



## ***DECEMBER THOUGHTS 2021***

By Marge Loenser

December is a beautiful month. December rings of Christmas. Christmas bells. It's a time of expectation and longing. Advent prepares us spiritually for the coming of the ***Christ Child***. We joyfully wait for Baby Jesus to be born.

A couple of months back my great granddaughter ***Riley*** was born. I looked lovingly at those first pictures sent to me and thought, "Just think Baby Jesus was this size when He came to earth--so precious, so helpless!" It's hard to fathom the great humility of God --He allowed Himself to be so dependent, so vulnerable for us. Thank You Jesus! Thank you, Holy Mother, for saying yes to God and giving birth to our Savior. You were little more than a child, yourself.

We celebrate many great saints this month, including: ***St. Nicholas, St. Juan Diego, St. Lucy and St. John*** the beloved apostle, to name a few. St. Nicolas' feast is the 6th.

I guess he is the original “Jolly ole St. Nicholas.” He was a bishop from Greece and died in 343 A.D. He performed many great miracles, some included bringing babies who have died, back to life.

St. Juan Diego, who we celebrate on the 9th, was blessed to present his tilma with the ***Blessed Mother’s*** image to his bishop back in the 1500’s. That Image, ***Our Lady of Guadalupe*** can still be seen in Mexico City.

On the 13th we celebrate St. Lucy of Syracuse, Sicily. She was martyred under the Roman emperor, Diocletian. She is a patron saint of the blind. On the 27th we celebrate St. John, beloved disciple of the Lord. He was blessed to sit next to Jesus at the last supper and leaned into His breast to ask who the betrayer was. He was faithful to the end and stood at the cross with our blessed Mother. Jesus entrusted His Mother upon His death to St. John. St. John, pray for us.

I would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed and joyous Christmas. I leave you with the simple poem. ***Merry Christmas:***

***‘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 Lector and 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.