Jesus Shows Up

There was a five-year-old boy who was sick on Palm Sunday and had to stay home with a neighbor. When the family returned home carrying palm branches, the boy asked about them. His mother tried to explain Palm Sunday to him, ‘People held them over Jesus’ head as he walked by.’

‘Wouldn’t you know it,’ the boy said, ‘the one Sunday I don’t go, Jesus shows up!’

Amidst all of the waving of palms and blessings on this day, you could ask yourself, ‘did Jesus show up at our church today’? When you stop to think about it, the story of Palm Sunday is ironic. In the Gospel we are taken back to the day that Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by a jubilant crowd, waving palms over His head shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” Yet, a mere five days later, much of that very same crowd was found yelling for Jesus’ crucifixion. Whether we like to acknowledge the fact or not, when you take out the donkey Jesus rode in on, the message of this tale is about us in a way. How often do we turn to Jesus when we are in desperate need of help? – praying for a passing grade on an exam, when we are enduring the pain of a broken heart, when friends or family are sick, in times of tragedy. But what about when life is grand; what about when there is nothing in the world that could bring us down from our happiness? Do we cry out to Jesus in gratitude then? I know that I am guilty of this. When everything in my life is going according to “plan”, often times I forget to thank God for those moments, those days, those memories. It simply slips my mind. In the reverse though, when life becomes too much for me to bear on my own – that is when I come back and longingly seek His help and strength. During this season of Lent, one of my goals was to invite God back into my entire life, to share the bad and the good times with Him. I am more aware of making an effort to express my gratitude constantly, as many seconds of the day that I can manage. I am finding that this is easier to do than I thought – I have a five minute walk from my classes to my residence hall, why not use that time to thank God for the blessings or the trials of my day?

The last thing that we want to do is compare ourselves to the crowd that Jesus met on that day in Jerusalem. We do not want to be the ones who sing His praises when it is convenient for us, only to forget it all when faced with the distractions of our daily lives. Turn on Jesus or not, He is going to the cross on behalf of all sinners, and that includes you and me.

Jesus knows that we cannot help our human inclinations. God did not create us to be perfect, He knew that we would falter and make mistakes from time to time. In the same way, Jesus knew that as soon as He died on the cross for us, things would not automatically change. Even after His resurrection, it still took time for people to finally believe in Him. Do not worry if you have had a similar experience like mine; trust in the slow work of God. Whenever we are ready to invite God back into our lives, He will be there, because He loves us so much, in good times and in bad.

Forgive my boldness when I say that I truly believe that yes, Jesus did show up at our church today. What I do challenge you to consider not only on this day, but every day – Did Jesus show up in YOUR life today?

Have a blessed and wonderful Easter!

Kristin Leccese - Class of 2012
Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.”

Pedro Arrupe, S.J., 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Valencia, Spain, 1973

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!

Pet Therapy, Canines on Campus - Tuesday, April 17th (raindate Thursday), 11:30-1, DeNaples Patio/Green

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Tuesday, April 17th 10-4, Long Center Lobby

Bread Basket of NEPA: Male volunteers needed one day a month for 1.5 hours in the weeks of April 2 through 5 and May 7 through 10. Volunteer can pick the day or food pantry location site that is convenient for him. Contact: Sandra Roberts, 343-2324.

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 mkrokus@bu.edu

Gino J. Merli Veterans Center: Ongoing, assist with activities, days and times vary, eight volunteers. Ongoing, bowling pinsetter, Friday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., three volunteers. Ongoing, canteen assistant, weekdays, time varies, two volunteers. Contact: Tom Bufano, 961-4380.

Muscular Dystrophy Summer Camp Counselor - June 9 - 16, Worcester PA. Info at http://www.mdausa.org/clinics/camp/volunteer.html. Child abuse clearances necessary and paid for by the agency. Kids are 6-17. Provide support and encouragement to campers with MD on a 1:1 ratio. Contact Christi Atkinson at scranton@mdausa.org

Senior Companion Program of Telespond: Ongoing, senior volunteers 55-plus residing in Lackawanna County of low or moderate income, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., eight volunteers needed. Contact: Joan Narcoons or Jane Hoffner, 347-7911, ext. 323.

Timmy's Town Center- Steamtown Mall; play with small children and assist them with art, science project and reading. Thurs-Sat 10am-4pm and Sun 12-4. On the COLTS college route. Contact Lexie Kelly at timmystowncenter@verizon.net or call 570-341-1511
### Upscale Tuesday Mass

This Holy Week, do something special for yourself... spend some time with the Lord.

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

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

### 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, April 5 at 9:45 PM in Sacred Heart Chapel**

### Lenten Reconciliation Service

Monday, April 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 8:00 PM  
Madonna della Strada Chapel  

Opportunity for individual confession  

Be forgiven
Weekly Collection

This week’s collection will be for Friends of the Poor.

Last week’s collection for the Salvadoran student was $466

Sunday Mass Presiders

Saturday, March 31
Preview Day
4:00 PM: Fr. Cadigan, SJ

Sunday, April 1
Palm Sunday
11:00 AM: Fr. Bellafiore, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. Quinn, SJ

Sunday, April 8
Easter Sunday
11:00 AM: Fr. Mohr, SJ

HEARTS ON FIRE
An Easter Retreat Through Film
FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 20 & 27
Free & On Campus
Film: The Catholicism Project
Discussion & Dinner

“Wasn’t it like a fire burning in us when He talked to us and explained the Scriptures?” Lk 24:32

Register in University Ministries today

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www.scranton.edu/ministry

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