

"What is the one way in which life is actually fair?"*Elizabeth Scalia | Sep 21, 2017**It's the thing that, if we allow it to, teaches us mercy for others.*

Answering the phone, I was alarmed to hear only a deep, guttural sobbing on the other end. After a moment, the caller collected herself enough to say, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry." "Who is this?" I asked, suspecting a wrong number. In another second I recognized the voice; it belonged to someone who, 20 years earlier, had spread a serious falsehood about me, one that has damaged friendships and family relationships in the long term. I had, at that time, quietly refuted the lie, confident that the truth would be obvious to anyone who really knew me. I had also determined that this woman's own painful past was the impetus for her malice, and indeed this appeared to be the case; it seems her phone call was part of a sincere effort to work through a 12-step program, and to come to terms with her own suffering.

I had prayed for this woman, and had already forgiven her in my heart, but now — for the first time — I finally said the words aloud: "You don't need to think about this anymore," I said. "I forgive you."

The conversation was neither long, nor deep, and a friend of mine later said I should have asked this woman if she intended to call all the people to whom she had lied about me and take back her words.

I couldn't see the point. The people who had believed the lie, I reasoned, must have been willing to believe the worst of me, and for all I knew, such a predisposition was rooted in my own faults and failings — *in what I had done; in what I had failed to do*. I neither craved a renewed approval from them nor wished to track people down in order to determine which sins of my own had created space for them to accept the lie.

Instead, I went to confession. I admitted once again that I am often an impatient, angry person; an intolerant person; a thoughtless and self-involved person who frequently misses social cues. When I prayed my penance that evening, I asked Christ to reign with His peace, between me and all of the people I had unknowingly or selfishly injured because of my meanness and my *me-ness*.

It was frankly easier to forgive the woman who had lied about me than to contemplate what behavior of mine had made her words so believable, to anyone. My own mercy toward the woman, in order to be truly just, required that I face some penitential realities.

The great confessor and saint Philip Neri, known as the Apostle of Rome, once heard the confession of a man who had repeated gossip among his neighbors. "For your penance," said Philip, "kill one of your chickens and bring it to us tonight for supper. Pull its feathers as you walk here."

The man was delighted; what an easy penance, to participate in one of Philip's renowned pranks! Walking through the streets and alleys of Campo di Fiore, gleefully tossing chicken feathers all about, the man presented the naked bird to Philip, who received it with pleasure and then said quietly to him, "Now go, if you please, and collect all the feathers, and bring them to me, as well."

"But Father," the man objected, "the feathers are strewn all about Rome by now, and beyond! Who knows where the wind has blown them; I could never recapture every feather."

"Yes," said Philip, "just so with gossip."

Philip's habit of genial mercy, served with a side of serious thought, is a model for the way I want to live my life.

Perhaps, as my friend suggested, I should have gently asked my repentant liar to try to gather all of her strewn feathers, but even if I had, it would not change the fact that we live in a world full of suffering. In fact, the older I get, the more I recognize that the suffering of this world is the one thing in life that is fair — more fair, perhaps than we would like: we all have our turn at suffering. No one misses out; no one escapes suffering at some point in life.

The woman on the phone had suffered. She had finally come to understand that in her suffering, she had inflicted suffering upon me. It is crucial for us to accept that our own sins are often far-reaching, unseen and remarkably destructive. Once we understand this, it becomes much easier to forgive others — even seventy times seven.

It's enough to make one want to gentle oneself — to remember that "as I both suffer and sin, this person does, too," and so hold oneself back from the angry retort, or the spiteful action. To extend a little feather of kindness, or patience, or an extra dollop of mercy, to help dilute all the harm we do to each other, even when we don't fully see it.

Schedule of Events:**Monday April 29**Youth Formation 7pm (6th-10th)**Tuesday, April 30**

8 a.m. Mass

6 p.m. youth formation (K-5)

Wednesday, May 1

8 a.m. Mass

Thursday, May 2

8 a.m. Mass

Friday, May 3

8 a.m. Mass

Saturday, May 4

8:30 Mother's Tea

4 p.m. Mass

Sunday, May 5

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8 a.m. mass

9:30 a.m. Confessions

10 a.m. Mass



MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of April 30, 2019 – May 3, 2019

8:00 A.M. – Tuesday April 30

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Matthew Prosperie & family, Alice Hebert

8:00 A.M. – Wednesday May 1

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Celia Bourg (B)

8:00 A.M. Thursday May 2

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai Pellegrin, Leon Champagne

8:00 A.M. Friday May 3

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Living & Deceased Memebers of LAS, Milton Babin, Rose Authement

4:00 P.M. Saturday, May 4

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

*Parishioners of St. Ann, , Loyd Savin, Allen, Clarice & John Bascle, Peter & Darsey Babin & family,
Gordon & Merlin Seuzeneau, Lester & Alicia Babin & family, Hebert & Marian Porche & family,
Steve Porche, Lawlis & Clara Barrios, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Wilbert & Elsie Hebert, Linda Ann Hebert,
Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert, Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee,
Wayne G. Cancienne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Kenneth J. Breaux, Walter & Anna Belle Duplantis, Herman & Ellen Walker,
Leslie & Carley Walker, Herman Walker Jr., Lawrence Dugas, Wallace & Dolly Callahan,
Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux, Keri Lynn Niette, Albert Pinell Sr., Mrs. Annie Ezell & family,
Mr. & Mrs. Zephrian Arceneaux, Mr. & Mrs. Jules Boquet & family,
Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Nora Matherne, Cory Matherne, Ruth Hebert, Melvin Hebert,
Dolores Viteaux, Cynthia Charpentier, Geri Rhodes, Everard "Bizz" Walker Jr.,*

8:00 A.M. - Sunday, May 5

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Sue Bueche, Mary Eve & Wayne Bascle,
Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre,
Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Cindy R. Broussard, Clinton & Wilma Picou, Erous & Eric Eschete
Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Cecil & Irma Authement (WA),
Jokoby Authement (B), Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr.,
Ann Hebert, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Amelie Thibodeaux
Clyde Pitre, Clyde, Elizabeth & Curtis Lirette, Matthew & David Naquin Sr,*

Andrew Sr., Edna, Elie, Morris, Bruce Pitre, Special intention, Marie Gaston, Ernestine Pitre

10:00A.M. - Sunday, May 5

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Geraldine Dupre, Hazel Lee, Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger,
Rosie & Richard Lafont, Living & Deceased Members of the Naquin, LaJaunie, LeBoeuf & Lapeyrouse Families
Ruth Pinell, Elbert "Bert" & Norma Rhodes, Daniel Toups, George Wiley Spruill, Maxine Christoffersen,
Steve & Nelly Bergeron & family, Terry, Karen Susan, Leslie & family*

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF April 28 , 2019

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of *Melvin Hebert* requested by Sharon & Dickie Bascle.

The Altar Bread is in memory of *Cecile Fabre* requested by Randolph & Kathie Bascle.

The Altar Candles are in memory of *Peter Braswell* requested by Wayne & Judy Duhon.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

April 20 & 21: Envelopes: \$4932.00 + Loose: \$1649.00 + \$465.99 (Online)

Easter Education Collection: \$1227.00

Holy Land Collection: \$ 610.00

Thank you for your generosity!

CHURCH CLEANING: Week of May 5- Charlene, Lyndell, Shirley, Janet, Una, Jeannie

| MASSES | MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST | COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR | ALTAR SERVERS | USHERS |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>May 4 & 5</u> SATURDAY 4:00P.M. | Brian, Marianne Randolph, Kathie | Connie, Cheryl | Donte', Mason | Steve, Jan |
| SUNDAY 8:00A.M. | Jesse, Patsy Cecil, Irma | Doug, David | Trenton | Jesse, Paula, Peggy |
| 10:00A.M. | Connie, Paula, Lisa, Leroy | Ashleigh, Sofie | Zack, Bailey, Kailey, Hailey | Kenneth, Joseph |

