



Happy New Year! 2022

By Marge Loenser:

Some Thoughts for January, even though I'm writing this before Christmas. I pray we were all able to **Welcome the Baby Jesus** into our homes and hearts with joyous songs and praise.

A new year means new challenges, new graces and opportunities. Before I get into the "new" I'd like to share a 2021 little miracle that God sent me, as we all need inspiration and reminders of God's nearness, His caring and His longing to be part of our daily lives. I received a healing while attending my prayer group and **Retreat Day at Catholic Women of Zion** in October. I knew it was a healing because I was somewhat relieved of my vertigo and feelings of heaviness around my head and shoulders.

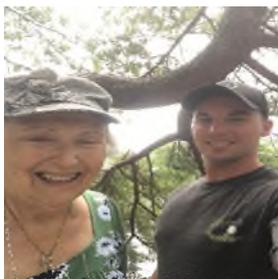
After a stimulating day of mass, prayer, praise and healings, I collapsed into my easy chair at home and said aloud: "Thank You God!" Immediately a voice from my I-pad responded: "You're Welcome!" I laughed with joy.

January begins with the feast of **The Holy Mother of God**. As **Mother Theresa** was known to say: “No Mary, no Jesus.” This is followed by the feast of the visit of the Magi. The 4th and 5th celebrate two great American saints: **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** and **St. John Neumann**. St. Elizabeth, a former Episcopalian, founded the first catholic schools in the United States. John Neumann, also a pioneer in children’s catholic education, founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. St. Elizabeth and St. John please pray for all our school systems, and their parents.

In January, to name a few saints, we celebrate **St. Agnes, St. Francis Di Sales, St’s Timothy and Titus** and of course, **St. Thomas Aquinas** on the 28th. St. Thomas was a doctor of the Church and wrote the Summa Theologica. He wrote in great detail of the choirs of angels. He wrote many solemn Latin songs, including “**Tantum Ergo**” and “**O Solutaris Hostia.**” St. Thomas please pray for our church.

My dear sisters in Christ let us lift up each other in prayer each day, and during the morning offering is a great time. Pray for an end to abortion. Join us in reciting the **Rosary for Life** on Jan. 24 after the 11 o’clock Mass at **St. Mark’s Catholic Church, Sea Girt, NJ.**

Dearest Lord Jesus, bless us as we begin our 2022 journey with You. Grant us the graces to be what you were, that is **LOVE**. Amen.



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.