



## *Some Thoughts for November 2022*

**By Marge Loenser**

November, you come to us with chill winds tossed with leaves of amber, crimson and brown. Your very name hints of feasts to come as autumn moves along. Your days honor many saints and tell stories of their sacrifices and their miracles. November, you are the doorway to our holiday season, so let us walk through.

On November first we celebrate All Saints Day. On the second, All Souls Day, a day that we pray for those of our family and friends who have died, In fact, we remember and pray for the souls in purgatory all throughout November.

Some of the saints we celebrate this month are: St. Martin de Porres, St. Leo the Great, St. Martin of Tours, St. Cecelia, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Andrew Dung Lac and companions, and the apostle St. Andrew to name a few.

On Nov. 3 we celebrate St. Martin de Porres, who was an illegitimate son of a Spanish gentleman, and a mother who was a freed Panamanian slave. Martin was abandoned by his father and grew up in deep poverty. He is known for his charitable work with the poor, especially the newly arrived slaves from Africa. He became a lay Dominican brother and devoted his life to others. He was known for miracle cures and was said to have the gift of bi-location. St. Martin de Porres pray for peace and justice for all races and between races.

St. Martin of Tours' feast day is the 11th. He started out as a soldier in the Roman army in the 4th century. Later on, he was known as "Martin the Merciful." One very familiar story about St. Martin was of his sharing his cloak with a beggar. It was very cold and Martin had already given away most of his outer wear to the poor. Finally, he came upon this poor freezing beggar and with his sword cut his remaining cloak in half and gave it to the beggar. The next day in a vision, Martin saw Jesus wearing his cloak. St. Martin, pray for us; help us to be like you.

We celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, the 24th. Let us remember to thank Almighty God for all the blessings we have in this country. We have so much and it's easy to take things for granted. We can show our gratitude by giving of ourselves to others: our time, our care and our support, be it emotional or physical.

On the 30th we honor St. Andrew, the apostle. St. Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist and brought his brother, St. Peter to meet Jesus, he said: "We have found the Messiah" then he brought him to Jesus. Upon being martyred, St Andrew refused to be crucified on the same cross as Jesus. He felt unworthy and chose an "x" shaped cross. St. Andrew, beloved apostle, pray for us. Pray that by our daily lives we carry the message of Jesus to others.

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.