

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Do You Believe In God The Father Almighty, Maker Of Heaven & Earth?

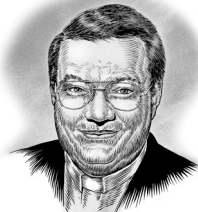
Know This...

At Sunday Mass, Catholics proclaim, "We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen." The Bible begins "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Man's belief in one God began nearly 4,000 years ago. Man is a curious creature. He has always sought to understand why he exists. Our search has led us to believe in a creator who was, is, and always will be with us.



John: We cannot prove that God exists; but we can offer reasons why He does. St. Thomas Aquinas reasoned that nothing can bring about its own existence. If there was a "big bang," God lit the fuse.

James: Everything acts according to its purpose and design. Our finite ability limits what we can design. God's infinite ability is unlimited. Our Father in heaven is the Supreme Intelligent Designer.



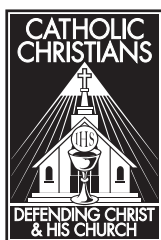
John: Nothing is greater than God, for He creates and maintains all that exists.

James: God is spirit who possesses nothing; for if He possessed anything, He would have received it from something other than Himself.

John: Since God is unchanging, He cannot exist in time. "God is the fullness of Being and of every perfection, without origin and without end. All creatures receive all that they are and have from Him." CCC 213 Our Father in heaven loves and cares for us.

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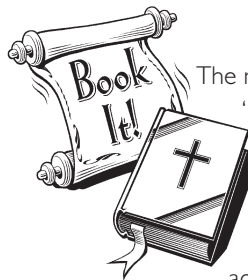


Jesus prayed to the Father; constantly. He taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Mt. 6:9b-10 Through His words and actions, Jesus revealed the Father to us. "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father: From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." Jn 14:6-7

In the 4th century, St. Jerome, the great Bible scholar, wrote, "God, who always is, has no beginning from outside Himself, and He is His own origin and the cause of His own substance." (In Epistolam ad Ephesios commentarii,



2, 3, 14) Minucius Felix, also an Early Church Father, was a Christian, layman, Roman, and lawyer. In the early 3rd century, he wrote, "If upon entering some home you saw that everything there was well-tended, neat and decorative, you would believe that some master was in charge of it, and that he was himself much superior to those good things. So too in the home of this world, when you see providence, order, and law in the heavens and on earth, believe that there is a Lord and Author of the universe, more beautiful than the stars themselves and the various parts of the whole world." (Octavius, 18, 4)



The martyred saints in heaven sing the Father's praises. "Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O king of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, or glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." Rev 15:3b-4 The Apostle John spoke of God as Father and us as His children. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet, that is what we are... Dearly beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope based on Him keeps himself pure, as He is pure." 1 Jn 3:1a, 2-3

Heavenly Father, Your love for me is infinite, Your mercy unequalled, and Your forgiveness endless. I owe You so much. Yet, You only ask that I love You with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and that I love my neighbor as myself. Give me the grace to do Your will. Give me the grace to place You above everything else in my life. With You, all things are possible. Without You, nothing is possible. Touch me this day that I may feel Your presence in everything I think, see, do, and say. I ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Amen.

