

Some Thoughts for March 2024

Marge Loenser

March, hallelujah! I see signs of Spring. Praise the Lord! I just found some blades of daffodils pushing up through the hard winter's earth. Don't you just love daffodils?

Well, here we are in the midst of Lent and hopefully are accepting the challenges to go deeper into prayer, fasting and doing works of mercy. Fasting doesn't have to be exclusively from food (thank God) but we can also fast from so many other things, like sarcasm, criticism, complaining, nagging and so on.

On the fourth we have the memorial of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania and Poland. He was born a prince but rejected the throne and turned from worldly pleasures to a life of prayer and dedication to the poor and needy. He died at the age of 25, and many blind and sick people who touched his body became healed. St. Casimir pray for us.

On the 9th we have St. Frances of Rome, patron of automobile drivers and widows. I never get behind the wheel of my car without asking for her protection. St. Frances please pray for us.

We all know what the 17th of March is-- St. Patrick's Day! Everybody is Irish on this day! Patrick was a Roman citizen born in Scotland. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. He later escaped and was called to the priesthood by God. He felt the need to return to Ireland to convert the pagans. He swept all over Ireland doing just that. and his many, many shrines attest to his success! This is a part of his breastplate 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." St. Patrick pray for us.

On the 19th we celebrate our dear St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and spouse of our Blessed Mother. He was a very devout Jew, chosen by God, for this great and holy responsibility. I don't like the way many artists have shown him to be an old man. Surely God would have chosen a strong young man for all the traveling the Holy Family did and for all the hard work he did as a carpenter and/or construction worker. What a holy death God chose for you, St. Joseph, to have Jesus and Mary at your bedside when He called you home. As a little girl, I thought St. Joseph was Italian because so many Italians are named "Joe". St. Joseph pray for us.

On a personal note, I would like to thank so many of you who have been praying for my granddaughter, Katie, suffering with cancer for over 2 years. God wanted her to come home, so He called her, and she is now with Jesus. Please keep our family in your prayers, which includes her two little girls.

God bless you,
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 for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.