

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Why Do Catholics Pray To 'Dead' People?

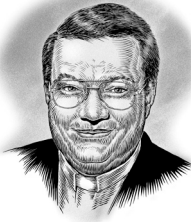
Know This...

Catholics profess faith in the Communion of Saints. This belief separates us from many other Christians who say the Bible condemns talking with the dead. The Catechism agrees, "All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future." CCC 2116 But who says the saints in heaven are dead? The Church says they are alive and living in God's presence; and Jesus says He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. The 'dead' are in hell. We do not seek their help.



John: St. Paul says the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ; and those who are baptized (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are members of it.

James: This Body comprises the Church Triumphant, the Church Suffering, and the Church Militant: those in heaven, those in purgatory, and those on earth.



John: The Church Militant practice and defend their faith as they offer prayers and good works to the poor souls in purgatory: the Church Suffering.

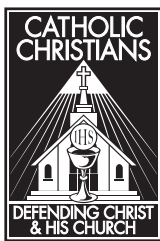
James: The Church Triumphant, perfected by God's grace, pray for the needs of the Church Suffering and Militant.

John: St. Paul says that nothing will separate the faithful from the love of God, not even death.

James: All members of the Body share in one common goal: the building up of the Church for the greater glory of God.

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

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"Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother; and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him." Mt 17:1-3

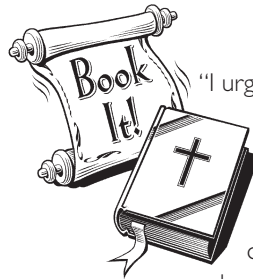
PAPA SAYS

"We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, whether these still make their pilgrim way on earth, whether their life over; they undergo purification or they enjoy the happiness of heaven. One and all they go to form the one Church. We likewise believe that in this communion we are surrounded by the love of a compassionate God and His saints, who always listen to our prayers, even as Jesus told us, 'Ask and you shall receive.'" Pope Paul VI



BE ATTITUDES

"It should be noted that not only are the effects of Christ's passion communicated to us but also the merits of His life. The good done by all the saints is communicated to those who live in charity... So, a person who lives in charity shares in all the good done throughout the world... Thus, we obtain two things through the communion of saints; one is that the merits of Christ are communicated to all of us; the other, that the good done by one redounds to the benefit of all." St. Thomas Aquinas



"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" 1 Tim 2:1-5
 What is Jesus mediating? "Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant." Heb 9:15
 Jesus does not forbid prayer among the faithful; whether they live in heaven, in purgatory, or on earth. "For we are God's fellow workers." 1 Cor 3:9

Jesus, God of the living, I praise Your Name. At my baptism, I became a member of Your Body, the Church. I find comfort and strength in the knowledge that I am a co-worker in Your kingdom called to preach the Good News. Guarded by the Holy Spirit and nourished by Your glorified Body and Blood, I offer my works and prayers this day for the poor souls in purgatory who have no one else to pray for them. I ask that You, Lord Jesus, accept the prayers of the saints in heaven who pray for my well being. Amen.

