



## *November Thoughts*

**by Marge Loenser**

November comes in behind a strong gust of spiritual wind. This spiritual wind reminds us that we are only sojourners on this earth; that we are headed for a much better place. November 1st is All Saints Day. God's chosen elect that have gone before us living the message that Christ began when he walked this earth. They are our role models and intercessors, and we constantly turn to them for help and inspiration.

November 2nd is dedicated to the souls that God called from this earth and are waiting for entrance into heaven. These souls need our prayers, and we shall remember them all month long — they are our family, our friends and our colleagues, that God has called from this earth. We can pray for them and they can pray for us but they cannot pray for themselves.

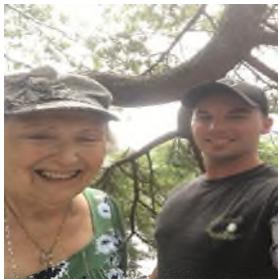
I want to relay this very emotional conversation I had with my daughter Charlene back in 2014. She was dying from small cell lung cancer that spread to the brain. She knew she was dying and we started talking about the afterlife. I felt prompted to read to her from Wisdom 3. This is where God tells us that the souls of the just are in His hands, and they are at peace and shall be greatly blessed because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

“They shall shine and they shall dart about as sparks through stubble, they shall judge the nations and rule over people and the Lord shall be their king forever.” After I read that Char said “wow that’s what I want to do, judge nations.” I lit up and was so grateful for her attitude and for her faith. She was only 52 when she died in January 2015. I remain very close with her husband Henry and my grandson Tyler and my granddaughter Rachael. Char lives in my heart every day.

We celebrate two Saint Martin’s this month — Saint Martin of Tours and Saint Martin De Porres. Saint Martin of Tours cut his cape in two, and shared it with a poor man. Later that night in a vision, the poor man turned out to be Jesus. Saint Martin De Porres was cast out by his father because he was of mixed race and his skin was dark. Martin joined the Dominicans and became a lay brother at the age of 16. He spent a lot of time before the Eucharist and he was devoted to working in the infirmary.

Martin died in 1639. Both Saint Martins, please pray for us. We also celebrate Saint Andrew, one of the apostles and brother of Saint Peter. We know that he was a disciple of John the Baptist, and he brought the other apostles that were fishermen to Jesus. After Pentecost he preached in Greece. He died tied to a cross shaped like an “X” because he did not feel worthy to be tied to a cross identical to that of our Lord. Saint Andrew pray for us.

We celebrate Thanksgiving November 25th. It’s a good day for football and turkey but most of all for praying for the United States. Lord we put our country in your hands. It was formed according to your laws and lately has drifted far from you. Forgive us Lord — bring us back to you as a nation — Your nation. One nation under God with liberty and justice for all — born and unborn. Amen. God bless us each One. Love, Marge



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.