

# 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?*



MARCO TOMIC/SHUTTERSTOCK

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?

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### 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, 32–4:4  
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

