1671 ego infrascriptus baptizavi Corneliam\* filiam Francisci Olivier et Joanna Filliers conjugum natam die 29 fuius susceptores Antonius Le Rocq ex (UNSURE PLACE) et Cornelia Vos (?) ex (UNSURE PLACE)

ENGLISH: On the 30th day of September, 1671, I, the undersigned, baptized Cornelia\*, daughter of Francisci Olivier and Joanna Filliers his wife, who was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> day; the godparents were Antonius Le Rocq from (LATINIZED PLACE) and Cornelia Vos (?) from (LATINIZED PLACE).

\*In Latin, letters are added to the base word when it is the direct object.

Since Cornelim is the direct object of the verb “to baptize,” an “m” is added to her name. (I baptized **Cornelim**). Her name is really Cornelia.

Notice how the godmother is listed as Cornelia. This is because she is the subject of the verb “to be.” (**Cornelia** and **Antonius** were the godparents)

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

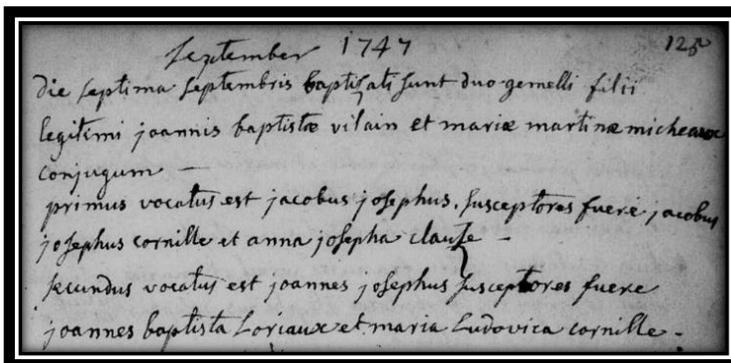
- *i* and *j* are interchangeable
- *u* and *v* are interchangeable
- *e* used for *ae* (æ)
- *e* used for *oe* (œ)
- *c* used for *qu*

# BAPTISMS

[Eodem/ejusdem/eiusdem] (On the same)	die day	_____ (date of act)	baptizat(us/a) est was baptized	_____ (name of child)	fili(us/a) legitim(us/a) the legitimate son/daughter of
_____ (father)	et and	_____ (mother)		[uxoris/conjugum] [his spouse]	susceptores fuerunt the godparents were
_____ (godfather)	et and	_____ (godmother)			

BAPTISMAL RECORD WORDS	
Baptizat(us/a)	Baptized
Conjugum/uxoris	Spouse
Die	Day
Eodem, ejusdem, eiusdem	On the same....
Filius/filia	Son/Daughter
Gemini, gemellus, geminae	Twin
Legitim(us/a)	Legitimate
Matrina	Godmother
Naturalis, spuri(us/a), illegitim(us/a)	Natural/illegitimate
Nomen nescio/n.n.	Unknown name
Ob imminens mortis periculum	Emergency baptism
Obstetrix	Midwife
Pater/mater	Father/Mother
Patrinus	Godfather
Subconditione	Under a condition
Susceptores, susceperuntis	Godparents
Testibus	Witnesses

## IRREGULAR RECORD: TWIN BAPTISM



The first paragraph lists the baptism date, that there were two twin sons, and the name of the parents. In the following lines, the parents will not be mentioned again.

“Primus vocatus” is the first child’s name. It lists only his godparents.

“Secundus vocatus” is the second child’s name. It also only lists his godparents.

## TIPS

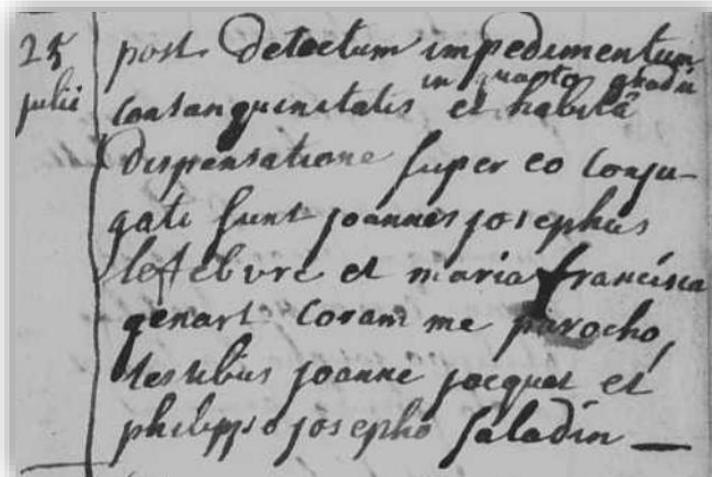
- ❖ If the month and year aren’t listed with each act, try backtracking the records until you find them.
- ❖ **Eodem die** means the baptism took place on the same day as the prior entry.
- ❖ If the child was illegitimate, only the mother and godparents are named.
- ❖ In some parishes, the priest did not record the mother’s last name. You may see **n.n.** (**nomen nescio**, unknown) or **uxoris** (his spouse). **Uxor** may look like “ignoris,” which isn’t a word. DO NOT infer the mother’s last name based on the godparents, even though they are most likely related.
- ❖ Latin records use abbreviations. Ex. *Baptizata* can be *bapt<sup>a</sup>* and *Joannes*, *Jo<sup>es</sup>*
- ❖ If you see **natum**, it means the child was born on a different day than the baptism.
- ❖ Sometimes, the **obstetrix**, or midwife, would perform an emergency baptism (**ob imminens mortis**) if the baby was in danger of dying. Babies who died would have their emergency baptism mentioned in the death record. Babies who lived would be rebaptized by the parish priest **subconditione**, or under certain/special conditions. The Roman Catholic Church was strongly against rebaptism. Classifying a baptism as **subconditione** meant that rebaptism was allowed due to doubt or uncertainty that the child was correctly baptized. The priest would repeat this wording to signify “if you are able to be baptized...” to avoid heresy.
  - \*See <https://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/emergency-baptisms-by-the-midwife/>

# MARRIAGES

_____	[juncti/conjugati/uniti in matrimonium]	[sunt]	_____	et
(date of act)	[joined in marriage]	[were]	(name of groom)	and
_____	[presentibus _____ et _____]	[coram me parochi]	_____	testibus
(name of bride)	[present were (name) and (name)]	[before me, the pastor]	_____	and the witnesses
_____	et _____.			
(name of witness)	and (name of witness)			

MARRIAGE RECORD WORDS	
Anno	Year
Banni/Proclamationes	Marriage banns
Conjugati sunt	Joined in marriage were
Consanguinitalis in ____ gradia	Related in the ____ degree
Coram me	Before me
Defunt	Deceased
Die	Day
Ex	From/out of
Impedimentum	Impeded or delayed.
Juncti sunt	Joined in marriage were
Menses	Month
Noster	Our
Parochi	Pastor/Recorder
Testibus	Witnesses
Uniti in matrimonio	United in marriage were
Vicario	Vicar
Viduus/vidua	Widower/Widow

## IRREGULAR RECORD: DELAYED MARRIAGE



In this record, a marriage was delayed (**impedimentum**) because it was discovered (**post detectum**) the bride and groom were related to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree (**consanguinitalis in quarto gradia**). This act is a follow-up stating they were exempted from the law (**habita dispensatione**) of consanguinity and were married.

## TIPS

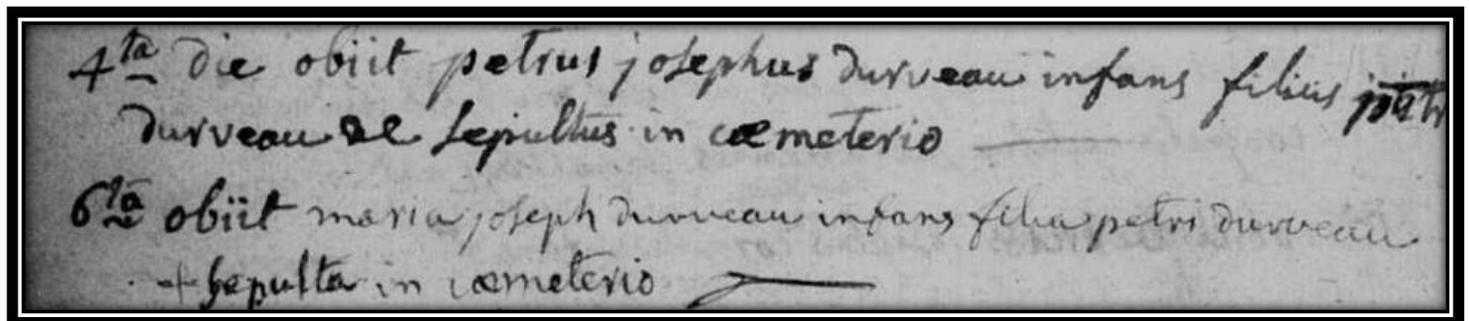
- ❖ Marriage records are extremely varied! Some had lots of details, and others would only mention the date of marriage and the name of the couple.
- ❖ Dates are sometimes, but not often, written out in marriage records. The date 11 February 1746, for example, could read as **die undecima februarii anno millesimo septingentesimo quadragésimo sexto**. Most records include abbreviated forms of dates, such as 7bris for Septembris.
- ❖ Most early Church marriage records do not list the parents of the couple.
- ❖ Names are often abbreviated. **Maria**, for example, is sometimes written M<sup>a</sup>.
- ❖ **Matrimonio** is sometimes abbreviated as **matriō**.
- ❖ Sometimes marriage records would state the groom and bride's former parish. This is reflected in records by the word **ex** which means "from" or "out of" and the word **de nostra parochiana**.

# DEATHS

_____	obiit	1. _____	2. [infans]	3. [uxor(is)]	4. [vidu(us/a)]	[in primus/secundis nuptiis]
[Date]	died	(name of deceased)	[the child of]	[the spouse of]	[the widow(er)]	[in their first/second marriage with]
_____		[praemunit(us/a) omnibus consuetis ecclesia sacramentis]				
[names of parents/spouse/deceased spouse]		[having been safeguarded by all necessary church rites]				
[sepult(us/a) in cœmeterio]						
[buried in the church cemetery]						

DEATH RECORD WORDS	
Consuetis	Stitched/joined/perhaps sealed?
Defunctus	Died
Ecclesia	Church
Filius/filia	Son/daughter
In primus/secundis nuptis	In their first/second marriage with
Infans	Child (not infant!)
Mortuus	Died
Obiit/obitus	Died
Omnibus	All
Praemunit(us/a)	Forewarned/safeguarded
Sacramentis	Rites
Sepult(us/a) in cœmeterio	Buried in the church cemetery
Uxor	Spouse of
Vidu(us/a)	Widower/widow

TIPS
† The cross was often used as an abbreviation for death records.
Uxor is means that the deceased has a living spouse.
At times, previous marriages and names of spouse were listed on the death records.
The word <i>infans</i> means child, not infant. An <i>infans</i> designates anyone who is under the age of adulthood. The definition of adult varied according to the region and time period.



- ❖ Sometimes dead newborns didn't have a name listed in their death records, and are only listed as *infans*. This makes it impossible to know for certain the sex of the child. Many records also didn't list the parents. In these cases, you might not be able to gender the child or determine who their parents are (unless if there happens to be only one family in the whole town by that last name). Luckily, in this record, there is an example of a baby boy and a baby girl with a listed father.

Latin:

Quarta die obit Petrus Josephus Durveau infans filius Petrus Durveau sepultus in cœmeterio.

Sexta obiit Maria Joseph Durveau infans filia Petri Durveau † Sepulta in cœmeterio.

English:

On the fourth day died Petrus Josephus Durveau, the infant son of Petrus Durveau, buried in the church cemetery.

On the sixth day died Maria Joseph Durveau, the infant daughter of Petri Durveau, buried in the church cemetery.