Some Thoughts for December 2025
Marge Loenser

Here we are mid December smack in the middle of Advent. Advent is from the Roman word "adventus" a time of hopeful anticipation. We are joyfully anticipating the coming of our Lord, or the coming of the "Light." Jesus says in John: 8: 12, "I am the Light of the world." Christmas is all about lights. The lights shinning from our Christmas tree; the lights around our houses; the lights shinning from a million different places all around us. First came the great light from the star over Bethlehem; then, the great light that shone down on the shepherds with angels singing "Gloria in Excelsius Deo;" then came the greatest light of all, the birth of our blessed Lord, Jesus Christ. He was born to light up the whole world, yet He was born in a humble stable--teaching us from the very moment of His birth that humility is a great gift from God. Welcome, Baby Jesus!

On the twelfth we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531 our Lady appeared to Juan Diego three times and requested he tell the bishop to build a church there on Tepeyac hill. To finally convince the bishop, our Lady had Juan gather roses in his cloak, or tilma, and when the roses tumbled out of the tilma, a beautiful picture of our lady, dressed as a young native appeared, etched on the tilma. The picture remains on display in Mexico City to this day.

On the 26th we celebrate St. Stephen, our very first Christian martyr. He was a deacon of the early church and angered members of various synagogues by his teachings. He was stoned to death. St. Stephen please pray for us--pray we have the courage to stand up for Christian values.

On the 27th we celebrate St. John, beloved apostle and evangelist. He wrote the fourth gospel and the Book of Revelation. He was the young apostle who rested his head on Christ's breast during the last supper. St. John, whose gospel was all about love, please pray for us.

The feast of the Holy Innocents falls on the 28th. They were the babies ordered to be killed by Herod in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill baby Jesus, who was taken away in time by St. Joseph and Our blessed Mother to seek safety in Egypt. Holy Innocents please pray for the end of abortions.

I leave you with this simple Christmas poem. Love and Merry Christmas, Marge Loenser

'Twas the evening of Christmas and all through the night
Dwelt this sweet gentle silence and the brightness of LIGHT,
Shepherds were startled by angels on high,
And were told of a Babe born in Bethlehem nigh.
Hosanna! Come see the Messiah promised from old,
All wrapped up in cloth to keep out the cold.
See Mary and Joseph who dwelt at His side,
While shepherds looked on with their eyes opened wide!
We adore You, we adore You, sweet Baby King,
For to our hearts peace and salvation You Bring!

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.