

Some Thoughts for November, 2023

Marge Loenser

November, your cascading leaves of amber, crimson, gold and brown, swirling in the wind, announce your presence; your coolness tells me to button-up and get ready for the winter to come. The name November comes from the Latin root word “novum” which means number nine. The early Roman calendar had only 10 months and you were, of course, the ninth month, or November.

We begin with All Saints Day on the first which reminds us that we are all called to be saints. We forget that all those in heaven are saints, not just the great ones, like our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the apostles, but everyday people that tried with all their hearts to follow Jesus and love God with all their hearts, minds and souls and their neighbors as themselves. All Soul’s Day follows, and we remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, we pray that Jesus calls them home, to sit at His table in heaven, to live eternally in the “Light” with all glory and joy.

On the 3rd we celebrate St. Martin de Porres who was the son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave in Peru. St. Martin was humble and served the poor. It is said that he even fed the mice, whose language he seemed to know. The other St. Martin we celebrate this month on the 11th, is St. Martin of Tours. We remember St. Martin as the saint who tore his cloak in two and shared it with a beggar; later, in a vision, the beggar turned out to be Jesus Himself. Both St. Martins please pray for us.

We celebrate many great saints this month and notably two of them are associated with Scotland: St. Margaret, on November 16th, and on the 30th, St. Andrew, apostle of Jesus and brother of St. Peter. St. Margaret was queen of Scotland; she was a martyr for the faith in 1093 and in her lifetime worked vigorously for the reform of the church; she had eight children. Queen Margaret founded churches, monasteries, and hostels for pilgrim travelers. St. Margaret, please pray for us.

St. Andrew, of course, was the first apostle of Jesus and brother to St. Peter. He has been celebrated in Scotland as patron saint for one thousand years. In the year 832 King Oengus II led an army of Picts and Scots to victory against the Angles. The king’s army was outnumbered, and he prayed for victory to St. Andrew. He won the battle and in gratitude the Picts agreed to venerate the saint. St. Andrew became Scotland’s patron saint, and his feast day became November 30. Dear St. Andrew, please pray for us.

Thanksgiving this year comes on Thursday, November 23rd. Let us never cease to praise and thank God for all the blessings he has showered on us. The pilgrims started the feast to thank God for their new home in America. Let us continue to thank God for America and to pray that we all remember that this country was founded under Christian-Judeo principles. Let us pray that our leaders never forget this. God bless us and God bless America.

Love,
Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark’s Church in Sea Girt where she is a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark’s. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark’s Church Bulletin.