

Dear Padre,

I am the divorced mother of three young children. My daughter is making her first Communion and I want to go to Communion with her. But I haven't been to Mass in three years because of my divorce. I am nervous and embarrassed about returning to the Church. What can I do?



Sharing in your daughter's preparation for holy Communion is a lovely desire and a good chance to look closely at your own faith; it may be the "little push" you need. She needs to see in you someone who has faith and is committed to the Church. Taking your children to Mass each Sunday is a good start.

You mentioned that you haven't been to church in three years because of your divorce. You may be confused about the teachings of the Church concerning divorce. Divorced Catholics are still full members of the Church and can receive holy Communion. If you have remarried outside the Church, it is a more complicated issue, yet not hopeless.

Since you haven't been to Mass in three years, the first step is to talk to your pastor or another priest with whom you feel comfortable. Be honest. Explain why you have stayed away from the Church. Then set up a time to go to confession. And please don't be ashamed or embarrassed about coming back to church. No matter how long it has been, the Church welcomes you home. ●

[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists/DearPadre.org)

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid. Jesus—as St. Paul tells us—"emptied himself... he humbled himself" (Philippians 2:7–8).

HOMILY, ROME,
MARCH 28, 2021

MONDAY

March 25
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1–7
Jn 12:1–11

TUESDAY

March 26
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1–6
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

WEDNESDAY

March 27
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4–9a
Mt 26:14–25

THURSDAY

March 28
Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)
Chrism Mass:
Is 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9
Rv 1:5–8
Lk 4:16–21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Ex 12:1–8, 11–14
1 Cor 11:23–26
Jn 13:1–15

FRIDAY

March 29
Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Is 52:13–53:12
Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9
Jn 18:1–19:42

SATURDAY

March 30
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a
Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18
Ex 14:15–15:1
Is 54:5–14
Is 55:1–11
Bar 3:9–15, 32–44
Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28
Rom 6:3–11
Mk 16:1–7



SUNDAY

March 31
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8
Jn 20:1–9 or Mk 16:1–7

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)

Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16 / Isaiah 50:4–7 /
Philippians 2:6–11 / Mark 14:1–15:47 or 15:1–39



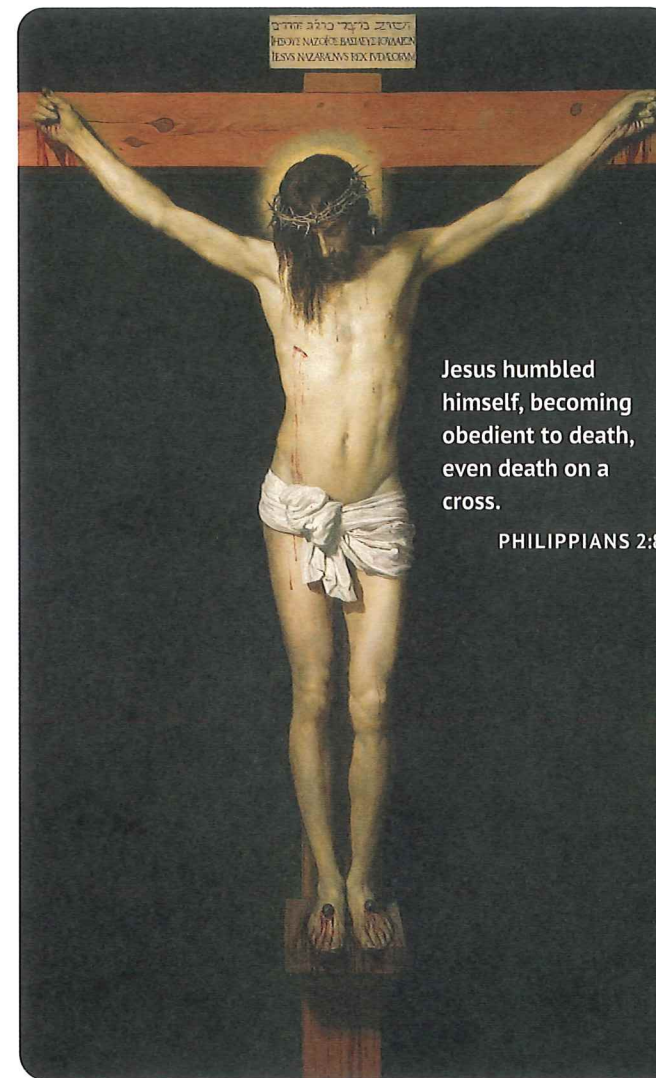
The Hungers with Which We Live

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Tenzin Kiyosaki is a former Buddhist nun who now works as an interfaith chaplain at a medical center in Los Angeles. There she tends to the spiritual needs of patients who have less than six months to live. When her brother asked her what it was that dying patients talk about, it led to her book *The Three Regrets: Inspirational Stories and Practical Advice for Love and Forgiveness at Life's End*. The three regrets she lists are: 1) I did not live the life of my dreams; 2) I did not share my love; and 3) I did not forgive. All too easily it seems we become preoccupied with what in the end becomes peripheral to what we really seek in life.

Today we tell the story of how Jesus' life of loving others came to its final conclusion, one of sacrificial love to the point of death. He came to reveal how such love is an essential dimension of the presence of God at the heart of every human life, and a cornerstone of the kingdom of God he proclaimed and to which he gave his life.

To the end, even on the cross, forgiveness was an essential aspect of his life of loving others. The very realities of what Jesus' life was all about are the same hungers we so often fail to recognize as we live our lives, though it is what he continually preached. Coming face to face with our own mortality seems to make his message most real. ●



Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Reflect

Are you living the three values articulated by Tenzin Kiyosaki? Is there one you could do better?



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MARCH 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (PS 22)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat.	Mar. 23	4:00 pm	Palm Sunday	Rosie Perez & Johnney Perez
Sun.	Mar. 24	9:00 am	Palm Sunday	John Perez
Mon.	Mar.25	5:30 pm		David Hoang
Tues.	Mar. 26	9: 30 am		David Hoang
<i>(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)</i>				
Wed.	Mar. 27	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	NO MASS
Thurs.	Mar. 28	6:00 pm	Holy Thursday	Mark Meier
Fri.	Mar. 29	3:00 pm	Good Friday	
Sat.	Mar. 30	8:00 pm	Holy Saturday	Gary Sack
Sun.	Mar. 31	9:00 am	Easter Sunday	John Perez

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee 355-6388
 Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611
 Gwen Waechter, Parish C. Chair 272-1030
 Tressa Powers, Finance C. Chair 355-6206
 Altar S. President, Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259
 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Vocation Committee, Nanette & Sandra

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
3/23/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.
Servers: Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon
Reader: Gwen Waechter
EO.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman
3/24/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller
Reader: Hannah Schauf
E.O. HC: Robert Longoria, Kyle Berning

Easter Sunday
3/30/2024 - Saturday, 8: 00 p.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Reader: Volunteer
E.O.HC: Volunteers
3/31/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Reader: Volunteer
E.O. HC: Volunteers

Envelopes: \$735.00 **COLLECTION FOR MARCH 17, 2024**
 Loose: \$420.00
 Online Giving: \$516.29
 Total: \$1671.29
 Votives:
 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17
 Income over/under - 89.88

My friends, today we begin the holiest of weeks. And Jesus will walk a path most of us would never choose to walk. But let's not let him walk it alone. Let's journey with him, up that hill, trusting that God's way is always the best way.

And may we do the same with each small Calvary that comes our way as we journey through life. And when loving seems a little too hard, when forgiving feels a little too hard, when showing mercy and compassion feel a little too hard --- well, that's just our fallen humanity talking. There's another voice --- the One Jesus listened to every single day, every single moment. That's the One inviting us to choose a different path, a different vision, a different way.

And don't worry --- we won't be alone.

Have a blessed Holy week everyone.

Fr. Peter

THE READINGS OF THIS WEEK

• Just a few months ago we celebrated the night that Jesus was born, God's Son becoming part of humanity. Today we hear a horrible account of the inhumanity of nearly everyone around our Lord. One of his closest friends betrays him, another denies him, the rest abandon him, the crowd turns on him, the soldiers torture him, the authorities condemn him, Pilate sentences him. In Mark's Gospel, even both of those crucified with him abuse him. Greed, fear, cowardice, hatred, and cruelty win out over all the virtues Jesus embodied. Jesus was not able to rid the earth of inhumanity. But he gave us a model of how to oppose it, endure it, and conquer it. For in remaining faithful and obedient to the will of the Father, the One revealed today to truly be the Son of God showed humanity the way to truly be human.

• When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he replied that it was to love God and to love neighbor as yourself. All of the law and the prophets could be summed up in this command: love. For love of God and love of neighbor, Jesus was born into the world, lived out his mission, and died on the cross. Despite the horror of being nailed to a cross and left to die, Jesus accepted it out of love for the Father and love for those he was sent to save. Through his death, he showed us the depth of his love and the value of that love.

• Jesus makes a bold statement about the woman who anoints him with oil just days before he is killed: "Wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her" (Mark 14:9). She alone does something loving and merciful for him in the days before his death. Some scoff at her action, regarding it as a waste of precious oil. They say that it was worth nearly a year's wages, a huge sum that could have been given to the poor. Perhaps they have a point. Perhaps her actions were extravagant. But Jesus teaches us that such extravagance for those you love is not a waste at all. After all, if one were to look at the life of the Messiah, ending his life not as the healer of every ill, the benefactor of every beggar, and the victor over every opponent, but on the cross, condemned as a criminal, one would see his life as a waste. What could God have had in mind to send him into the world only to die a condemned man, with the world objectively not any better than it had been? With eyes of faith, we know that his life was not a waste, for he healed our every spirit, paid for our every sin, and won the victory over death. As this woman who lowered herself to enter a leper's home and wasted her entire jar of priceless oil, Jesus emptied himself to enter sinful humanity's home and spent his entire life to give us the priceless gift of eternal life. This is the gospel proclaimed.

• Hace sólo unos meses celebramos la noche del nacimiento de Jesús, el Hijo de Dios que se hizo parte de la humanidad. Hoy escuchamos el relato horrible de inhumanidad demostrada por casi toda la gente alrededor del Señor. Uno de sus amigos más íntimos lo traiciona, otro lo niega, la muchedumbre se vuelve contra él, los soldados lo torturan, las autoridades lo condenan, Pilato lo sentencia. En el Evangelio de san Marcos, aun los dos crucificados junto a él, abusan de él. La avaricia, el miedo, la cobardía, el odio y la crueldad parecen triunfar por encima de todas las virtudes que Jesús personificó. Jesús no pudo eliminar la inhumanidad de la tierra; pero nos dio un modelo de cómo oponernos a ella, sobrevivirla y vencerla. Hoy, el que se nos revela como verdaderamente el Hijo de Dios, que se mantuvo fiel y obediente a la voluntad del Padre, le demuestra a la humanidad cómo ser verdaderamente humano. • Cuando le preguntaron a Jesús cuál era el mayor de los mandamientos su respuesta fue el amor a Dios y el amor al prójimo como a sí mismo. Toda la ley y las enseñanzas de los profetas pueden ser resumidas en este mandamiento: amar. Por amor a Dios y amor al prójimo Jesús nació en este mundo, hizo su misión y murió en la cruz. A pesar del horror de ser clavado en una cruz y dejado ahí a morir, Jesús lo aceptó todo por amor al Padre y por amor a quienes él había sido enviado a salvar. A través de su muerte nos enseñó la profundidad de su amor y el valor de ese amor. 28 24 de marzo de 2024, Domingo de Ramos

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

3/28/2024 Holy Thursday

St. Anthony's Mass @ 6 pm

St. Raphael's @ 6:30 pm (MT)

3/29/2024 Good Friday

St. Anthony's Service @ 3:00 pm;

St. Raphael's @ 6:00 pm (MT)

3/30/2024 Easter Vigil

St. Anthony @ 8:00 pm

3/31/2024 Easter Sunday Mass

Christ the King's Mass @ 8:00 am.

St. Anthony's @ 9:00am.

St. Raphael's @ 10:30 am (MT)

4/3/2024

Pastoral Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm

K of C Meeting @ 7:30 pm

4/4/2024

Finance Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm

4/7/2024 Parish Breakfast

Right after 9:00 am Sunday Mass

4/20/2024 First Communion

St. Anthony @ 4:00 pm

4/30/2024 Confirmation Mass

6:00 pm

2024 EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be a Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday right after Mass this year.

PRAYER AND ACTION

We are happy to announce to you that this year—the first time in our parish we will host "Prayer and Action" June 16-21. High School and their parents are invited to a summer mission trip. Prayer and Action offers a rich experience of the Christian lifestyle where a relationship with God overflows as service to others. A team of stellar college students will be leading the program, selecting the projects—painting houses, cleaning yards, etc.—and sharing the Gospel throughout. If you would like to them to do the above projects the "Work Order Request Form" is available at the entrance of the church.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION March 24

***"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews? 'And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'"* – MARK 15:12-13**

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

"Pilato les preguntó de nuevo: ¿Y qué queréis que haga con el que llamáis Rey de los Judíos? Ellos gritaron otra vez, ¡Crucificalo!" -Marcos 15:12-13

Jesús nos dijo "lo que hagas por el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo harás por mí". Cada día tenemos la oportunidad de ayudar a alguien. Cada día tenemos la oportunidad de ver el rostro de Jesús en otros y ser el rostro de Jesús para los demás. Cada día nos encontramos con alguien necesitado. Ore por la fortaleza y el coraje de ser la respuesta a las oraciones de alguien.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 22: Harmony of the Gospels

The Mass

Is anyone else still thinking about having four different Gospels? This question was discussed and pondered by some of the earliest Christians. Some tried to develop a harmonious account of the life, death, and teachings of Jesus, and the result was a kind of one-volume gospel. Although we don't have any historical manuscripts of it, a one-volume harmonization called

“The Gospel” is referred to by some early Christian writers, including St. Ignatius of Antioch (writing around 115 AD). There is a manuscript dated 170 AD by a man named Tatian, who was a student of St. Justin Martyr. This manuscript is called the *Diatessaron* and is subtitled “The Gospel Harmony.” Others tried this as well through the ages, including St. Augustine (writing in 405 AD) who wrote a work titled “On the Harmony of the Evangelists.”

Uniquely Harmonious

Remarkably, what each person found was that the four Gospels could not be squeezed into one without losing something important. As we have reviewed previously, every detail of each of the Gospels is written for a specific purpose. To miss one of these details is to miss an important part of the life of Jesus and his message of salvation to the world. Each of the four Gospel writers gives us a special understanding of Jesus, something we would miss if we forced them into just one Gospel. As the early Church moved forward toward the finalizing of the Canon of Scripture (the official list of the books included in the Bible), we see that the four Gospels are consistently included and honored.

The Canon of Scripture

The Canon of the Bible is the official list of texts discerned and compiled by the Roman Catholic Church over time and confirmed by Church Councils, first completed around the time of the Council of Hippo in 390 AD. This list was reiterated by the Council of Trent in the 1500s and again at the First Vatican Council in the 1800s. We believe that certain books are inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore are included in the canon. No known inspired book is outside the canon and no non-inspired book is inside it. Since the Church is entrusted with Sacred Scripture, the Church declares what is included in the canon. A couple of other definitions are helpful here:

Inspiration: The Holy Spirit was present and inspired the human writers of the Bible so what God intended—and only those things—were not only understood correctly, but following from this understanding, the Gospel writers wrote them down, expressed in appropriate and meaningful language. (See *Providentissimus Deus*, 1, 4, and 14).

Inerrancy: The Bible is free from errors, not just in faith and morals, but in all parts that pertain to and which God wished to teach for our salvation. (See *Dei Verbum*, 6 and 11).

These definitions help us know with confidence that what we are reading is God's Word to us, and they can also help us understand what we read. We come to see the unity of all of Scripture and that all the books are important. We read through the lens of our lived faith and tradition. We value how Scripture has been understood and prayed with over the last 2000 years. We recognize that the Church Fathers and saints have much to tell us about Scripture and how it helps us live life in Christ today.

A Synopsis of the Gospels

An interesting alternative to the idea of a Gospel harmony is called a Synopsis of the Gospels. A synopsis keeps all four Gospels intact as they were written and arranges the passages in four columns so that all four Gospels are side-by-side. The passages are arranged and spaced out so that one can compare the details of each Gospel account. Doing this really helps one see how each of the four writers gives a special flavor to the life and ministry of Jesus. A synopsis is like having each of the Gospel writers with us, sitting in his own armchair, telling us about Jesus.

For Reflection

1. What are some of your favorite Gospel passages? Do you know which Gospel(s) feature these passages? Take some time to find some of your “favorites” and develop your relationship with particular Gospel authors.
2. Our Catholic liturgies and traditions celebrating the birth of Jesus and his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension draw from different Gospel accounts. Choose either Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2 or the Passion narratives in the four Gospels for deeper study to see how each Gospel contributes to our understanding of these events in our salvation. (Fr. Luke Spanagel)

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (March 29)

The path of redemption

It is easy to look around and conclude that one of the things human beings do best is inflict suffering on one another. In ways big and small, people look to their own interests at the expense of others. Yet Christ, in obedient love, gathers up all suffering in his Passion and death, and offers us redemption through his ultimate sacrifice and Resurrection.

VIERNES SANTA DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR (29 MARZO)

El camino de la redención

Es fácil mirar a nuestro alrededor y concluir que una de las cosas que mejor hacen los seres humanos es infligir sufrimiento unos a otros. En formas grandes y pequeñas, las personas buscan sus propios intereses a expensas de los demás. Sin embargo, Cristo, en amor obediente, recoge todo sufrimiento en su Pasión y muerte, y nos ofrece la redención a través de su último sacrificio y resurrección.