

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

05-22-2016 – **Communion Rite**

The 4th mysterious way Jesus is present at Mass is in Communion. We begin the Communion Rite by praying together the Our Father and exchanging the peace of Christ. We then sing the Lamb of God and ask Jesus to take away our sins and give us peace. The priest holds up the bread and wine and says the words of John the Baptist when Jesus came to him to be baptized “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world (Jn. 1: 29), and from the Book of Revelation “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:9). The people respond with the words of the centurion who was amazed that Jesus was willing to come to his house, a Gentile and a Roman soldier, to heal his servant “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed: (Mt. 8:5-12). In the early church, Mass was healing for the forgiveness of their sins, except for the major sins of murder, adultery and apostasy (deny Jesus and worship the Roman Emperor as God), which they needed to confess to the bishop.