Some Thoughts for July 2026
Marge Loenser

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. This traditional devotion honors the physical blood Jesus shed on the cross for our salvation as well as the blood made present in the Eucharist. Let us pray that the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, be on us and save the world!

The gemstone for July is the ruby and its flowers are the Larkspur and Water Lily.

Happy July 4th! God bless America on this our 250th anniversary! Lord we thank you for this wonderful land. We ask you to "stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above…" In many ways we are going through the night, but we must remember that Jesus Christ is the light from above and through prayer and righteous activity we will continue our fight for our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We must pray and stand behind those who support our constitution--with equal justice for all, under the law.

We celebrate St. Thomas, apostle, on the 3rd. He is remembered for doubting the resurrection of Jesus. He was not present when Jesus first showed Himself to the apostles after His death on the cross. It took Christ's second appearance (when Thomas was present) for him to believe. He and the other apostles went out and preached the gospel after Pentecost. He was martyred in 72 AD in India. St. Thomas please pray for us, especially in moments of doubts.

Of the many other saints we honor this month we have: On the 22nd, St. Mary Magdalene, who was healed of seven demons by our Lord, was His faithful follower, right to the end where she stood with Mary at the foot of the cross. After the Ascension, when the disciples left the Holy Land, Mary settled for a life of seclusion in a cave in Baum, France. St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us. St. James, brother of St. John on the 25th, the first to be martyred, was one of the first disciples to follow Jesus. His pilgrimage sight, Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain dates back to the year 813. St. James, please pray for us.

On the 29th we honor Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, close friends to Jesus. Jesus and his apostles visited them many times during His travels to rest and get revitalized. Martha was the busy one, Jesus said: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious about so many things, but Mary chooses the better part for herself." (Luke 10:41-42.) Here Martha wants Mary to help her serve Jesus and his disciples, while Mary chooses to sit at the feet of Jesus and enjoy His presence. The Lord seems to be saying, the spiritual is much more important than the physical/material. This is not to say that work is not important but that we need to prioritize our time with the Lord and our time "in the world." God must always come first. It was the rising of Lazarus from the dead that was the last and defining sign that marked Jesus for death by the Sanhedrin. Sts. Martha Mary and Lazarus, please pray for us.

I can't think about July without thinking of my dear departed daughter Charlene who was born on July 28th, 1963. I can picture her in heaven smiling and laughing and I know she is praying for us.

May God bless us all this July and let us continue to pray for each other.

Love, always,
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 a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.