

## **“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass**

04-17-2016 – **Preface**

We begin the Eucharistic prayer with a prayer called the Preface. We think of preface as some sort of introduction to a book or a talk – but for Mass, think of preface as a prayer of thanks “before the face of God.”

The preface begins with a dialogue between the risen Christ in the person of the priest and the people. “The Lord be with you... and with your spirit.” “Lift up your hearts... we lift them up to the Lord.” “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God ... it is right and just.” There are a number of different prefaces, but they all give thanks to the Father for all the wonderful things he has done for us, through his son, Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We conclude the preface by singing a two part song; “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of host, Heaven and earth are full of your glory,” which is from Isaiah (6:3) when he had a vision of angels in heaven singing to God. “Hosanna in the highest,” which comes from Psalm 48 (25-30) and people sang as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mt 21:9).