

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

01-24-2016 - **Gloria and Languages in the Mass**

The Gloria is sung on all Sundays and major feasts, except during Advent and Lent. The first verse “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will” is found in St. Luke’s Christmas story when the angels appeared to the shepherds in the field (Lk 2:14). The following verses give praise to God the Father, his Son Jesus, with the Holy Spirit.

There are words in the Mass prayers from different languages: Jewish/Aramaic language is “Alleluia”, which means “praise the Lord” and “Amen” which means “so be it” or “I believe” or the ancient meaning “I stake my life on this.”

The Greek language is “mysterion” which means “mystery” and “Kyrie Eleison” which means “Lord have mercy” and “Christe Eleison” which means “Christ have mercy”.

Our new Mass prayers are a literal translation from the Latin Mass of the 16th century which is why the English translation is a bit awkward with long sentences that have a lot of clauses. There is also the language of silence before the Opening Prayer, after the bible readings, homily, and communion.