

Some Thoughts for December 2024

Marge Loenser



Yeah, It's December! It's got to be our favorite month of the year because December lights up our brain with thoughts of "CHRISTMAS." But let's not get ahead of ourselves because it also means Advent, and Advent begins Dec. 1. Advent, from the Latin word "Adventus" means "arrival," or "coming." I know Santa Claus is "coming" to town, but "Santa" is small potatoes compared to the "coming" of Baby Jesus. And when we think of Baby Jesus, we think of His beautiful Mother Mary, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate on Dec. 8. What that simply means is that at the very moment of Her conception in the womb of St. Anne, Almighty God gave her the privilege of being born free of original sin. The only human being other than Jesus, Himself, to be granted such a privilege.

Another great celebration is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th. Our Lady appeared in Mexico to a peasant man whose name was Juan Diego. She told him to tell the bishop to build her a shrine on the hill of Tepeyac. Our Lady performed a miracle for the skeptical bishop by imprinting her image of an young Indian princess (maybe an Aztec) on Juan's tilma, or cloak. This miracle is still there for us to visit in Mexico City, Mexico.

Some of the other saints we celebrate this month: St. Lucy on the 13th who is a patron saint for curing eye diseases. I say a prayer to her each morning for my friends with eye problems; St. Stephen, first Christian martyr on Dec. 26. My dear friend Stephanie's birthday. How would you like to have been born the day after Christmas. I must say she might have felt "outshone" but it never dampened her spirit as I consider her to be the epitome of the "Energizer Bunny" when it comes to serving the Lord. I get weary just thinking about all she does for her church and those in need. We have St. John on the 27th. He was brother to St. James and son of Zebedee--fishermen all. He wrote the fourth gospel after the martyrdom of James. He is the only apostle not martyred but spent his old age on the Isle of Patmos writing the gospel and four letters. His writings are to me beautiful poetry.

The 28th is the feast of the Holy Innocents --sweet babies murdered by Herod who thought he could kill the baby Jesus when he found out from the Magi, that the babe was considered to be a great King of Israel. Thank you, St. Joseph, for following the angel's directions and taking the Child Jesus and His Mother and fleeing to Egypt. It is also the birthday of another dear friend of mine, Vione, who is quite the "prayer warrior" -- has prayed for so many people, I can't begin to count. Besides that, I can always count on her to laugh at my corny jokes. She is able to make lemonade when life throws lemons at her.

Merry Christmas to all and as Tiny Tim said: "May God bless us all, everyone."

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.