

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

12-28-2015 - Entrance Procession – Part 2

- The Entrance Procession is not a parade. It's a pilgrimage, a journey to the sacred. The area around the altar is called the “sanctuary” – our “holy of holies” where we encounter God.
- It is our tradition to genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the church, bow to the altar because the altar is a symbol of Jesus. When a bishop consecrates a church, he anoints the walls and altar with sacred oil because this is sacred space. The presider goes up to the altar and reverences it with a kiss.
- Mass is our encounter with God, a collision of heaven and earth. Like any encounter it takes at least two parties. Our problem is that we make Mass all about us. “I don't get anything out of Mass – it's boring – same old stuff.” First and foremost, Mass is about God – what God is doing for us – and then it is our turn to respond – whether we want to encounter God who is reaching out to us.