

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Do Catholics Re-Crucify Jesus At Mass?

Know This...

Jesus died once for all on Calvary to atone for our sins. We do not re-crucify Him at Mass. He does not die again on the altar. Yet, each Mass is a sacrifice, because Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary is made present. How is this possible? The priest, acting in the person of Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, changes the bread and wine—in a sacramental way—into the Body and Blood of Christ. This "unbloody" sacrifice is re-presented to the Father in heaven.



John: God created us to worship Him. If we choose not to, we consciously ignore our nature and spend our lives seeking a substitute for God.

James: At Mass, the Father is adored as the source of creation; the Son makes present the mystery of salvation, and the Holy Spirit prepares us to encounter Christ.



John: Jesus Christ is the great high priest, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

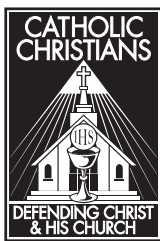
James: He shed His blood on Calvary, because, as Scripture says, "Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin." ^{Heb 9:22}

John: His bloody sacrifice on the cross and the unbloody Sacrifice of the Mass are the same sacrifice. The victim does not change.

James: Jesus offered Himself on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. At each Mass, in a sacramental way, that same sacrifice on Calvary is on the altar.

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



"Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father." ^{Jn 13:1} "Jesus sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you that I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ^{Lk 22:14-16}

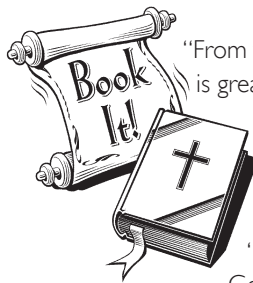
"[Christ], our Lord and God, was once and for all to offer himself to God the Father by his death on the altar of the cross, to accomplish there an everlasting redemption. But because his priesthood was not to end with his death, at the Last Supper 'on the night when he was betrayed,' [he wanted] to leave to his beloved spouse the Church a visible sacrifice (as the nature of man demands) by which the bloody sacrifice which he was to accomplish once for all on the cross would be re-presented, its memory perpetuated until the end of the world, and its salutary power be applied to the forgiveness of the sins we daily commit." ^{Council of Trent}



BE ATTITUDES



"The world could exist more easily without the sun than without the Mass." ^{St. Padre Pio} "If we knew the value of the Mass, we would die of joy!" ^{St. John Vianney} "While you are at Mass, think that you are sharing in a divine Sacrifice. For that is how it is: on the altar, Christ is offering himself again for you." ^{St. Josemaría Escrivá}



"From the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; and everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering; for great is my name among the nations, says the Lord of hosts." ^{Mal 1:11} Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the Sacrifice of the Mass fulfilled this prophesy. "[Jesus] is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself." ^{Heb 7:25-27}

Almighty Father, at every Mass we proclaim the death and resurrection of Your Son. He willingly offered Himself for the forgiveness of our sins. When I participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, I share in His sacrifice made present on the altar. I pray that my participation will strengthen me against the power of Satan, cleanse me of venial sin, aid the poor souls in purgatory, and draw me into a deeper relationship with You. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior. Amen.

