Sunday Mass
Madonna Della Strada
Chapel
11:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Daily Mass
Chapel of the Sacred Heart
Monday - Saturday
12:05 p.m.
Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri
4:40 p.m.
Thursday
7:00 p.m.
(followed by Rosary and Benediction)

Sacrament of
Reconciliation
Reconciliation Room,
Chapel of the Sacred Heart
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Also by appointment in
University Ministries
and the Jesuit Community at
Campion Hall.

Devotions to Our Lady
Rosary & Benediction
after Thursday
7:00 p.m. Mass

Devotions to the Sacred
Heart of Jesus
Exposition, Sacred Heart
Litany, and Benediction
after Friday 4:40 p.m. Mass

Byzantine Liturgy
Ciszek Hall, Fr. Sable, S.J.
Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Vespers Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Campus Mosque
306 Taylor Ave.
Friday service
12:30 p.m.
941-5520

Total jerk?

Here’s the thing: I’m a jerk. That probably isn’t the normal way to start off an article in The Companion, but I would implore you to stick with me. Lent has me thinking a lot about where I am in my spiritual walk with God. On paper, I might look like I have this “Christianity” thing down to the letter. I read my bible. I go to church. I encourage my students to pray when they’re struggling. Personally, I talk to JC every day, sometimes more than once. But you see, I also judge people. A lot. I gossip. I covet. If, as the Bible suggests, we “kill” people in our hearts by thinking ill of them, then I should probably be locked up. I have a relationship with God, but I’m still a sinner. I’m still a jerk.

The great thing about the Bible is that it is chock full of “jerks.” Take Jonah, for example. God told him to go and tell the people of Nineveh that their city was being destroyed as judgment for their sins. Not only did Jonah disobey God’s order, he ran away and was swallowed by a whale, almost killing a boatful of innocent men in the process. Then, after he took the hint and went to Nineveh, he complained when God decided to spare the people! Total jerk move. Even King David, who is referred to in scripture as “a man after God’s own heart,” was kind of a jerk. First, he slept with a married woman and got her pregnant. Then when his plans to cover up the pregnancy didn’t work, he put her husband on the front lines of the war. King David lasted, committed adultery, and sent an innocent man to his death. Total jerk.

Then there is Jacob, one of the sassiest, most conniving characters in the bible. First, he tricks his older twin brother, Esau, to exchange his birthright for a bowl of Jacob’s homemade stew (even by Old Testament standards, those priorities are messed up). As their father grew ill, he wanted to formally bestow that birthright on Esau before he died. Jacob heard and decided to trick his blind father into thinking that he was Esau. He wore his brother’s clothes and put goatskins on his arms to appear hairy like Esau (talk about attention to detail), thus tricking his way into the family inheritance. Years later, when Jacob was fleeing from the army Esau put together to win back his birthright, an angel appeared. Seeing this as an opportunity, Jacob wrestled with the angel and demanded protection. He declared, “I will not let go until you bless me!” This charlatan had no right asking God for a blessing but, surprisingly, he got one, and went on to become a leader of nations.

If you are confused by this last part, I don’t blame you. It’s hard to imagine God honoring people that have behaved so poorly, and yet you and I continue to seek him today despite the crazy stuff we’ve pulled (and working in Res Life, I have seen some really crazy stuff). Romans 3:23 reminds us that we have all fallen short of the glory of God, and that is the exact reason why He shows mercy. He isn’t surprised or offended when we screw up; it’s expected that we make a mess. Our sin is why God sent His son to die on a cross and rise again three days later. Biblical characters aren’t meant to set some kind of unattainable spiritual standard. I believe people like Jonah, David and Jacob are supposed to remind us that yes, mankind is sinful and dark, but God can still use us for His divine purpose. When we can humble ourselves enough to recognize our sin, and still strive to do better, we are exactly where God wants us to be. It is that type of contrite heart that allows us to truly be men and women for others.

As you go through this season of Lent, take joy in knowing that your screw up’s are the very reason why Jesus Christ died on the cross. Challenge yourself to live each day in a way that honors His ultimate sacrifice. Like Jacob, be tenacious with your prayers, and don’t let go until God blesses you. I screw up and fall short every day. I judge, I gossip, I covet. I also push myself to be better, pray louder and love harder, so that I can honor a God that loved me so completely, he sent his son to die for my sins. With that type of unconditional love, I feel a little bit better about being a jerk.  

Liz Ali, Area Coordinator, Class of 2005
The Community Outreach Office provides information on Volunteer Opportunities for individuals, groups, clubs, and residence hall floors. Our office is located in The DeNaples Center, Room 205B, and our webpage is www.scranton.edu/volunteers. We are also on Facebook! Like Us!

Cinderella's Closet - Donate prom dresses, help with fashion show, organizing prom dresses, etc. Scranton Cultural Center, N Washington Ave or Steamtown Mall (easy walk or take the free COLTS college route bus). March 17 12-4pm; March 31 12-7pm; April 5 6-8pm; April 9 &10 10am-12pm; April 11 8-10pm. Contact the Junior League of Scranton at juniorleagueofscranton@gmail.com or call 570-961-8128

Discovery Hill Afterschool Program: Homework Help and Creative Activities for grade school kids. Hill Section location. Mondays and Thursdays beginning March 1st 2:30-3:30 (homework), 3:30-5:30 activities. Contact Melinda at mrokus@bu.edu

Friends of the Poor - Groups/club/departments/residence halls/classes...run a canned food drive, soup collection, cereal drive, food drive between March 1st and April 30th for the Giveaway to Fight Hunger. Contact Sister Ann Walsh, IHM, at friendsofthepoor@frontiernet.net. Clubs should be mindful of the club guidelines on donations found at http://matrix.scranton.edu/studentlife/ministries/community-outreach/clubs.shtml

Hill Neighborhood Association- Volunteers would work 2-6 hours per week during the spring academic semester at the HNA’s Hill Section office located at 419 Prescott Ave. (off Mulberry St.). Hours and days are flexible. Ideal start date is Feb. 27 or March 5. The office is open 9 a.m. – 12 noon Monday-Thursday. Volunteers will gain firsthand experience working at the neighborhood, grassroots level and have opportunities to apply marketing, public relations, community development and general word processing/office skills to real community issues. Help create new template for bi-monthly newsletter, Assist with transferring hard-copy membership information to computer records, and other duties as assigned. Contact Julie Cohen at julie.cohen@scranton.edu

Jane Kopas Womens Center - Take Back the Night student volunteers needed from March 19-April 19. Create activities for pre-really, hanging flyers, making flyers and other advertisements, generating interest from the community. Contact Joanne Nashi at joanne.nashi@scranton.edu

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute:

- Thursday March 1st - according to your schedule. Hang Colon Cancer ribbons in local businesses downtown and artists to paint ribbons in local business windows. Contact Jane at oswaldj2@scranton.edu to sign up
- Thursday March 22 - at One Point, Moosic St and Pittston Ave, South Scranton, pack t-shirts for Casual Day. Time: TBA. Contact Jane Oswald at oswaldj2@scranton.edu

Shalom @ Elm Park Church - help Nepali children (ages 4-11) with understanding our culture while improving their English/Math skills in a formal environment. March 2 to March 30 on Fridays from 3:30-5:30pm. Near campus, Linden & Jefferson. PA child abuse and PA criminal background clearances are required. Contact Dottie Bosley at dobosley@aol.com or call 570-346-8086/570-885-5870

Special Olympics - help coach a sport (basketball, golf, equestrian, soccer, bowling, etc) or help plan or coordinate an event. Weekdays 5:30-7pm or weekends (times tba). PA criminal background check needed. Transportation provided. Contact Michael Su at mikeysu@gmail.com or call 215-620-8523

St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary - volunteer at annual summer festival, coordinate donations, collect prizes. Contact Lynn Gavin at gavinl3@scranton.edu or call 570-969-5250

University of Scranton Street Sweep - Saturday April 14, Time TBA. Sign up with Student Government (website to be added shortly). For more info, stop by the Student Government Office, DeNaples Student Forum.
# Upscale Wednesday Mass

**This Lent, do something special for yourself... invite the Lord into your busy week.**

**Upscale Wednesday Mass**  
9:45 p.m.  
Madonna della Strada Chapel  

**Presider:** Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J  
All are welcome!

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# The Examen

Are you looking for some quiet time to spend with God?  
Come spend 20 minutes in a reflective form of Ignatian Prayer....

Join us on:  
**Thursday, March 8 at 9:45 PM in Sacred Heart Chapel**

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# Jesuit Volunteer Corps

Northwest Recruiter

Emily Ruef, will be visiting campus on Sunday - Monday, March 4 & 5

She’ll speak at the 7pm and 9:30pm masses, and be available afterward for those interested.

She will also have a table in DeNaples 2nd floor on Monday from 11am until 2pm, to speak with those interested in volunteering.

Questions about volunteering?  
Contact Cathy Seymour, University Ministries at seymourc1@scranton.edu

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# MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE

**A GUIDED IGNATIAN CONTEMPLATION**

25 minutes of prayer and meditation  
**Enter into prayer like never before**  
**Using your imagination and senses**

Every Sunday at 9:00 PM  
(we’ll be done by the 9:30 Mass!)

@DeNaples 200, University Ministries office  

"Just because something is happening inside your head, doesn’t mean it’s not real" - Professor Dumbledore  

Sponsored by University Ministries

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Weekly Collection

This week’s collection will go towards March 4 - Night Ministry in Chicago; donations will be given by the Spring Break service trip participants.

Last week’s collection for Homeboy Industries was $313

Sunday Mass Presiders

Sunday, March 4
11:00 AM: Fr. Bellafiore, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. McKinney, SJ
9:30 PM: Fr. Cadigan, SJ

Sunday, March 11
11:00 AM: Fr. Mohr, SJ

Lookin’ for the Signs

A Pilgrimage to the Baseball Hall of Fame
Cooperstown, NY

Saturday, March 31st
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

All students, faculty, staff (professional, clerical, maintenance, dining) spouses and children (10-17 yrs.)
WELCOME!

Adults: $35 University Students: $25 Children: $20
(includes bus transportation, lunch, admission)
Day ends with mass with Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J.
Register Today in University Ministries, DeNaples 200
Space is very limited!

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES, DeNaples Student Center 200
570-941-7419
www.scranton.edu/ministry

Paulette Burton, Secretary/Receptionist, University Ministries: 941-7419
Joanne Gambacorta, Secretary, Vice President for University Ministries: 941-7419
Ellen Judge, Secretary, Office of Community Outreach: 941-7429; Mollie Vita, G.A. University Ministries; Danielle Frascella, G.A. Community Outreach Office