



*the Holy Spirit comes down onto the altar?*

After we have sung the Holy, Holy, Holy, with the angels, the priest extends his hands over the gifts as he prays the *epiclesis* (Greek for “invoke upon”) - asking the Father to send the Holy Spirit in order to sanctify the offerings so that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus. Like Elijah calling down the fire of the Lord upon his offering (1 Kings 18:1-40), the priest stands between God and the people calling down the fire of the Holy Spirit to the altar. If we interiorize this action, we can ask God to send his Holy Spirit upon us as well - though not in the same sacramental way as the priest - that we may be strengthened by his grace and live as faithful disciples. Let us be more aware of the work of the Holy Spirit! *Want to know more? Our Adult Ed offerings cover this and much more!*