

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

04-24-2016 – **Epiclesis**

After we sing the “Holy, Holy...,” we begin the Eucharistic Prayer. There are 10 Eucharistic Prayers. I will talk about Eucharistic Prayer II because it’s the oldest and the shortest Eucharistic Prayer.

The priest extends his hands in a downward gesture over the gifts of bread and wine in a prayer called the Epiclesis, which is Greek for “calling down from on high”. We ask the Father to send down the Spirit like the dewfall over the bread and wine so that they may become the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The phrase “like the dewfall” is a reference to the Exodus story (*Ex16:13-14*) when God miraculously fed the Jewish people in the desert with manna, bread from heaven. A dew-like frost settled on the ground and in the morning dried and became bread.