

## MEDIEVAL JOBS: PRIEST

During the eleventh century, the church divided western Europe into small administrative districts called parishes. Each parish had its own church and local priest. Most local priests were poorly educated former peasants, and they worked the fields alongside their flocks. In addition to performing farmwork, the priests recited daily mass and led prayers, all in Latin. Sermons were preached in the vernacular, or regional language. The priest also taught his parishioners to memorize in Latin the Lord's Prayer, the Nicene Creed, and the Apostles' Creed. Priests survived on a percentage of tithes, the donations required of parishioners to the church. Priests also charged fees for special services, such as marriages and baptisms.

Adapted from:

Carnegie, Julie L. "Medieval Europe: 814–1350: Social Class System and the Economy." *UXL World Eras*, vol. 8: Medieval Europe: 814–1350, UXL, 2016, pp. 45-66. *Gale In Context: Middle School*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3629700115/MSIC?u=mcps&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=688cf364](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3629700115/MSIC?u=mcps&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=688cf364). Accessed 9 Nov. 2021.