

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Is The Immaculate Conception About Jesus Or Mary?

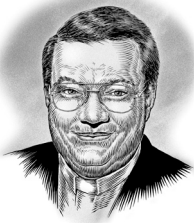
Know This...

Many Catholics confuse the Incarnation of Jesus with the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In the Incarnation, Jesus, the Son of God, assumed human nature and became man in His mother Mary's womb. In the Immaculate Conception, Mary, at the moment of her conception in her mother's womb, was saved from original sin through the grace and merits of her Son, Jesus Christ. So the Immaculate Conception is about both Jesus and Mary since Jesus saved Mary from the stain of original sin.



John: Just as Adam and Eve originally were created full of grace, Mary was conceived full of grace in the womb of her mother. But unlike Adam and Eve, who lost their original holiness when they listened to Satan instead of trusting in God, Mary remained sinless.

James: All of us are in need of a Savior. At Mary's conception, Jesus saved her from the stain of original sin. Freed from the effects of original sin, Mary freely and without apprehension gave her consent to become the Mother of God.

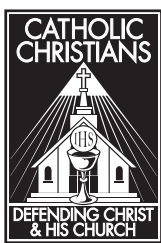


John: Pope Pius IX universally proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854. He didn't define new belief; rather, he issued an infallible teaching document that authoritatively expressed what the Church had always believed.

James: Mary, through the merits and divine intervention of her Son and Savior, Jesus Christ, was preserved free from original sin from the first moment of her existence.

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"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'"
Lk 1:26-30 "And Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'"
Lk 1:46-48

"Come, then, and search out Your sheep, not through Your servants or hired men, but do it Yourself. Lift me up bodily and in the flesh, which is fallen in Adam. Lift me up not from Sara but from Mary, a Virgin not only undefiled but a Virgin whom grace has made inviolate, free of every stain of sin."
St. Ambrose of Milan "[Christ,] You alone and Your Mother are more beautiful than any others; For there is no blemish in You, nor any stains upon Your Mother: Who of my children can compare in beauty to these?"
St. Ephraim "To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role. The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as 'full of grace.' In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace."
ccc 490



PAPA SAYS

"By the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own: We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine that holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, Dec. 8, 1854, (Dogma of the Immaculate Conception)



Lord Jesus, You saved Mary, Your mother, from the stain of original sin that she might be holy and undefiled when You took on human flesh in her womb. Mary, through her words and actions, shows me how to live my life. Mother Mary gave herself entirely to You. I'm called to do likewise. I pray that that the day will soon come when all Christians will find comfort and strength in the knowledge that a mere mortal, through the gift of Your grace, lived her life without succumbing to sin and the temptations of this world. I pray that I too will use Your gift of grace to reject sin and the temptations of this world. I ask this in your Most Holy Name. Amen.

