

Some Thoughts for January, 2025

Marge Loenser

A very Happy and blessed New Year to all this year of 2025. It seems like only a couple of weeks ago I was wishing everyone a happy new year 2024! Wow, time literally does fly by. It would be nice if we could step on the brakes and slow time down just a bit. Or, how about: "Lord would You mind slowing down the rotation of the earth, sun and stars just a bit?" His laughter is causing a tremor in the universe. Only kidding God. Your timing is perfect. It is us--we humans that need to plan better and adapt more readily to Your timing and plans.

The Solemnity of Mary begins the month on the first. Bless us all Holy Mother. We need your sweet intercession and prayers as we look ahead to all the possibilities that await our world this new year. Keep us safe in these very precarious times. Bless all who strive for justice, peace, law and order.

Both the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord fall on Sundays this year. (Jan. 5 and 12) I love St. Matthew's review of the visit of the wise men to see the "Newborn King." They traveled far to reach Bethlehem and present him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2: 1-12). Thank you St. Joseph for listening to the angel when he told you to take the Child and his mother and flee to Egypt because King Herod made plans to kill Baby Jesus. Herod ordered the slaying of all male babies age two and younger born in Bethlehem. (Matthew 2:13) We honored those infants on December 28, which was the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

On the 20th we celebrate St. Pope Fabian. (The only other Fabian I know of was a singer in the late 1950's.) Anyway, Pope Fabian was the bishop of Rome from year 236 to 250. A dove was said to have landed on his head to mark him as the unexpected choice of the Holy Spirit. He was succeeded by Pope Cornelius who also became martyr and saint. Pray for us St. Fabian and St. Cornelius.

We also pray to St. Agnes of Rome, whose feast is on the 21st. She was a virgin martyr and only 13 years old when she was killed in 291 AD by Roman emperor Diocletian.

January 25 is the March for Life and we pray for the end of abortion. Many will march in Washington D.C. and we pray for their safety and success. We also pray for those contemplating mercy killing, suicide and abortion, that they be open to the Holy Spirit and change their hearts. We encourage you to pray a Rosary for Life this day.

May God bless us all and give us the graces we need to seek and follow his will each day. Happy New Year!

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.