ECCLESIASTICAL PRONUNCIATION OF THE LATIN

Vowels

a is sounded like a in “father”
ê is sounded like a in “fame”
ë is sounded like e in “met”
i and y are sounded like ee in “meet”
o is sounded like o in “no”
u is sounded like oo in “boot”

Diphthongs

ae, oe, are sounded like ay in “day,” except when two dots are placed above the ê, in which case each vowel is given a distinct sound.
au is sounded like ou in “house.”
 eu though forming one syllable is sounded ā’ōo.

As a general rule each vowel is sounded separately, even though the vowel is doubled as in filii, which is pronounced fee-lee-ee.

Consonants

Those consonants which differ in sound from their usage in the English language are c, cc, sc, ch, g, gn, and ti.

C before e, ae, oe, i, y receives the sound of ch as in “chair.”
Example: dul’-ce (dul’-chä), cae’-lum (chä’-lōōm).
C before a, o, u, au receives the sound of k as in “kite.”
Cc before e, ae, oe, i, y receives the sound tch. Example: ecce (et’-chäy).
Sc before e, ae, oe, i, y receives the sound of sh. Example: de-scen-dit (dā-shen’-deet).
Ch before any vowel receives the sound of k, as in brachium (brah’-kē-oom).
g before e, ae, oe, i, y receives the soft sound as in the words An'-ge-lus, re-gi'-na. In every other case g is hard, as in gladius, unless followed by n.

gn receives the sound of ni in union. Example: agnus (ah'-nyoos).

h receives the sound of k in mihi (mē-ke) and nihil (nee'-keel). In all other cases it is not sounded.

j is sounded like the English y in yes. Example: je'-su (yā'-soo). The i in alleluia is sounded the same (al-le-loo'-ya).

s is always sounded like s in yes.

ti when followed by a vowel and preceded by any letter except s, t, x, is sounded like tsee. Example: gratias (gra'-tsee-as).

x before c is sounded like gg and the c like sh. Example: excelsis (egg-shēl'-sees).

A consonant between two vowels belongs to the vowel following it. Example: bo'-nae, ti'-bi, etc.