



## *Thoughts for September*

**By Marge Loenser**

Ah, September, you're here already! Though only 30 days long you are packed full of important events-- of beginnings and endings. You bring a lot of important changes to us. We say goodbye to summer vacations, hello to school openings. (maybe) Hello to autumn, goodbye to summer. Sadly, we think about 9/11 and offer prayers for those who lost their lives and for those who mourn for them. Jesus have mercy on those still suffering the effects of that day, from physical and emotional hurt.

You are a beautiful month and simply by thinking about you I recall those long walks to High School back in Roselle. First day back, I just had to wear my new school outfit, long sleeves and long, heavy skirt, even though temperature-wise it was a hot summer day (whew!) but I looked good. Typical teenage reasoning.

We celebrate the birth of the blessed Mother on the 8<sup>th</sup>, we also celebrate St. Matthew, St Robert Bellarmine, St. Padre Pio, the Archangels, Gabriel, Michael and Raphael, and St. Jerome, to name a few. When my brothers and I were kids, after "kibitzing" around and driving mom to distraction, I remember her yelling out: "Jesus, Mary and St. Jerome!" I never knew where she got St. Jerome from. Anyway, about this Saint, back in the 400's he translated the Hebrew bible into the Vulgate or Latin bible. No small task.

St. Matthew, we recognize as the hated tax collector who turned his life around to follow Jesus. He wrote the second of the four gospels, following St. Mark. I'm sure St. Matthew did not have it easy working and praying alongside the fishermen, who no doubt had no kind words to say about tax collectors. (Was Matthew the cause of St. Peter asking Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive someone" hmm?)

Padre Pio-- now there is a "giant" of a saint in my book. He was gifted with being able to read souls, bi-locating and suffering the stigmata for 50 years. There are many stories about his miracles. One that sticks out in my mind is about an American Pilot during WWII. He was separated from his squadron--flying in very poor visibility. He reported seeing Padre Pio up there in the clouds, pointing the way back to his base, no doubt aboard a carrier. He was saved and lived to tell that remarkable story.

Ah, the Archangels. St. Michael it was you and your angels that drove Lucifer and the other fallen angels out of heaven. We call on you after each mass to protect us and defend us from evil.

St. Gabriel, announcer extraordinaire bringing great news to the Virgin Mary and it is you who will announce the end of the world by blowing your horn. Raphael, we remember you from the book of Tobit. You were guide to the young Tobias, and healer of blindness of his father, Tobit. Healer and Guide, be with us each day especially during this pandemic.

Let us pray for all the sick in body and mind. Lord be with the lonely, let them seek you each day.

Be with students and teachers as school opens. We pray all practice safety and we pray for those learning from home. Nothing is impossible for You, Lord, help us all navigate these very troubled waters as you helped your apostles navigate through the storm on the Sea of Galilee. God bless us each one, 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.