Some Thoughts for November 2026
Marge Loenser

November marks the time for harvest, closure and gratitude; it is a time for preparation; a time for gathering and to prepare for the cold of winter. We give thanks to God, especially for the beauty of autumn; for tree leaves of yellow, gold, orange, red, purple and brown. What a beautiful panorama as we drive along the way! The birthstones of November are topaz and citrine. The flower of the month is, of course, the Chrysanthemum. Thank You, Jesus for such a beautiful time of the year!

We begin with the feast of All Saints Day on the 1st and the 2nd the commemoration of the departed--All Souls Day. We pray for our dearly departed relatives and friends. We offer masses and rosaries that they may be welcomed home to Jesus and into the glory of heaven. We are told that these souls cannot pray for themselves but rely on our prayers; that they can pray for us. Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord, may they sit at your banquet in heaven.

One of the saints we honor this month is St. Leo, the Great, Nov. 10. St. Leo was Bishop of Rome in the year 440. He contributed significantly to developing ideas of papal authority, which he founded upon the apostolic succession of the bishop of Rome from St. Peter.

We honor two St. Martins this month: St. Martin De Porres on the 3rd and St. Martin of Tours on the 11th. St. Martin De Porres was the illegitimate son of a Spanish gentleman and a mother who was a freed Panamanian slave. His father abandoned him and he grew up in deep poverty. He is known for his charitable work with the poor, especially for the newly arrived slaves from Africa. He became a Dominican brother, and was known for his miracle cures and for the gift of bi-location. St. Martin of Tours started out as a soldier of Rome in the 4th century. Later on he was known as “Martin the Merciful.” A very familiar story (and one of my favorites) is the one of him sharing his cloak with a freezing beggar, whom Martin later saw as Jesus, Himself, wearing his cloak. Both St. Martins, please pray for us.

On the 13th we honor St. Mother Cabrini who emigrated to this country from Italy. She worked tirelessly with the poor immigrants and was the first U.S. citizen to become a saint. St. Mother Cabrini, please pray for us. On the 16th we honor St. Margaret, queen of Scotland. She was known for founding churches, monasteries and hostels for pilgrim travelers. St. Margaret, pray for us.

On the 30th we honor the apostle, St. Andrew, brother to St. Peter. In Matthew 4:18 Jesus calls Andrew and his brother Simon Peter by the Sea of Galilee. Andrew was first a follower of St. John the Baptist. I have a special place in my heart for St. Andrew as he had to live in the shadow of his brother, Peter, and be left out of Jesus’ inner circle on certain occasions, for instance, when Jesus called Peter, James and John to accompany Him for the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’s daughter to life, and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. We do see St. Andrew mentioned in the gospel when he spoke up about the boy who had the barley and fishes before Jesus performed the miracle of multiplying the loaves and fishes in the gospel of John 6: 8-9. St. Andrew, please pray for us.

We love Thanksgiving, coming this year on Thursday the 26th. Thank you Lord for our church, our families, our country, our very lives, and for all you do for us each day. Please continue to bless us as we travel our lives through the seasons! My dear sisters and brothers, please enjoy the turkey, stuffing, yams and pumkin pie!

Love to all,
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.