



Some Thoughts for April, 2022

By Marge Loenser

Some say April got its name from the Roman word "aprilis" which means "to open." Since such lovely blooms such as, tulips, iris, daffodils and many more, open up this month, it seems rightly named to me.

Here we are immersed in Lenten practices, preparing for Easter, which is of course, the feast of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and per the Father's plan, Jesus was born to be the sacrificial lamb to destroy death; to suffer and die for us; to raise Himself up from the dead to open up the gates of heaven for us. As a lowly sinner I praise and thank You, Lord! How much You suffered for us is very difficult to grasp.

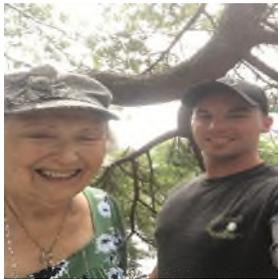
The earliest Easter can fall is March 22, and the latest it can fall on is April 25 (which BTW is the feast of our patron saint, St. Mark). These dates depend on the cycles of the moon, set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Pascal full moon, or the first Sunday after the vernal equinox. The church recognizes the vernal equinox to be March 21, or the first day of spring.

Also, the early church wanted Easter to coincide with Passover, which Jesus and the apostles were celebrating before His passion. This year we celebrate Easter on April 17.

During lent I watch Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ." One scene that I would like to share with you was the one where Jesus, on His way to Calvary, falling beneath the weight of the cross meets His Holy Mother. His face is lacerated and He is bleeding. He can barely form words as He looks at His Mother and says: "See, I make all things new."

My dear sisters in Christ, let us continue to pray for peace in the world, especially for an end to the war in Ukraine. Let us not cease to lift one another up in our daily struggles, be they physical emotional or spiritual. Please don't forget to start the novena of the chaplet of the divine mercy on good Friday. May God grant us the grace and the strength we need each day to follow him no matter what happens. God grant us a blessed Easter.

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.