Some Thoughts for May 2026
Marge Loenser

Welcome, sweet May. The month of our Blessed Mother. This month we celebrate her role as Mother of God and Mother of the church. May's birthstone is the emerald and the birth flower is the lily of the valley. We're just so thrilled to get some warm weather! Thank you God!

We celebrate St. Joseph the worker on the first. There in Nazareth he taught Jesus his trade. A worker in stone and wood. When Jesus was old enough to work, no doubt St. Joseph took him to Sephoris to do construction work--it was a huge metropolis and it was only a couple of miles away from Nazareth. St Joseph pray for us!

On the 13th we celebrate Our Lady of Fatima--the year was 1917, and in October approximately 70,000 people witnessed the miracle of the sun. Fatima is a very popular pilgrimage sight, and each evening they hold a candlelight procession while praying the rosary and singing, ave, ave, ave Maria. It is quite inspiring and very holy. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

On the 14th (or on the following Sunday) we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. Jesus said: "You will receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts, 1-8. Here Jesus is speaking of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came with power and gifts. Come Holy Spirit we need you!

On May 22 we celebrate St. Rita of Cascia, Italy. She was a very holy woman and lost her husband in a duel. Her two sons would naturally seek to avenge their father, so to prevent them from doing so, she prayed to God to take them, so that they would not commit murder. Her prayer was answered--both sons were taken. Rita suffered greatly from all her loss and entered the convent to devote her life to God. She suffered the stigmata by having a thorn appear on her brow. St. Rita is the patron of the impossible. St. Rita, pray for us!

We celebrate St. Philip Neri on May 26. There is a wonderful story of him receiving the holy Spirit on the eve of Pentecost, in the year 1544. He was praying in the catacombs of Rome when there burst a ball of fire that entered his mouth and lodged in his heart. From that moment on the Holy Spirit was very evident, and when he spoke to evangelize, his heart beat so fiercely that the floor shook. St. Philip Neri, pray for us!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ may we be blessed by the Holy Spirit and by our words and actions may we spread the good news!

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 a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.