

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Did Mary Die Before She Went To Heaven?

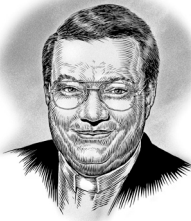
Know This...

No man or woman was ever more intimately united with Jesus than was His mother Mary. He was conceived in her womb; she brought Him forth, nourished Him at her breasts, cuddled Him in her arms, endured His scourging, crucifixion, and death, and witnessed His resurrection and ascension. Mary lived her life as God had created Adam and Eve to live theirs: always trusting in Him. The Church declares that Jesus, at the end of His mother's earthly life, welcomed her, body and soul, into His heavenly kingdom.



John: Our Blessed Mother's assumption into heaven reveals much about the beauty and glory of the future reuniting of our own bodies and souls in heaven.

James: While the Bible does not explicitly speak to the Assumption of Mary, it does give us passages that eliminate obstacles to this teaching.

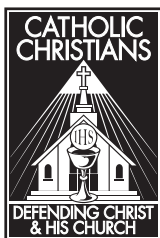


John: Jesus under His own divine power ascended into heaven. Mary, a mere mortal, was totally dependent upon her Son to be carried into heaven. The Bible says that Enoch and Elijah were assumed into heaven before they suffered death and bodily corruption.

James: Jesus is Mary's savior. He saved her from the stain of original sin at her conception and He saved her from bodily corruption at the end of her life. The Church has never officially taught whether Mary experienced death—the separation of body and soul—before her assumption. But, if we get to heaven, we can ask her:

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

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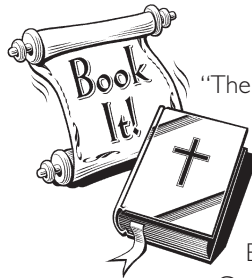
"Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'" Lk 2:34-35 "And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit...and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised." Mt 27:50, 52



"The course of this life having been completed by Blessed Mary...all the Apostles came together from their various regions to her house...And they kept watch together with her. And behold, the Lord Jesus came with His angels, and taking her soul, He gave it over to the Angel Michael and withdrew. At daybreak, however, the Apostles took up her body...And behold, again the Lord stood by them; and the holy body having been received, He commanded that it be taken in a cloud into paradise: where now, rejoined to the soul, rejoices with the Lord's chosen ones, and is in the enjoyment of the good of an eternity that will never end." St. Gregory of Tours, 6th century

PAPA SAYS

In 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly declared what the Church had always believed: the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by Our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define that the dogma was revealed by God, that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, after completing her course of life upon earth, was assumed to the glory of heaven both in body and soul."



"The whole lifetime of Enoch was three hundred and sixty-five years. Then Enoch walked with God, and he was no longer here, for God took him." Gen 5:23-24 "As Elijah and Elisha walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind." 2 Kgs 2:11 "Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple...A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Rev 11:19-12:1

Lord Jesus, when Your Virgin Mother's earthly life ended, she participated in Your Resurrection when You welcomed her, body and soul, into Your heavenly kingdom. I pray that heaven will become my home, and that I will share in the joy she is experiencing. I pray that all Christians will come to see our Blessed Mother's assumption as their invitation to share in Your Resurrection for ever and ever in heaven. I ask this in Your most Holy Name. Amen.

