

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Are The End Times & Second Coming Upon Us?

Know This...

This life differs from the next life. In this life, nothing, whether good or bad, lasts forever; but in the next life, our intense happiness in heaven or intense torment in hell does last forever. Tradition says we are living in the end times: that time between the First and Second Coming of Christ. Scripture says we cannot predict the Second Coming and any attempt to try is a waste of time and effort. Faithful Christians live in joyful hope and are open to the grace of God that prepares us for the Second Coming.



John: Jesus will return with His angels to judge the living and the dead. The Church says many events will precede His Second Coming.

James: The faithful will suffer trials and persecutions. Many Christians will be led astray by the false teachings of the anti-Christ.

(CCC 675-76; Mk 13:5-6, 21-22; 1 Jn 2:18; 2 Thes 2:3-10; Rev 13:3-4)

John: The Gospel will be preached to all nations and the Jews will accept Jesus as the Messiah.

(CCC 674; Mt 24:14; Rom 11:25-26)

James: The sky will be filled with terrifying signs and the earth will endure many natural disasters and man-made calamities.

(Mt 24:29; Mk 13:24-25; Lk 21:25-26)

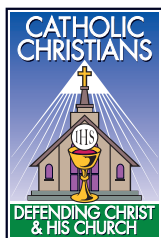
John: Then Jesus will return in power and glory; the dead will rise; and Jesus will sit upon a glorious throne and all the nations will gather before Him. (CCC 1038; Mt 25:31-32a)

James: Finally, Jesus will separate the just from the unjust as they are judged by their deeds.

(CCC 998, 1039-41; Mt 25:32b-46)

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.



Jesus says His Gospel "will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come." Mt 24:14 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only... Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Mt 24:36, 42 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Lk 21:25-28 "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day [when Jesus returns] catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Lk 21:34-36

PAPA SAYS

"Know this first of all, that in the last days scoffers will come (to) scoff, living according to their own desires... The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out." 2 Pet 3:3, 9-10



"Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed... proclaiming himself to be God." 2 Thess 2:1-4 "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." Jude 18 "I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls." Rev 20:12

God the Father, as the day of Your Son's return approaches, I pray that you will complete the good works You began in me at my baptism. Purify my heart, mind, and soul of the attractions and false teachings of this world that weaken my faith and separate me from Your heavenly kingdom. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

