



Some Thoughts for March, 2022

By Marge Loenser

March gets its name from the first month of the first Roman calendar--Maritus, after the Roman god Mars. March kind of teases us with flashes of mild weather and sights of crocus piercing the earth. It also frustrates us with its roaring winds and temperamental temperatures. Oh well, it's a bridge to April.

Ash Wednesday is on the second and we, once again, are brought back to our roots--penance and rebirth. Mother Teresa said it succinctly: "No cross, no resurrection." I don't do well fasting from food, so I try to add an extra spiritual reading each day. On the 7th we celebrate two early martyrs. St. Perpetua and St. Felicity. Both were jailed and ordered to be killed because they were studying to be Christians. While jailed, St. Perpetua was nursing her baby, and her slave woman, Felicity was about to give birth. They were both beheaded, but I believe both the babies were spared. To this day their names are in the first Eucharistic prayer of the mass. St. Perpetua and St. Felicity please pray for young mothers and babies.

Our dear St. Joseph 's feast is on the 19th. He is the patron and protector of the church. Think about this man that Almighty God chose to protect and care for Mary and Jesus. A lot of holy pictures show him as elderly, but he must have been young and very strong. As a worker in stone and wood, he had to be strong and muscular.

He faced uncertainty and great challenges with grace; for example, when he fled to Egypt with Mary and the baby Jesus, because Herod was on his way to murder baby Jesus. He was a man of great faith and undoubtedly a very devout Jew. Dear St. Joseph please protect us and our families.

Good Ole St. Patrick is celebrated on the 17th. My DNA shows I'm 46 percent Irish, my ancestors hailing from Tipperary. I was blessed to be part of a pilgrimage to Ireland in 2012. We visited all the places St. Patrick stayed.

I love the prayers he wrote. I'll share one small part of his "Breast Prayer" it's his 4th lorica or prayer for protection:

***I arise today from the strength of heaven,
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightening,
Swiftmess of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock. Amen***

St. Patrick pray for us. My dear brothers and sisters let us continue praying the rosary each day. If it gets difficult because of the repetition of the prayers, let the prayers be kind of a chanting in the background while you meditate on the mystery in great detail. 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.