

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Must I Believe In Apparitions & Miracles?

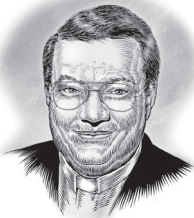
Know This...

Faithful Catholics must accept every apparition and miracle revealed in *public revelation*. Faithful Catholics do not have to accept any apparition or miracle revealed in “*private*” revelations. Public revelation is captured in Holy Tradition and Sacred Scripture. Approved “private” revelations are post-apostolic-age apparitions and miracles the Magisterium of the Church recognizes as in keeping with Tradition and Scripture.



John: An apparition is an appearance of Jesus, Mary, an angel, or a saint to us on earth. A miracle is a healing or event that can only be attributed to divine intervention.

James: Many apparitions and miracles are documented in the Bible. Since God inspired the Bible, its apparitions and miracles belong to the Deposit of Faith and must be believed.



John: The Church carefully investigates and discerns apparitions and miracles. She may declare some of these “private” revelations as not contrary to the faith, but none of them are included in the Deposit of Faith.

James: Church history is rich with examples of authenticated apparitions and true miracles. They are the basis for the canonization of saints.

John: The apparitions and miracles that comprise true “private” revelation offer insight into God and help the faithful draw closer to Him.

James: Public revelation ended with the death of the last Apostle; true “private” revelations never surpass or correct public revelation.

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“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.” Lk 1:26-27 “Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, Jesus said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied.” Lk 9:16-17a

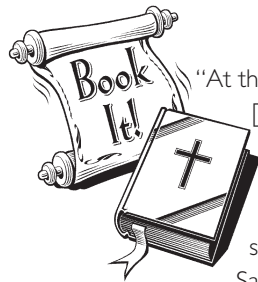
PAPA SAYS

“Peter found a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, ‘Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.’ He got up at once. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.” Acts 9:32-35 Approved apparitions led to the following papal actions. Pope Leo XIII consecrated the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1899. Pope Pius X extended the observance of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to the entire Church in 1907. Pope Pius XII declared our Lady of Guadalupe the patroness of all the Americas in 1946. Pope John Paul II established Divine Mercy Sunday in 2001.



BE ATTITUDES

In 1675, while St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus appeared from out of the monstrance and said to her, “Look at this Heart which has loved men so much, and yet men do not want to love Me in return. Through you My divine Heart wishes to spread its love everywhere on earth.” She later revealed to others, “The adorable Heart of Jesus wishes to establish the reign of Its love in all hearts and to destroy and ruin that of Satan... Enter into the Sacred Heart and dedicate to It your body, your soul, your heart, your whole being, to make no other use of it than for Its love and glory.”



“At that very time, the prayer of these two suppliants [Tobit and Sarah] was heard in the glorious presence of Almighty God. So Raphael [the angel] was sent to heal them both: to remove the cataracts from Tobit’s eyes, so that he might again see God’s sunlight; and to marry Raguel’s daughter Sarah to Tobit’s son Tobiah, and then drive the wicked demon Asmodeus from her.” Tob 3:16-17a

Heavenly Father and source of all divine revelation, You sent Your Word to reveal salvation to all mankind. I cannot repay Your love and mercy; but, that I may see Christ in the lives I touch, open my mind, heart, and soul to Jesus’ Sacred Heart and Divine Mercy first revealed to Your daughters Margaret Mary and Sister Faustina. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

