



“Coming in like a Lion and going out like a Lamb.”

By Marge Loenser

Praise the Lord for March, described as “coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb.” I can remember when it did the opposite: came in like a lamb and went out like a lion! Time will tell. Thank you Jesus I see the sprouting daffodil and crocus; thank You for the many signs of spring --You know Lord how we need these signs after the past winter of isolation.

I'd like to focus on four saints that we celebrate this month: ***St. Katherine Drexel on March 3, St. Frances of Rome on March 9, St. Patrick March 17, and St. Joseph March 19.***

St. Katherine was born in 1858. She was an American heiress from Philadelphia who became a nun. She was very concerned with the injustices done to Black American and Native American people. She founded the Blessed Sacrament Sisters to serve them and set up 30 missions in 17 states. She is the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists. She was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. St. Katherine Drexel is the second American saint, and the first to be born here. St. Katherine, please pray for our country.

St. Frances of Rome is a favorite saint of mine and I pray to her each time I get behind the wheel of my car as she is the patron saint of automobile drivers and widows. Although there were no cars back in the 1400's (duh) when she lived in Italy, there is a legend that says when she traveled, an angel would light the road before her with a lantern to keep her safe from hazards. St. Frances came from a wealthy family. She was a devoted, loving wife and she and other women ministered to the poor of Rome. She later founded a ministry of women dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor. St. Frances, please protect us on the road, and pray for lonely widows.

St. Patrick was a Roman Citizen born in Scotland. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. He later escaped and was called by God into the priesthood. He felt the need to return to Ireland and convert the pagans. This he did in a grand manor and his shrines and churches can be found all over Ireland. I love this part of his prayer: "I arise this day through the strength of heaven, light of the sun, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind, depth of the sea, stability of the earth, and firmness of the rock." We thank Msgr. Flynn for saying the Mass in Gaelic in honor of St. Patrick.

Dear **St. Joseph**, protector of our Blessed Mother and the child Jesus--often pictured as an elderly man, he must have been fairly young and strong to have done all the traveling the Holy family needed to do (the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the flight into Egypt). Although we often read that St. Joseph was a carpenter, I'm sure he also worked in stone and other materials used in construction. The late Fr. Groshel from EWTN said he believed that St. Joseph and Jesus used to travel a few miles to the large city of Sepphoris to do construction work. Imagine how the young Jesus viewed, wide-eyed, this large multi-cultured city after leaving the small village of Nazareth. We ask St. Joseph to continue to protect our church and our families just as he protected Jesus and Mary. May God bless and protect us, each one, this March. Love Marge.



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Marks Church in Sea Girt where she is Lecter and Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at St Marks. 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 St Marks Bulletin.