

## Some Thoughts for September 2023

Marge Loenser

To me September is bittersweet. It's sad to see summer fading away, days getting shorter, vacations ending, enjoying being outside; yet there's the excitement of a new school season, autumn weather, fall holidays, and going for walks and so much more.

There are a lot of events this month. On the 8th we celebrate the birthday of our Blessed Mother. On the 11th, of course, we take time out to remember that very tragic day in 2001. We lift up to God all the souls that died, and we ask God's healing for all the families that lost loved ones. We pray especially for our country. God, please save the USA.

We celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and we pray each of the seven sorrows with her. We think of how saddened Mary was at the words of Simeon at the Presentation: "Your own heart a sword shall pierce." The second sorrow was when Joseph took Mary and Baby Jesus in the dark of the night away to the far land of Egypt to escape the murderous Herod. The third sorrow is the loss of the child Jesus when Mary and Joseph were returning home from Jerusalem. The fourth is when Mary met Jesus on the way of the cross. In the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," Jesus, under the weight of the cross, whispers to Mary, "See I make all things new." The fifth sorrow is Mary standing under the cross as Jesus breathes His last. Those of us that have lost children cry with Mary as our hearts break with Her. The sixth sorrow is Jesus taken down from the cross and laid in Mary's arms, and the seventh sorrow is the placing of Jesus in the tomb. Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death amen.

We celebrate St. Matthew this month on the 21st and thank him for his gospel. I especially enjoy his infancy narrative. St. Matthew pray for us. We commemorate St. Padre Pio on the 23rd. We love praying to him for favors and healings. He suffered the stigmata for 50 years and was known for his gifts of healing, his ability to read souls and his bilocation's. St. Pio, pray for us.

We celebrate the archangels on the 29th: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. St. Michael is mentioned in the book of Revelation when he was at war with the dragon, and dispelled Satan and his angels from heaven. St. Gabriel announced the birth of St. John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus to our Blessed Mother. St. Raphael is mentioned in the Book of Tobit. He guided Tobit's son Tobias through foreign lands to recover his father's fortune and he dispelled evil spirits from Sara, Tobias' wife-to-be. He also healed Tobit of his blindness. Angels are a powerful gift from God, and we pray to them each day and ask them for protection. St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, please pray for us and for the USA. God bless us all. Enjoy September!

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.