

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

12-013-2015 - **Jesus is Here – 2**

Vatican II teaches us that the second of the four ways Jesus is present at Mass is through the Presider – bishop or priest. The technical term is *“in persona Christi”* – *“in the person of Christ.”* During the words of consecration, the Presider doesn’t say “this is Jesus’ body ...blood” but, “this is my body and blood” because it is Jesus himself saying these words.

I find it very humbling that Jesus would choose to work through me – *“Lord, I am not worthy.”* I always believed that it was Jesus himself that fed people at Mass, baptized babies, married, buried, etc...

The vestments that the Presider wears at Mass also have a special meaning. They are like the cloaks of Jesus’ day. The white robe is called the *alb* – symbol of the baptismal garment. The *chasuble* is the overcoat of that day – it’s like a poncho. The color of the chasuble is the color of the season – bluish purple is the color of Advent. The vestments are also meant to cover the Presider’s personal identity and better mirror *“in persona Christi.”* Unfortunately, some presider’s personality is so strong that it leaks through the vestments.