

Dear Padre,

I'm very disturbed at some clothing—or lack thereof—worn at Mass these days. I find myself being judgmental and I don't want to be. Does our *Catechism* mandate a dress code?

Being judgmental can exist on both sides of this issue: Those who dress casually or inappropriately at Mass may be seen as unmotivated and disrespectful; those who dress up may be accused of doing so not for God but to impress everyone else at Mass.

The casual-dress advocates are influenced by the current relaxed cultural norms on attire—in church and elsewhere. They rightfully point out that one's presence at Mass is more important to God than one's clothing.

The dress-up advocates may believe this, too. However, the thought of actually being in God's presence at Mass determines their clothing choice.

Thus, an understanding of how the Mass is viewed today affects both casual-dress and dress-up proponents. While Catholics believe that Christ is present in all of creation and history, Christ's presence under the appearances of bread and wine is fundamental to our tradition. Moreover, a full appreciation of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist impacts far more than our outward appearances!

While the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has no official dress guidelines, it's best to assume that most attend Mass for the same reasons as you. Essentially, most people who dress sensibly and make an effort to attend Mass are expressing their reverence and love for God.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

I invite you to think for a moment, in silence, here: *Where is my interior necrosis? Where is the dead part of my soul? Where is my tomb? ... And to remove the stone, to take away the stone of shame and allow the Lord to say to us, as he said to Lazarus: "Come out!"*

—HOMILY, APRIL 6, 2014

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 30
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,
19–30, 33–62
or 13:41c–62
Jn 8:1–11

Tuesday
MARCH 31
Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4–9
Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday
APRIL 1
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14–20,
91–92, 95
Jn 8:31–42

Thursday
APRIL 2
Lenten Weekday
Gn 17:3–9
Jn 8:51–59

Friday
APRIL 3
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10–13
Jn 10:31–42

Saturday
APRIL 4
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21–28
Jn 11:45–56

Sunday
APRIL 5
Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord
Mt 21:1–11
Ls 50:4–7

Phil 2:6–11
Mt 26:14–27:66
or Mt 27:11–54



Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)
Ez 57:12–14 / Rom 8:8–11
Jn 11:1–45 or 11:5–7, 17,
20–27, 33b–45

God Opens Our Graves

It is not ghosts that come out of these graves, but a second chance at life. Ezekiel compares the reestablishment of ancient Israel after the exile with the dead rising alive from their graves. They are filled with God's spirit, God's power of life, and they have a second chance at living. Only the graciousness of God could imagine such a marvel; only the power of God could accomplish it. Jesus performs an even greater marvel. He actually brings Lazarus back from death, giving him a second chance at living. Once again, only the graciousness of God could imagine such a marvel; only the power of God could accomplish it. Jesus is that graciousness and that power, as he declares: "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

After its reestablishment, Israel was not immune to failure, nor was Lazarus exempt from eventual death. That was not the point. The point was a demonstration of divine generosity at that particular moment. As seen in the Gospel reading, the point is Jesus' self-identification: "I am the resurrection and the life." What follows is a paradox: Those who live in him will not die; even if they die, they will live.

Joined to the one who is the resurrection and the life, we too will be raised from our graves and be transformed into a new life. We will never again face failure, as did the Israelites, or death, as did Lazarus, for the Spirit of Jesus will live in us.

—Sr. DiAnne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ We were plunged into death and rose to new life at baptism. Does your life give evidence of this?
- ★ In what ways does your life manifest the Spirit working through you?

You shall know that I am
the LORD, when I open your
graves and make you come
up out of them, my people!

EZEKIEL 37:13

