

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Why Do We Call Mary The Mother Of God?

### Know This...

Christians acknowledge Mary as the Mother of Jesus. Unfortunately, most non-Catholic and non-Orthodox Christians refuse to call her the Mother of God: the *Theotokos*, the *God bearer*. In rejecting Mary as the Mother of God, they are implicitly rejecting truths about her Son. Jesus has both a divine and human nature. They cannot be separated. When Christians proclaim that Mary is only the Mother of Jesus' human nature, they are making Jesus two persons: a divine person and a human person. This is heresy. Jesus is a divine Person with two natures.



**John:** For 2000 years the Church has proclaimed Mary to be the Mother of God. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the Council of Ephesus rejected heresies against this teaching.

**James:** The early Protestant Reformers—Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin—acknowledged Mary as the Mother of God. Today, few Protestants accept this title.

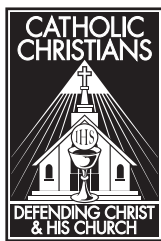


**John:** Jesus is true God and true man. He is the Eternal God without beginning or end. Mary owes her very existence to her Son; but when a Christian only calls Mary the Mother of Jesus, he is implicitly denying the Incarnation.

**James:** Mary gave Jesus His human nature, not His divine nature. But she carried in her womb and gave birth to one divine Person. Mary, as the Mother of God, continues to point us to the Eternal Son, who came into our world to destroy sin and death.

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

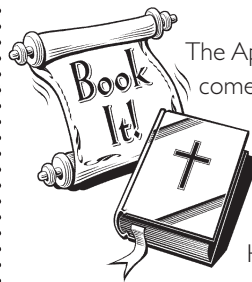
Please visit: [www.catholicchristians.com](http://www.catholicchristians.com) for a more detailed version of



"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)." Mt. 1:23 The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." Lk. 1:35 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Lk. 1:42-43 From the cross, Jesus gave His mother to John the Apostle and to us, "When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." Jn. 19:26-27



"For in the first place no common man was born of the holy Virgin; then the Word thus descended upon Him; but being united from the womb itself He is said to have endured a generation in the flesh in order to appropriate the producing of His own body. Thus [the holy Fathers] did not hesitate to speak of the holy Virgin as the Mother of God... If any one does not confess that the Emmanuel (Christ) in truth is God and that on this account the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God (Theotokos)—since according to the flesh she brought forth the Word of God made flesh—let him be anathema." Council of Ephesus, 431 A.D. "The Word, then, was God, and He became also Man; and since He was born according to the flesh for the sake of mankind, it is necessary that she who bore Him is the Mother of God. For if she did not bear God, neither is He that was born of her to be called God." St. Cyril of Alexandria, 431 A.D.



The Apostle Paul declared, "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Gal. 4:4-5 Our Father in heaven chose this moment in time to confer, through His Divine Son, His blessing upon all His children.

Eternal Father, You blessed Your daughter, Mary, that she might become a living tabernacle worthy of carrying Your Son. Upon hearing her "fiat," "I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your Word," the Eternal Son assumed human nature in her womb. I acknowledge, accept, and proclaim Mary the Mother of God. I find joy in knowing she is also my mother; my example of holiness. I pray through Your Son that the day will soon come when all Christians will call Mary the Mother of God. Amen.

