

Famous Catholic Scientists

Scientist's Name	Country	Lived	Specialty	Special Recognition
St. Augustine of Hippo	Algeria	354-430	anthropologist, metaphysicist	developed Western philosophy, Christianity
Pope Sylvester II	France	950-1003	astronomer, mathematician	pope, reintroduced the abacus to Europe
Robert Grosseteste	England	1175-1253	physicist, mathematician	bishop, scientific method work
St. Albert the Great	Germany	1193-1280	botanist, zoologist	Dominican, Patron Saint of Scientists
Pope John XXI	Portugal	1215-1277	medicine, logician	textbook on logic, <i>Summulae logicales</i>
Roger Bacon	England	1219-1292	philosopher	Franciscan, experimental science
Thomas Bradwardine	England	1300-1349	physicist, mathematician	kinematics
Jean Buridan	France	1301-1362	philosopher, scientist	priest, concept of impetus
Nicole Oresme	France	1323-1382	astronomer, mathematician	bishop, discovered combining exponents rule
Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa	Germany	1401-1464	astronomer, mathematician	bishop, developed concept of the infinitesimal
Nicolaus Copernicus	Poland	1473-1543	astronomer, physician	priest, heliocentric planetary theory
Georgius Agricola	Germany	1494-1555	metallurgist, mineralogist	father of mineralogy
Andreas Vesalius	Belgium	1514-1564	anatomist	founder of modern human anatomy
Christopher Clavius	Germany	1538-1612	astronomer, mathematician	Jesuit, Gregorian calendar, Clavius' Law
Galileo Galilei	Italy	1564-1642	astronomer, physicist	father of modern science
Christoph Scheiner	Germany	1573-1650	astronomer	Jesuit, discovered sunspots with telescopes
Benedetto Castelli	Italy	1578-1643	mathematician	Benedictine, student and defender of Galileo
Marin Mersenne	France	1588-1648	physicist, mathematician	priest, Mersenne primes, acoustics
Pierre Gassendi	France	1592-1655	astronomer, mathematician	priest, observed transit-Mercury across the Sun
René Descartes	France	1596-1650	philosopher, mathematician	Cartesian plane geometry
Bonaventura Cavalieri	Italy	1598-1647	mathematician	Jesuate, method of indivisibles
Giovanni Battista Riccioli	Italy	1598-1671	astronomer, physicist	Jesuit, lunar crater named after him
Pierre de Fermat	France	1601-1665	mathematician	number theory, analytic geometry
Athanasius Kircher	Germany	1602-1680	geologist	Jesuit, "Master of a Hundred Arts"
Evangelista Torricelli	Italy	1608-1647	physicist, mathematician	invented the barometer
Francesco Grimaldi	Italy	1618-1663	astronomer, physicist	Jesuit, free fall, diffraction of light
Blaise Pascal	France	1623-1662	physicist, mathematician	probability theory, Pascal's law
Giovanni Domenico Cassini	Italy	1625-1712	astronomer, mathematician	Jesuit, discovered Saturn's moons, rings
Marcello Malpighi	Italy	1628-1694	Anatomy, physiology	discovered existence of capillaries
Blessed Nicolas Steno	Denmark	1638-1686	anatomist, paleontologist	bishop, founder of the study of fossils
Giovanni Girolamo Saccheri	Italy	1677-1733	mathematician	Jesuit, non-Euclidean geometry theorems
Giovanni Battista Morgagni	Italy	1682-1771	anatomist	founder of anatomical pathology
Pierre-Louis Moreau	France	1698-1759	physicist, mathematician	invented the principle of least action
Vincenzo Riccati	Italy	1707-1755	physicist, mathematician	Jesuit, introduced the hyperbolic functions
Roger Joseph Boscovich	Croatia	1711-1787	physicist, astronomer	Jesuit, Precursor of the atomic theory
Georges-Louis Leclerc	France	1707-1788	naturalist, cosmologist	<i>Histoire Naturelle</i>
Laura Bassi	Italy	1711-1778	Physicist	1st woman university professor
Maria Gaetana Agnesi	Italy	1718-1799	Mathematician	1st woman university math professor
Christian Mayer	Czech	1719-1783	astronomer	Jesuit, pioneered binary star study
Lazzaro Spallanzani	Italy	1729-1799	biologist, physiologist	disproved idea of "spontaneous generation"
Charles de Coulomb	France	1736-1806	physicist	Coulomb's Law
Luigi Galvani	Italy	1737-1798	physician	bioelectricity (animal electricity)
Antoine Lavoisier	France	1743-1794	chemist	stoichiometry, identified oxygen, hydrogen
René-Just Haüy	France	1743-1822	mineralogist	priest, father of modern crystallography
Alessandro Volta	Italy	1745-1827	physicist	Invention of the electric cell, volt
Giuseppe Piazzi	Italy	1746-1826	astronomer, mathematician	discovered first dwarf planet, Ceres
Thaddäus Derfflinger	Austria	1748-1824	astronomer	Benedictine monk, sunspot observer
Pierre-Simon Laplace	France	1749-1827	astronomer, mathematician	Laplace's equation, Laplace transform
Barnaba Oriani	Italy	1752-1832	astronomer	priest, detailed research of planet Uranus
Fausto Elhuyar	Spain	1755-1833	mineralogist, chemist	isolated tungsten, gave name Wolfram (W)
Pierre-Andre Latreille	France	1762-1833	zoologist	founder of modern entomology
Jean-Baptiste Biot	France	1774-1862	astronomer, physicist	Biot-Savart law
André-Marie Ampère	France	1775-1836	physicist, mathematician	Ampère's Law
Giuseppe Zamboni	Italy	1776-1846	physicist	priest, Zamboni pile, early electric battery
Amedeo Avogadro	Italy	1776-1856	mathematical physicist	Avogadro's Law
René Laennec	France	1781-1826	physician	invented the stethoscope
Bernard Bolzano	Bohemia	1781-1848	mathematician, logician	priest, Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem

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Jacques Philippe Binet	France	1786-1856	physicist, astronomer	Binet's Theorem, Binet-Cauchy identity
Michel Eugène Chevreul	France	1786-1789	chemist	fatty acids, margarine
Joseph von Fraunhofer	Bavaria	1787-1826	physicist	invented first modern spectroscope
Augustin-Jean Fresnel	France	1788-1827	physicist	wave theory of light
Antoine César Becquerel	France	1788-1878	physicist	invented differential galvanometer
Augustin-Louis Cauchy	France	1789-1857	physicist, mathematician	complex function theory
Gaspard-Gustave de Coriolis	France	1792-1843	meteorologist, mathematician	Coriolis effect, invented term kinetic energy
Jean-Baptiste Dumas	France	1800-1884	chemist	atomic weights, molecular weights
Theodor Schwann	Germany	1810-1882	biologist, physiologist	cell theory, Schwann cells
Urbain Le Verrier	France	1811-1877	astronomer	discovery of Neptune
Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis	Hungary	1818-1865	obstetrics, surgeries	introduced hand disinfection standards
Angelo Secchi	Italy	1818-1878	astronomer	Jesuit, first to state the Sun is a star.
James Prescott Joule	England	1818-1889	physicist	Joule's Law
Léon Foucault	France	1819-1868	physicist	Foucault pendulum, invented gyroscope
Hyppolite Fizeau	France	1819-1896	physicist	measured the speed of light
Gregor Johann Mendel	Austria	1822-1884	geneticist	Augustinian monk, Father of Genetics
Louis Pasteur	France	1822-1895	chemist, biologist	germ theory, pasteurization, rabies vaccine
Charles Hermite	France	1822-1901	mathematician	Hermite polynomials, Hermite interpolation
Lorenzo Respighi	Italy	1824-1889	astronomer	1st spectroscopic observation on sun's border
Jozef Štefan	Austria	1835-1893	physicist, mathematician	Stefan-Boltzmann law
Camille Jordan	France	1838-1922	mathematician	Jordan curve theorem, normal form, matrix
Joseph O'Dwyer	United States	1841-1898	physician	developed intubation, diphtheria treatment
Joseph Boussinesq	France	1842-1929	physicist, mathematician	Boussinesq equations
Gyula Fényi	Hungary	1845-1927	astronomer	Jesuit, studied solar prominences
Wilhelm Killing	Germany	1847-1923	mathematician	Lie groups & algebras, non-Euclidean geometry
Giuseppe Mercalli	Italy	1850-1914	volcanologist	priest, invented earthquake intensity scale
Henry Louis Le Chatelier	France	1850-1936	chemist	Le Chatelier's Principle, chemical equilibrium
Gregorio Ricci	Italy	1853-1925	mathematician	developed field of tensor calculus
Paul Sabatier	France	1854-1941	chemist	revolutionized industrial chemical production
Jean-Baptiste Senderens	France	1856-1937	chemist	pioneered work in catalytic chemistry
Émile Picard	France	1856-1941	mathematician	Picard theorems in complex analysis
Frederick Louis Odenbach	United States	1857-1933	meteorologist	Jesuit, developed electrical seismograph
Pierre Duhem	France	1861-1916	theoretical physicist	Gibbs–Duhem, Duhem–Margules equations
Charles Nicolle	France	1866-1936	bacteriologist	discovered means of transmission of typhus
Charles de la Vallée Poussin	Belgium	1866-1962	mathematician	proved the Prime Number Theorem
Theodor Wulf	Germany	1868-1946	physicist	Jesuit, detected excess atmospheric radiation
Victor Grignard	France	1871-1935	chemist	Grignard reagent, Grignard reaction
Alexis Carrel	France	1873-1944	surgeon, biologist	pioneered transplantology, vascular sutures
Edmund T. Whittaker	England	1873-1956	physicist, mathematician	<i>A Course in Mathematical Analysis</i>
Henri Breuil	France	1877-1961	archaeologist, geologist	Jesuit, prehistoric cave art
Julius A. Nieuwland	Belgium	1878-1936	chemist, botanist	Holy Cross priest, developed acetylene
St. Giuseppe Moscati	Italy	1880-1927	biochemist, medical doctor	pioneering work in biochemistry
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin	France	1881-1955	paleontologist	Jesuit, discovered Peking Man
Alexander Fleming	Scotland	1881-1955	biologist, pharmacologist	developed penicillin
James B. Macelwane	United States	1883-1956	seismologist	Jesuit, founded Jesuit Seismological Service
Victor F. Hess	Austria	1883-1964	physicist	discovered cosmic rays
Erwin Schrödinger	Austria	1887-1961	theoretical physicist	quantum mechanics, Schrödinger's equation
Sir Hugh Stott Taylor	England	1890-1974	chemist	catalytic reactions, structure of proteins
Dorothy Garrod	England	1892-1968	archaeologist	1st woman to hold chair at Cambridge/Oxford
Corneille Heymans	Belgium	1892-1968	physiologist	vascular pressore- and chemo-receptors
Karl F. Herzfeld	Austria	1892-1978	physicist	kinetic theory, ultrasonics
Louis de Broglie	France	1892-1987	physicist	de Broglie hypothesis, wave–particle duality
Georges Lemaître	Belgium	1894-1966	theoretical physicist	priest, proposed the Big Bang theory
John Von Neumann	Hungary	1903-1957	computer theorist	game theory, computer theory
John Eccles	Australia	1903-1997	neurophysiologist	work on the synapse
Mary Kenneth Keller	United States	1913-1985	computer scientist	BVM, 1st US woman doctorate-computer science
Miriam Michael Stimson	United States	1913-2002	chemist, medical doctor	Dominican sister, DNA Pioneer
Bertram N. Brockhouse	Canada	1918-2003	physicist	neutron scattering techniques, spectroscopy
Clemens Roothaan	United States	1918-2019	physicist	calculate atomic & molecular wave functions

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Clyde Cowan	United States	1919-1974	physicist	discovered the neutrino
Joseph Edward Murray	United States	1919-2012	plastic surgeon	first successful human kidney transplant
Stephanie L. Kwolek	United States	1923-2014	chemist	invented Kevlar
Stanley Jaki	Hungary	1924-2009	physicist	Benedictine, contributor to philosophy of science
Venerable Jérôme Lejeune	France	1926-1994	pediatrics, genetics	discovered Trisomy 21, Down syndrome cause
Ennio De Giorgi	Italy	1928-1996	mathematician	solved one of "Hilbert's problems"
Edith Marie Flanigen	United States	1929-	chemist	molecular sieve, synthetic emerald
George Coyne	United States	1933-2020	astronomer	Jesuit, director of the Vatican Observatory
Xavier Le Pichon	France	1934-	geophysicist	helped create the plate tectonics field
Nicola Cabibbo	Italy	1935-2010	physicist	Cabibbo theory on weak interaction
Michael Heller	Poland	1936-	theoretical physicist	priest, Copernicus Ctr-Interdisciplinary Studies
Karin Öberg	Sweden	1982-	astrochemist, convert	first complex molecule in a protoplanetary disk