

Some Thoughts for July 2025 by Marge Loenser

Thank You God for the lovely month of July. It's known for being the warmest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and the coldest month of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. It is warmest due to the increased daylight hours and earth's position in relation to the sun. The birthstone for July is the ruby and the flower is the Larkspur. I know we all remember it got its name from emperor Julius Caesar. Mostly, thank You God for my Charlene, born July 28, 1963, now in heaven with the angels.

The month of July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. To name a few saints of the month we have: on the first, St. Junipero Serra. On the third the Apostle St. Thomas, on the eleventh, St. Benedict; the fourteenth is St. Kateri Tekakwitha, on the 22 St. Mary Magdalene on the 25th, we celebrate St. James, apostle, on the 26th the parents of our Blessed Mother, Mary: Sts. Joachim and St. Anna. On the 29th Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus. And on the 31st, St. Ignatius of Loyola.

I love the Apostle, St. Thomas. I think he got a bad "rap" as "Doubting Thomas." It could have been anyone of the apostles that were absent that might have had doubts. Jesus uses Thomas to show an everlasting picture of His Resurrected Body. The scene shows absolutely that Jesus was alive again when He has Thomas put his hand into the nail holes in His hands and into His pierced side. I like the role of St. Thomas in the series "The Chosen" where he is wine merchant and caterer at the wedding feast of Cana.

We don't hear much talk about the young Native American, St. Kateri. She became known as the "Lily of the Mohawks." She was born in Auriesville, New York in the 17th century, and she was the only member of her family to survive a small pox epidemic, which left her facially scarred and visually impaired. Her mother was a Christianized Algonquin and her father was a Mohawk. She is remembered for her charity and her holiness. She is the first Native American to be proclaimed a saint. St. Kateri, pray for us and your people.

St. James, apostle and brother to St. John was the first apostle to be martyred. He proclaimed the gospel to the area now called Spain and is memorialized at Santiago de Compostela, a very famous pilgrimage site.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of our Holy Mother Mary-- tradition tells us were from Nazareth. St. Joachim was a descendent of David from the tribe of Judah and St. Anne was from the tribe of Levi. It is said they prayed for a child for twenty years and promised God that when they had a child it would be consecrated to Him, the Most High God. Mary was conceived by their union and at the moment of her conception God proclaimed her free from original sin and that very moment was the Immaculate Conception. Dear Anna and Joachim pray for our children and grandchildren.

We are all familiar with Martha, Mary and Lazarus as close friends and patrons of Jesus when he and the apostles traveled the area of Judea, which encapsulated all the area near Jerusalem. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead it was His final miracle--the one that led to his persecution and soon after, His crucifixion. I love the way the "Chosen" series shows us so much of the home and hospitality of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, apparently wealthy and devoted Jews.

Well, I've run out of space on this page so I will ask God to bless us all, each one.

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.