

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Can You Explain The Biggest Mystery In All Of Christendom?

Know This...

Most people love a good mystery. "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life." CCC 234 Yet, man's finite mind and intellect cannot fully comprehend and explain the Triune God we worship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only through supernatural faith can we accept the mystery of the God who created us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us.



John: No one can say they're a Christian if they do not profess faith in the Trinity.

James: While we will never fully grasp the Trinity, through our human reason and divine revelation, we can delve deeper and deeper into this central mystery of our faith.

John: The Church's teaching on the Trinity reveals God, it does not define Him. God is three divine Persons who share one divine nature. They are of one mind and one will.



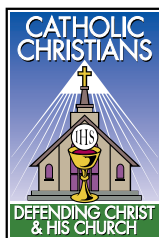
James: They are co-equal and co-eternal. They are separately and distinctly in relationship with one another as divine Persons, but share the same nature: the set of qualities that make God what He is in His essence.

John: God's essence is beauty, joy, understanding, mercy, and love; and all of it is infinite.

James: The Most Holy Trinity is like bedrock to the Catholic faith. Every Mass starts and ends with us proclaiming our belief in the Trinity.

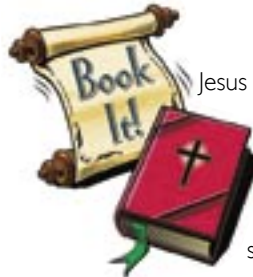
Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for a more detailed version of



Moments before Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, He approached the eleven Apostles in Galilee and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Mt 28:18-20 We faithfully believe in the Most Holy Trinity because Jesus revealed the Trinity to us. "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, He will testify to Me." Jn 15:26

Saint Irenaeus wrote in the 2nd century, "For the Church, although dispersed throughout the whole world even to the ends of the earth, has received from the Apostles and from their disciples the faith in one God, Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them; and in one Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became flesh for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who announced through the prophets the dispensations and the comings, and the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead." The Sixth Lateran Council declared in 1215, "It is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds." The Catechism states, "The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit." CCC 2205



Jesus revealed the Most Holy Trinity to the Apostle Paul; so Paul revealed Him to us. "I tell you that nobody who speaks in the Spirit of God ever says, 'Cursed be Jesus.' And no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except in the Holy Spirit. There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone." 1 Cor 12:3-6 Paul closed his Second Letter to the Corinthians with the opening we often hear at Mass. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Cor 13:13

Most Holy Trinity, I cannot fully comprehend Your essence; but I know that You are the Eternal Father, Eternal Son, and Eternal Holy Spirit. I also know that Your love and mercy are infinite. It is You who heals my physical ills and mends my spiritual wounds. I ask You to deepen my faith in You and Your Church that my love for You will show forth in my words and actions, every moment of my life. Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—descend upon me and remain within me forever. Amen.

